



LEE BURNESON MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE GUIDE

www.wlake.org

2024-2025

Educate for Excellence

Table of Contents

Letter from the Principal 3

Office Staff..... 4

Portrait of a Lifelong Learner 5

Introduction..... 6

Grading Scale 7

Program Pathways..... 8

Grade 7 Core Course Descriptions..... 9

Grade 7 Exploratory Pathways & Course Descriptions 12

Grade 8 Core Course Descriptions..... 16

Grade 8 Exploratory Pathways & Course Descriptions 19

Learning Resource Services 23

Advanced Course Placement 25

How to Apply for Acceleration 26



Letter from the Principal

Dear Students and Families,

As the school year continues to rapidly progress, we are both excited and beginning preparations for the future! The new academic year will be upon us before we know it, and we are eager to introduce a valuable tool that will aid in your child's educational journey – the 7th and 8th grade Course Guide.

The Course Guide is designed to assist both students and parents in making informed decisions about the selection of courses, educational pathways and information regarding the requirements at LBMS for the 2024-2025 school year. It serves as a comprehensive guide to curriculum, offering a detailed overview of courses available, prerequisites, and potential pathways.

We encourage you to sit down with your child and review the Course Guide together. This collaborative effort will empower your child to make informed decisions about their academic plan while fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility. During our spring scheduling process, teachers and counselors will be working together with families to develop a schedule that equally challenges and supports each student's individual needs.

Counselors will be meeting with students in classes and individually to explain the scheduling process and answer any questions. We will be hosting a parent/guardian meeting to provide families with valuable information for your child's next grade expectations and to answer any questions you may have about your child's next steps. On **Wednesday, February 28th** we will be hosting separate 7th & 8th grade parent/guardian information meetings. We will be meeting with **rising 7th grade** parents/students at **6:00-6:45 pm** and **rising 8th grade** parents/students at **7:00-7:45 pm**. Both meetings will be held in the cafeteria at LBMS. We highly encourage both students and parents to attend this meeting.

Thank you for your continued support in assuring the success of our students. We look forward to guiding your child toward a challenging, fulfilling and enriching educational experience next fall at Lee Burneson Middle School.

Demon Proud,



DJ Shaw
Principal, LBMS



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WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS

Portrait of a Lifelong Learner

INTEGRITY

- Develops empathy and social awareness to understand how behaviors and actions impact others.
- Exhibits character development and demonstrates the ability to take action for the greater good.
- Listens to understand others' perspectives and contemplates problems through a variety of lenses, locally and globally.

GLOBALLY-MINDED

- Explores differences and diversity in the world with sensitivity.
- Collaborates and works with others to reach a united goal.
- Contemplates how our actions impact the world and the people around us.

RESILIENT

- Perseveres and adapts during times of adversity or stress - such as family or relationship problems, health problems and uncertainty.
- Exhibits courage and strength in the face of fear.
- Shows tenacity in the pursuit of goals despite obstacles and challenges that they may face.

EMOTIONALLY INTELLIGENT

- Possesses self-awareness and is able to manage thoughts and feelings with maturity.
- Applies social skills and remains in tune with the feelings of others around them.
- Practices empathy for an understanding of others' perspectives.



INNOVATIVE

- Engages in problem solving and remains resourceful while thinking critically.
- Promotes intellectual curiosity.
- Uncovers new ideas and forms solutions to contribute meaningful and impactful changes for themselves and others.

BALANCED

- Expresses a connection between physical well-being and conscious decisions that lead to a healthy lifestyle.
- Establishes and maintains positive relationships by being mindful of others.
- Retains the ability to organize and self-regulate the demands of daily life.

COMMUNICATOR

- Listens actively and responds to show understanding.
- Utilizes a variety of methods to effectively convey ideas.
- Formulates a well-crafted response that is rooted in well-researched ideas.

PURPOSE

- Commits to future goals and pursues them vigorously.
- Displays determination in all aspects of life.
- Makes decisions that help to achieve self-fulfillment.



Introduction

Mission Statement

We Educate for Excellence... Empowering all students to achieve their educational goals, to direct their lives, and to contribute to society.

Vision Statement

The Westlake City School District will provide a dynamic, student-centered, 21st Century learning environment. Our district will be characterized by high achievement, actively engaged learners, mutual respect, shared knowledge, pursuit of new skills and capabilities, collaborative learning, willingness to take action, a team commitment to data-driven continuous improvement, and tangible results.

Board of Education

Mr. John Finucane
Mr. Joseph Kraft
Mrs. Barbara Leszynski
Mrs. Liz Pirnat
Mr. Brad Lamb

Central Office

Dr. Scott Goggin, Superintendent
Mr. David Kocevar, Director of Business Affairs
Mrs. Amanda Musselman, Associate Superintendent of Instruction
Mr. Paul Wilson, Director of Secondary Education
Mrs. Jane Perry, Director of Student Services



Grading Scale

Letter grades are assigned at the end of each quarter or semester.

Letter Grade	Percentage Grade	Point Value Regular Course	Point Value for High School Honors or College Credit Plus Courses (Honors Geometry or any CCP)
A+	97-100	4.33	5.33
A	93-96	4.00	5.00 Superior Rating
A-	90-92	3.67	4.67
B+	87-89	3.33	4.33
B	83-86	3.00	4.00 High Rating
B-	80-82	2.67	3.67
C+	77-79	2.33	2.33
C	73-76	2.00	2.00
C-	70-72	1.67	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33	1.33
D	63-66	1.00	1.00
D-	60-62	0.67	0.67
F	00-59	0.00	0.00



Program Pathways

Subjects	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
Math (2 years required)	Mathematics 7 or Mathematics 7B/8A - Pre-Algebra or Algebra I * or Geometry * or Honors Geometry * or Honors Algebra II*	Mathematics 8 or Algebra I * or Geometry * or Honors Geometry * or Honors Algebra II*
English Language Arts (2 years required)	ELA 7 or Advanced ELA 7	ELA 8 or Advanced ELA 8
Science (2 years required)	Science 7 or Advanced Science 7	Science 8 or Advanced Science 8
Social Studies (2 years required)	World Studies 7 or Advanced World Studies 7	US Studies 8 or Advanced US Studies 8
Physical Education (Quarter)	Physical Education 7 (Quarter)	Physical Education 8 (Quarter)
Health (Quarter)	Total Wellness (Health) 7 (Quarter)	Health 8 (Quarter)
World Languages	French 7 (Semester) or Spanish 7 (Semester)	French 8 (Semester) or Spanish 8 (Semester) or French I* (Full Year) or Spanish I*(Full Year)
Music	Band 7 Choir 7 Orchestra 7	Band 8 Choir 8 Orchestra 8
Art	Art 7 (quarter)	Art 8 (quarter)
Career Connections 7 and 8	Career Connections 7 (quarter)	Career Connections 8 (quarter)
English as a Second Language	ESL 7	ESL 8
Reading Intervention	Reading Intervention 7	Reading Intervention 8
Math Intervention	Math Intervention 7	Math Intervention 8



* Honors Algebra II, Honors Geometry, Geometry, Algebra I, French I, and Spanish I classes are offered for one high school credit. Enrollment in these classes will result in a grade on a high school transcript and a high school GPA. Accelerated placement into Algebra I provides a 30-day transition period. After the transition period is over, the student is “officially” placed into an above grade level course, this placement is final.

Grade 7 Core Course Descriptions

Language Arts 7

Language Arts 7 helps students develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Genres will include short stories, poetry, drama, nonfiction, and the novel. Writing will primarily center around the informative and argumentative essay. The course will also focus on grammar, mechanics, usage, and vocabulary.

Advanced Language Arts 7

This course is an advanced ELA option open to students who meet our district’s qualification process. Students in Advanced Language Arts 7 should exhibit strong verbal ability, advanced writing skills, originality, high reading level, self-motivation, and classroom leadership. Students will continue to develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Genres will include short stories, poetry, drama, nonfiction, and the novel. Writing will primarily center around the informative and argumentative essay; students will need strong self-editing and self-reflection skills. The course will also focus on grammar, mechanics, usage, and vocabulary.

Mathematics 7B/8A

This course is an advanced math option open to students who meet our district’s qualification process. In addition, students must possess strong math abilities and a sound work ethic capable of moving at a very quick instructional pace. The coursework for this class is presented through enrichment activities, as well as through traditional classroom experiences. The course will cover the Mathematics 7 course content as well as additional content covered in the Mathematical 8th grade curriculum. In addition to the Mathematics 7 content, these areas will be included: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations. (2) solving and graphing linear equations, while expanding the concept of slope. (3) understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. (4) calculating with exponents and real numbers.

**Students in this course, upon successful completion, will proceed into Algebra I the following year pending approval through the district acceleration process.*

Mathematics 7

In Grade 7, instruction time will focus on five critical areas: (1) developing and applying proportional relationships; (2) extending previous understandings of operations with fractions and decimals to other standards (3) use of properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions and solve equations and inequalities. (4) draw, construct, and describe geometric figures and the relationships between them while applying this knowledge to problems involving angles, circles, area, surface area, and volume (5) draw inferences about populations based on samples and investigate different probability models. Within each of these areas, application of real-world problems will be intertwined and analyzed.



Algebra I

This course is an advanced math option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. Algebra I is a mathematical tool for problem solving. The students learn the general techniques for solving linear equations and systems of equations. They also learn to read and write mathematical sentences, reason in an orderly manner and choose the facts necessary for a solution to a problem. A TI-83 or TI-84 calculator is required, but the TI-84 is recommended.

**Students in this course, upon successful completion, will proceed into Honors Geometry the following year.*

***Enrollment in this class will result in a grade and credit on a high school transcript for Algebra I.*

Honors Geometry

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra I

This course is an advanced math option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. Geometry Honors is an accelerated course designed for the superior mathematics student. The course content is plane geometry with some solid geometry integrated into the program. Emphasis is placed on using direct and indirect methods of proof. Students who plan to progress in the Pre-Calculus Honors/AP Calculus track should take this course. A TI-83 or TI-84 calculator is required, but the TI-84 is recommended.

**Students in this course, upon successful completion, will proceed into Algebra II or Honors Algebra II the following year.*

***Enrollment in this class will result in a grade and credit on a high school transcript for Honors Geometry.*

World Studies 7

World Studies 7 is an integrated study of world history beginning in Ancient Greece and continuing through global exploration (750 B.C. to 1600 A.D.). Students understand how historical events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic and political factors. This course will foster understanding of how ideas and events from the past have shaped the world today. Multiple resources and activities will be used to help students develop their abilities in content reading, note taking, essay writing and study skills.



Advanced World Studies 7

This course is an advanced World Studies option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. Advanced World Studies 7 is an integrated study of world history beginning in Ancient Greece and continuing through global exploration (750 B.C. to 1600 A.D.). Students understand how historical events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic and political factors. This course will foster understanding of how ideas and events from the past have shaped the world today. Multiple resources and activities will be used to help students develop and extend their abilities in content reading, note taking, essay writing and study skills. This rigorous and fast paced course will require additional research, student led discussions and assignments, and incorporate higher level reading and writing skills.

Science 7

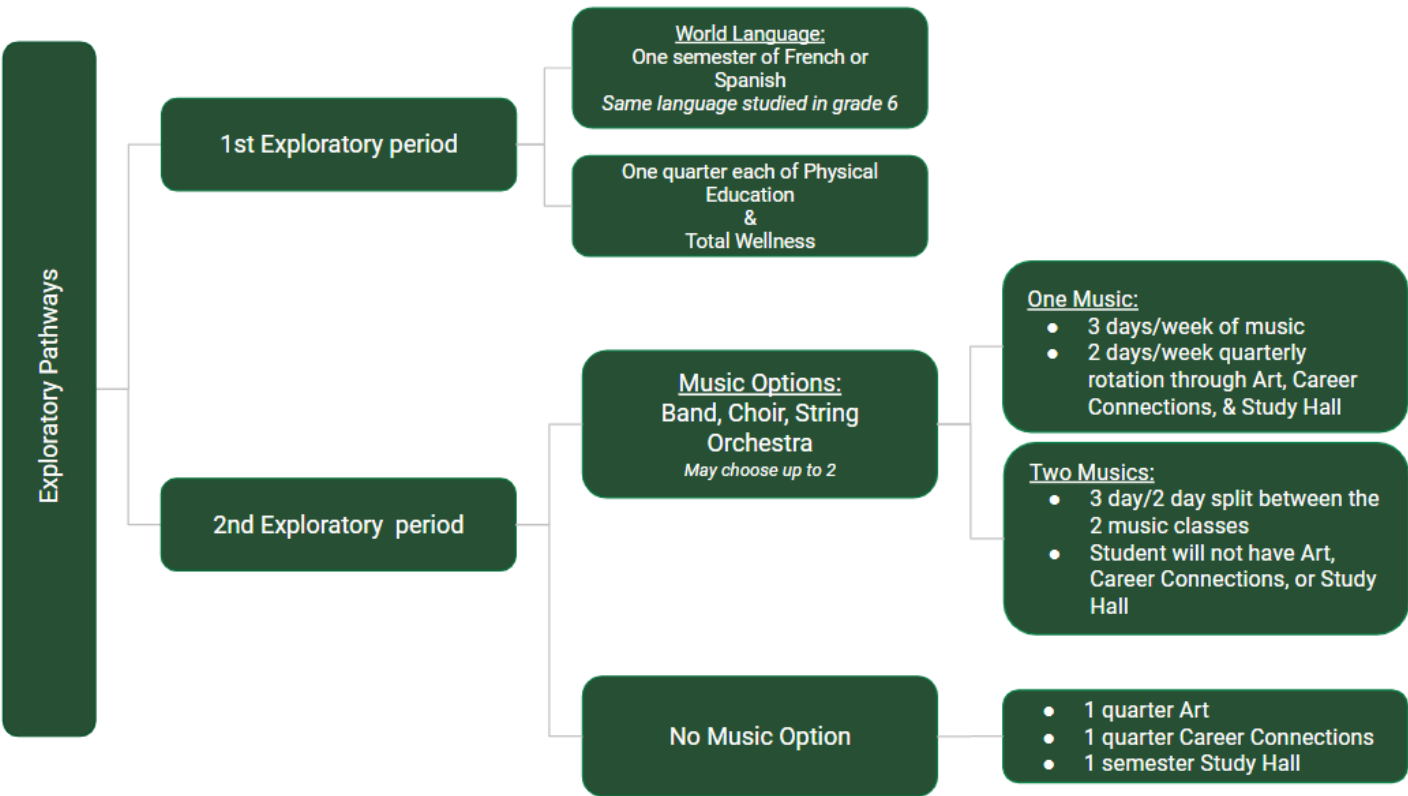
The Science 7 curriculum covers Earth, Physical and Life Sciences. Engaging in scientific inquiry and discovery investigating the following content areas: Astronomy, Energy Transformations, Properties of Matter, Environmental Factors, Climate and Weather. Development of 21st century skills will be encouraged through the use of technology and scientific tools.

Advanced Science 7

This course is an advanced science option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. Advance Science 7 will cover Earth, Physical and Life Sciences. Students will engage in scientific inquiry and discovery investigating the following content areas: Astronomy, Energy Transformations, Properties of Matter, Environmental Factors, Climate and Weather. Development of 21st century skills will be encouraged through the use of technology and scientific tools. This rigorous and fast paced course will require additional research, advanced labs, and incorporate higher level mathematical and writing skills.



Grade 7 Exploratory Pathways & Course Descriptions



French 7 / Spanish 7

French 7 / Spanish 7 is designed to help students understand the nature of the French / Spanish language. The purpose of this course is to focus on the development of pronunciation, building vocabulary and learning the basics of the grammatical structure of the target language. Students will master common vocabulary terms and phrases; initiate and continue simple conversations, and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts; and generate language incorporating basic vocabulary and a limited range of grammar patterns. The process of developing basic communication is done through listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the target language, while encouraging a respect for cultures and beliefs. Students may be required to purchase a workbook.

Band 7

Prerequisite: Beginning Band Fundamentals (Grade 6)

Band 7 is available to students who have had prior band experience or by an audition with the director. Focus is on continuing the development of basic skills of large group performance through a variety of repertoire and concert band experiences. Essentials of good musicianship and the development of technique are stressed. Students may also participate in strings and choir along with their band participation. School “color” instruments are provided to interested students to fill out the band instrumentation. Concert attendance is a course requirement.

Choir 7

Choir 7 is designed to teach choral skills to new and returning students. Students will sing three-part music using correct vocal technique that will serve as a foundation for their future choir experiences. Students are required to participate in two concerts throughout the school year. The primary focus of this class is to give students the singing and music theory skills they will need to continue singing at the 8th grade level. Concert attendance is a course requirement.

Orchestra 7

Prerequisite: Beginning Strings Studies (Grade 6)

Orchestra 7 is available to students who have had prior string experience on the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students enrolled in 7th grade strings continue to advance their string playing skills by playing various string positions, 2-octave scales, complex rhythms, and more. Students are encouraged to participate in small group ensembles. Music history and theory is through the use of music samples and exercises. Music from various time periods and cultures are performed. Several concerts will be scheduled throughout the school year with attendance being mandatory. Students must furnish instruments.



Art 7

This course introduces the students to the fundamental uses of varied art materials, principles and elements of design. The course actively engages the students in an art studio environment. Evaluations are based on the students meeting the daily lesson goals for creating art, using controlled choices in craftsmanship, engagement in independent problem solving and supporting a positive studio environment.

Career Connections 7

Students will explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math and Medicine (STEAMM) topics. This STEAMM centered course will focus on three units: engineering technology, health science technology, and innovation and design. This course utilizes a project-based learning instructional method.

Each unit will provide opportunities for students to learn more about careers in engineering, health science while integrating technology. We hope students discover how STEAMM fields impact our global society.

This course meets the State requirement for middle school career-technical education programming. Each unit provides an introduction to courses taught at Westlake High School and our partner, West Shore Technical District.

LBMS Career Connection Unit	Westlake High School Courses	Westshore Technical Programs	College Programs or Careers
Engineering Technology	Technology and Engineering Education	Electrical Engineering Technology or Project Lead the Way or Auto Technology	Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Drafting and Design Technology, Electrical Engineering Technology, GIS Technology, Nanotechnology, Robotics Technology, Mechanical Engineering, etc.
Health Science Technology	Health and Biological Science	Health Careers Technology or Sports and Exercise Science	Cardiovascular Technician, Anesthesia Technician, Dental Hygienist, Physical Therapy assistant, Physician, Registered Nurse, etc.
Innovation and Design	Visual Art, Physical Science, Technology and Engineering Education and Broadcasting	Media Art and Design	Architectural and Environmental Design, Urban Design, Landscape Architecture, Visual Communication Design, Broadcasting, etc.

*Note: If your child is enrolled in the 2x/week Career Connections class due to taking a music course, he/she will be given a compacted version of this curriculum which may not allow for all of the activities listed above.

Total Wellness 7

Total Wellness 7 is designed to promote responsible decision-making resulting in healthy lifestyle choices. The areas of emphasis are social/emotional health; the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other drugs. The class addresses all aspects of health and well-being including: physical health, social/emotional health, and family-social health.

Physical Education 7

7th Grade Physical Education focuses on basic skills and general rules required for individual and team sports and activities. We emphasize correct form, technique and general knowledge of the sport or activity. Each unit provides a culminating game or event designed to motivate the student while providing authentic participation opportunities that promote enjoyment, success, and lifelong learning opportunities. The units covered may include volleyball, badminton, ping pong, floor hockey, general fitness, basketball, group games, soccer, and flag football.



Grade 8 Core Course Descriptions

Language Arts 8

Language Arts 8 helps students develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Genres will include short stories, poetry, drama, nonfiction, and the novel. Writing will primarily center around the informative and argumentative essay. The course will also focus on grammar, mechanics, usage, and vocabulary. Students are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.

Advanced Language Arts 8

This course is an advanced ELA option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. Students in Advanced Language Arts 8 should exhibit strong verbal ability, advanced writing skills, originality, high reading level, self-motivation, and classroom leadership. Students will continue to develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Genres will include short stories, poetry, drama, nonfiction, and the novel. Writing will primarily center around the informative and argumentative essay; students will need strong self-editing and self-reflection skills. The course will also focus on grammar, mechanics, usage, and vocabulary. Students are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.

Math 8

The Math 8 course is an in-depth introduction to Algebra. Topics include solving multi-step equations/inequalities, graphing linear functions, solving systems of equations, and rules with exponents. The course also includes further exploration of Geometry topics such as the Pythagorean Theorem, volume, transformations, and similar shapes. A mastery of numbers (operations, including roots and exponents, number sense, and the real number system) will prepare students for high school math. Logic and problem solving skills are emphasized to solve real-world problems. A scientific calculator is required.



Algebra I

This course is an advanced math option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. Algebra I is a mathematical tool for problem solving. The students learn the general techniques for solving linear equations and systems of equations. They also learn to read and write mathematical sentences, reason in an orderly manner and choose the facts necessary for a solution to a problem. A TI-83 or TI-84 calculator is required, but the TI-84 is recommended.

**Students in this course, upon successful completion, will proceed into Geometry or Honors Geometry the following year.*

***Enrollment in this class will result in a grade and credit on a high school transcript for Algebra I.*

Honors Geometry

Prerequisite: At least a "B" average in Algebra I and/or a teacher recommendation

This course is an advanced math option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. Geometry Honors is an accelerated course designed for the superior mathematics student. The course content is plane geometry with some solid geometry integrated into the program. Emphasis is placed on using direct and indirect methods of proof. Students who plan to progress in the Pre-Calculus Honors/AP Calculus track should take this course. A TI-83 or TI-84 calculator is required, but the TI-84 is recommended.

**Students in this course, upon successful completion, will proceed into Algebra II or Honors Algebra II the following year.*

***Enrollment in this class will result in a grade and credit on a high school transcript for Honors Geometry.*

Honors Algebra II

Prerequisite: "A" or "B" average in Honors Geometry and/or a teacher recommendation

Course will be taught at WHS (transportation from WHS to LBMS will be provided)

This course is an advanced math option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. Honors Algebra II presents a more intensive study of the materials than in the regular Algebra II class. Topics include: linear relationships, quadratic functions, graphing, logarithmic functions, and trigonometry. The course is designed for students who plan to take Calculus and utilizes techniques suitable for students with very special interest and ability in mathematics. A TI-83 or TI-84 calculator is required, but the TI-84 is recommended. *Enrollment in this class will result in a grade and credit on a high school transcript for Honors Algebra II.



US Studies 8

US Studies 8 continue the historical focus with the study of European exploration and early years of the United States (1492-1877). All four social studies strands are incorporated into a chronological view of the development of the United States. Students will examine how historical events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic, and political factors. In order to develop the knowledge and skill needed for economic success in the future, topics related to financial literacy will be incorporated into the course. Multiple resources and activities will be used to help students develop their abilities in content reading, note taking, essay writing and study skills.

Advanced US Studies 8

This course is an advanced US Studies option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. Advanced US History 8 continues the historical focus with the study of European exploration and early years of the United States (1492-1877). All four social studies strands are incorporated into a chronological view of the development of the United States. Students will examine how historical events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic, and political factors. In order to develop the knowledge and skill needed for economic success in the future, topics related to financial literacy will be incorporated into the course. Multiple resources and activities will be used to help students develop and extend their abilities in content reading, note taking, essay writing and study skills. This rigorous and fast paced course will require additional research, student led discussions and assignments, and incorporate higher level reading and writing skills.

Science 8

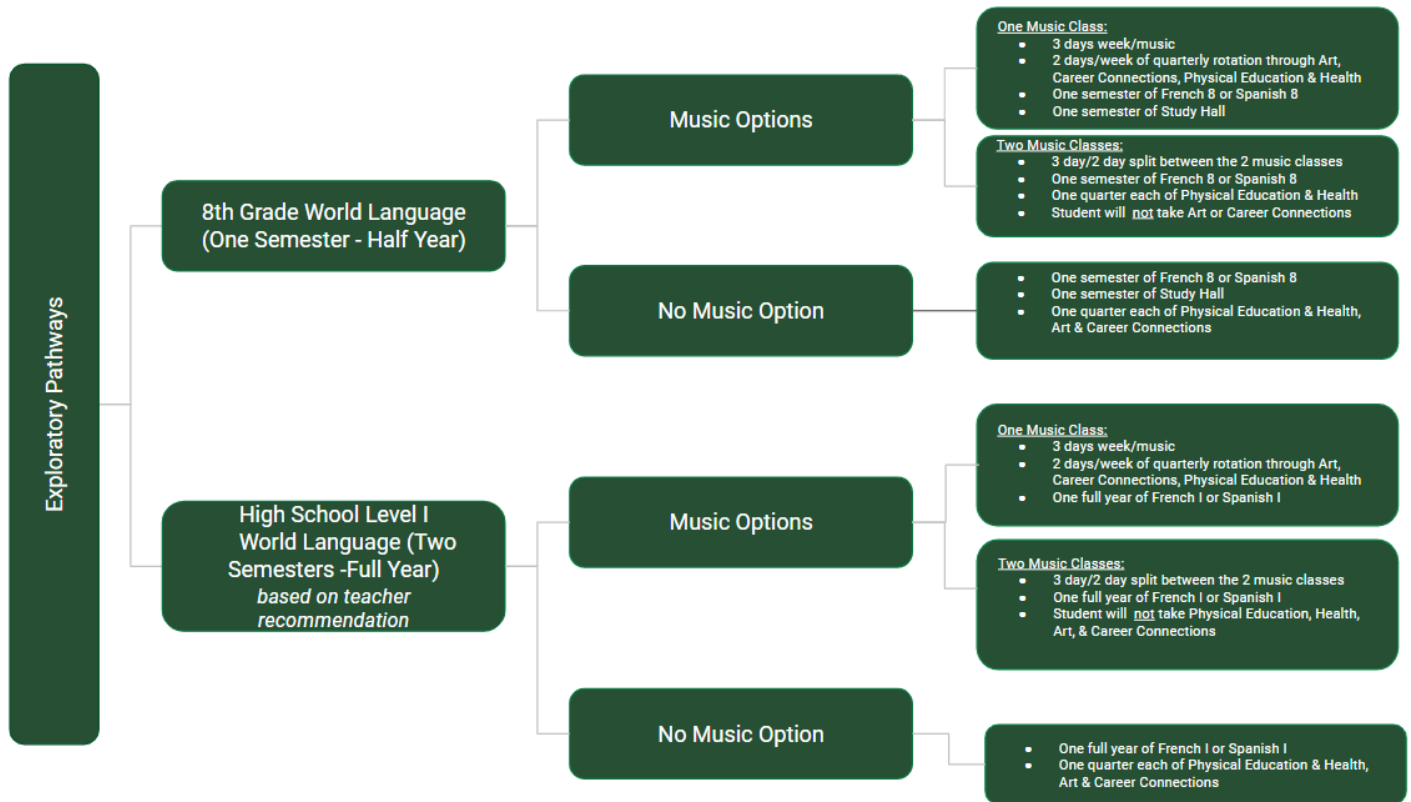
8th Grade Science engages students in scientific inquiry with a focus on the study of Earth, Life, and Physical Sciences. They will gain an appreciation of the relationships between energy and matter building on the foundational knowledge gained in 6th and 7th grade science courses. Topics of study included plate tectonics, the rock and fossil record, geologic time, living things, interactions between fields, potential, and kinetic energy and forces. Discovery labs and technology will be utilized while exploring these topics.

Advanced Science 8

This course is an advanced science option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. 8th Grade Science engages students in scientific inquiry with a focus on the study of Earth, Life, and Physical Sciences. They will gain an appreciation of the relationships between energy and matter building on the foundational knowledge gained in 6th and 7th grade science courses. Topics of study include plate tectonics, the rock and fossil record, geologic time, living things, genetics, interactions between fields, potential, and kinetic energy and forces. Discovery labs and technology will be utilized while exploring these topics. This rigorous and fast paced course will incorporate higher level mathematical and writing skills, additional research, analysis of case studies, and advanced labs.



Grade 8 Exploratory Pathways & Course Descriptions



French 8 / Spanish 8

This introductory course is for students who would like to continue learning world language and cultures in middle school. The course allows students to perform basic functions of the language being studied using slightly more in-depth grammatical structures than 7th grade French / Spanish, as the student becomes more familiar with some detailed elements of the target language and culture. The emphasis is placed more on the culture while still including an ongoing progressive development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Light grammar is integrated throughout the course and is based on thematic units. Students may be required to purchase a workbook.

**French 8 / Spanish 8 is not a high school credit course or a World Language prerequisite.*

French I

This course is an advanced world language option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. French I presents conversational expressions, basic vocabulary, syntax, and grammar for use in both oral and written communications. A foundation in basic pronunciation is established. French culture is presented at appropriate times during the year. Oral proficiency is emphasized. Students may be required to purchase a workbook.

**Students in this course, upon successful completion, will proceed into French II the following year.*

***Enrollment in this class will result in a grade and credit on a high school transcript for French I.*

Spanish I

This course is an advanced world language option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. The linguistic goal for this course is to develop the four language skill areas: listening, reading, speaking, and writing, as well as refine thinking skills. An accumulation of vocabulary words and grammar are used in the content of the material presented from the text. Students may be required to purchase a workbook.

**Students in this course, upon successful completion, will proceed into Spanish II the following year.*

***Enrollment in this class will result in a grade and credit on a high school transcript for Spanish I.*

Band 8

Prerequisite: Beginning Band Fundamentals (Grade 7)

Band 8 is available to students who have had prior band experience or by an audition with the director. Focus is on continuing the development of basic skills of large group performance through a variety of repertoire and concert band experiences. Essentials of good musicianship and the development of technique are stressed. Students may also participate in strings and choir along with their band participation. School "color" instruments are provided to interested students to fill out the band instrumentation. Concert attendance is a course requirement.

Choir 8

This course is designed to teach choral skills that will prepare students for choir at the high school level. Students will sing three-part music using correct vocal technique and be required to participate in two concerts throughout the school year. Students will learn music theory and sight reading skills as well as further their vocal abilities. Concert attendance is a course requirement.



Orchestra 8

Prerequisite: Beginning Strings Studies (Grade 7)

Orchestra 8 is available to students who have had prior string experience on the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students enrolled in 8th grade strings continue to advance their string playing skills by playing various string positions, 2-octave scales, complex rhythms, and more. Student are encouraged to participate in small group ensembles. Music history and theory is through the use of music samples and exercises. Music from various time periods and cultures are performed. Several concerts will be scheduled throughout the school year with attendance being mandatory. Students must furnish instruments.

Art 8

This course builds upon the skills learned in 7th grade as well as introduces new art skills to support future art class needs in the high school. The students explore the fundamental uses of varied art materials, principles and elements of design. The course actively engages the students in an art studio environment. Evaluations are based on the students meeting the daily lesson goals for creating art, using controlled choices in craftsmanship, engagement in independent problem solving and supporting a positive studio environment.

Career Connections 8

Students will explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math and Medicine (STEAMM) topics. This STEAMM centered course will focus on three units: engineering technology, health science technology, and innovation and design. This course utilizes a project-based learning instructional method.

Each unit will provide opportunities for students to learn more about careers in engineering, health science while integrating technology. We hope students discover how STEAMM fields impact our global society.

This course meets the State requirement for middle school career-technical education programming. Each unit provides an introduction to courses taught at Westlake High School and our partner, West Shore Technical District.



LBMS Career Connection Unit	Westlake High School Courses	Westshore Technical Programs	College Programs or Careers
Engineering Technology	Technology and Engineering Education	Electrical Engineering Technology, Project Lead the Way or Auto Technology	Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Drafting and Design Technology, Electrical Engineering Technology, GIS Technology, Nanotechnology, Robotics Technology, Mechanical Engineering, etc.
Health Science Technology	Health and Biological Science	Health Careers Technology, Sports or Exercise Science	Cardiovascular Technician, Anesthesia Technician, Dental Hygienist, Physical Therapy assistant, Physician, Registered Nurse, etc.
Innovation and Design	Visual Art, Physical Science, Technology Engineering, Education and Broadcasting	Media Art and Design	Architectural and Environmental Design, Urban Design, Landscape Architecture, Visual Communication Design, Broadcasting, etc.

*Note: If your child is enrolled in the 2x/week Career Connections class due to taking a music course, he/she will be given a compacted version of this curriculum which may not allow for all of the activities listed above.

Health 8

This course is designed to build upon the foundations taught in Total Wellness 7 to continue to promote responsible decision-making resulting in health lifestyle choices. The areas of emphasis are mental/ emotional health; healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, dating violence, sex education; nutrition and lifetime fitness; and body systems. The class goes into more depth on aspects of health and well-being including: physical health, social/emotional health, and family-social health.



Physical Education 8

8th Grade Physical Education focuses on building on the student's prior learning experiences for a particular sport or activity. Basic skills are reviewed and more advanced skills for the particular sport or activity are encouraged and practiced. We adhere more closely to the rules so that play is parallel to the actual game or activity. Correct technique and form are emphasized as is the specific rules for the sport or activity. Each unit will provide several days of games or activities that are designed to emphasize movement and continue to engage and motivate students in an authentic learning environment which promotes the enjoyment, success and lifelong learning opportunities for each student. The units covered may include volleyball, badminton, ping pong, floor hockey, general fitness, basketball, group games, soccer, and flag football.

Learning Resource Services

Services for all students are provided in the classroom so that assistance can be directly related to instruction content covered by the classroom teacher. Methods of delivering these services include intervention, collaborative teaching, consultation or enrichment. In addition to direct instruction, Learning Resource Services include diagnosing and prescribing activities to meet individual student needs, sharing instructional materials and strategies with classroom teachers, and conferring with parents and students.

Team Advisory 7/8

Team Advisory is an opportunity for students to complete work and receive additional assistance from team teachers and peer tutors. Additional help is provided in developing organizational skills and study habits necessary to successfully complete classwork and homework. Every student will have 30 minutes of team advisory daily opposite their lunch period.

English Language Learners 7/8

The ESL class scaffolds students whose functional language is other than English to meet the linguistic, cultural, and academic demands of middle school. English Learners acquire social and academic language through reading, writing, listening and speaking activities.

Reading Intervention 7/8

Reading Intervention is available to students who qualify based on their level of reading achievement. Results of student assessments will give direction to curriculum emphasis. Students work individually and in small groups to improve reading fluency, comprehension, word learning, assessment literacy and vocabulary as driven by student needs and data. This course is grade S/U.



Math Intervention 7/8

Math Intervention 7 available to students who qualify based on their level of mathematical achievement. Results of student assessments will give direction to curriculum emphasis. Students work individually and in small groups to improve calculation, problem-solving, and conceptual understanding of mathematics as driven by student needs and data. This course is grade S/U.

Advanced Course Placement

The Westlake City School District annually convenes a district committee to determine seventh and eighth grade math, science, ELA, and social studies placements. As a part of that process, the district administers the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test (IAAT) to many sixth and seventh grade students (not currently enrolled in Algebra I) and the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) science and social studies assessments to all sixth graders. This data is used to inform math and science placement recommendations. The IAAT measures conceptual understanding of number skills and concepts, interpretation of mathematical information, functional relationships, and application of symbolic representation. The ITBS assesses the student's knowledge of scientific principles and information as well as the methods and processes of scientific inquiry.

In an effort to ensure your child is placed in challenging and academically appropriate seventh and eighth grade courses, the district Acceleration Committee will review multiple criteria once IAAT and ITBS testing is complete. The committee will consider such factors as:

- Teacher input
- Current and past performance
- Maturity
- Work habits and organizational skills
- Social and emotional readiness for advanced coursework
- Progress through the learning standards
- MAP scores (fall and winter)
- Performance on Ohio's State Tests, if available
- IAAT testing results
- ITBS testing results

The IAAT and ITBS tests serve as only two data points used by the committee to identify the most appropriate eighth grade math and science placement. At the end of this process, one of the following courses from each subject will be recommended for your student:

7th grade:

Math 7, Math 7B/8A

Algebra I is considered an accelerated placement and will require additional paperwork and procedures

Science 7 or Advanced Science 7

ELA 7 or Advanced ELA 7

World Studies 7 or Advanced World Studies 7



8th grade:

Math 8

Algebra I is considered an accelerated placement and will require additional paperwork and procedures

Science 8, Advanced Science 8

ELA 8 or Advanced ELA 8

US Studies 8 or Advanced US Studies 8

Algebra I is considered an accelerated placement and will require the completion of an application form once the initial placement letters have been sent home. Algebra I is a high school credit course which impacts high school GPA and the final grade on a student's official transcript. Additionally, per Ohio Revised Code, students enrolled in a high school level course are required to take the associated End-of-Course exam. The acceleration window will be open in March 2024.

How to Apply for Acceleration

Detailed information along with our Board Policies for the acceleration process can be found at <https://www.wlake.org/departments/academic-services/acceleration>

