



# MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE HANDBOOK

2024-2025



# MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE SELECTION HANDBOOK

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# ACADEMIC & CAREER PLANNING: OVERVIEW

A Wisconsin law passed in 2013 says that every school district must provide Academic and Career Planning (ACP) services to students in grades 6-12 beginning in the 2017-18 school year.

ACP is critical because it helps students create and cultivate their own visions for post-secondary success, obtained through self-exploration, career exploration, and the development of career management and planning skills. Teachers, parents, and various partners assist students in this process by helping them deepen their knowledge of themselves, improve their understanding of postsecondary options, better connect their goals to educational coursework and career interests, and take part in long-term planning for life after high school.

**Career Clusters** are broad occupational groupings based on a set of common knowledge and skills required for a broad group of careers. Wisconsin has adopted the National 16 Career Clusters that also serve as a tool for organizing curriculum and instruction. Career clusters provide opportunities for all students regardless of their career goals and interests. They are a tool for a seamless educational system that blends rigorous academic/technical preparation, provides career development, offers options for students to experience all aspects of a business or industry, and facilitates/assists students and educators with ongoing transitions.

**Career Pathways** are a sub-grouping of careers used as an organizing tool for curriculum design and instruction. Similar to career clusters, career pathways are grouped based on their requirements for a set of core and similar knowledge and skills for career success. Each pathway highlights a specific part of each cluster. An easy example of this can be seen in the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources cluster. Seven different pathways, from Animal to Plant Systems highlight the variety of interests that each cluster holds for students. Career Pathways are critical to 21st Century schools and learners. Each pathway is grounded in a set of four guiding principles:

1. Career Pathways prepare students for post-secondary education and careers. A Pathway is always about both objectives; it is never a choice between one or the other.
2. Career Pathways connect academics to real-world applications. Each Pathway integrates challenging academics with a demanding career and technical educational curriculum. Pathways alter how core academic subjects are taught; they do not lower expectations about what is taught.
3. Career Pathways lead to the full range of post-secondary opportunities. Pathways prepare students for all the avenues they might pursue following high school graduation—two- and four-year college, certification programs, apprenticeships, formal job training, and military service. Each Pathway represents a broad industry theme that can appeal to and engage a student regardless of prior academic achievement and post-secondary aspirations.
4. Career Pathways improve student achievement. Pathways and Programs of Study are based on accountability. They are designed to produce higher levels of achievement in a number of measurable arenas, including academic and technical scores, high school

completion, post-secondary transitions to career and education, and attainment of a formal post-secondary credential.

**A Program of Study** is a specific career pathway, defined by a local school/district partnership, which is a sequence of instruction based on recommended standards and knowledge and skills, consisting of coursework, co-curricular activities, worksite learning, service learning and other learning experiences including Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO). The sequence of instruction provides preparation for a career.

**Academic and Career Plan (ACP)** includes a program of study and learning that represents a fluid, living, breathing, mapped academic plan reflecting a student's unique set of interests, needs, learning goals, and graduation requirements. It goes beyond the "four-year plan" by recording the student's connections to the larger community including examples of community service and volunteerism; membership in community organizations; participation in leadership activities outside of school; involvement in job shadowing, mentorships, and/or apprenticeships; and the pursuit of skill development through hobbies, athletics, and fine arts.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has created as a resource to help leadership teams get started with ACP planning and implementation. This link can be found at: [ACP Implementation Guide](#)

# THE 16 CAREER CLUSTERS

 <p><b>CareerClusters™</b> PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE &amp; CAREER READINESS</p> <p><b>Agriculture, Food &amp; Natural Resources</b></p>	 <p><b>CareerClusters®</b> PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE &amp; CAREER READINESS</p> <p><b>Hospitality &amp; Tourism</b></p>
 <p><b>CareerClusters™</b> PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE &amp; CAREER READINESS</p> <p><b>Architecture &amp; Construction</b></p>	 <p><b>CareerClusters®</b> PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE &amp; CAREER READINESS</p> <p><b>Human Services</b></p>
 <p><b>CareerClusters™</b> PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE &amp; CAREER READINESS</p> <p><b>Arts, A/V Technology &amp; Communications</b></p>	 <p><b>CareerClusters®</b> PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE &amp; CAREER READINESS</p> <p><b>Information Technology</b></p>
 <p><b>CareerClusters®</b> PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE &amp; CAREER READINESS</p> <p><b>Business Management &amp; Administration</b></p>	 <p><b>CareerClusters®</b> PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE &amp; CAREER READINESS</p> <p><b>Law, Public Safety, Corrections &amp; Security</b></p>
 <p><b>CareerClusters™</b> PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE &amp; CAREER READINESS</p> <p><b>Education &amp; Training</b></p>	 <p><b>CareerClusters®</b> PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE &amp; CAREER READINESS</p> <p><b>Manufacturing</b></p>
 <p><b>CareerClusters®</b> PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE &amp; CAREER READINESS</p> <p><b>Finance</b></p>	 <p><b>CareerClusters®</b> PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE &amp; CAREER READINESS</p> <p><b>Marketing</b></p>
 <p><b>CareerClusters™</b> PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE &amp; CAREER READINESS</p> <p><b>Government &amp; Public Administration</b></p>	 <p><b>CareerClusters®</b> PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE &amp; CAREER READINESS</p> <p><b>Science, Technology, Engineering &amp; Mathematics</b></p>
 <p><b>CareerClusters®</b> PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE &amp; CAREER READINESS</p> <p><b>Health Science</b></p>	 <p><b>CareerClusters®</b> PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE &amp; CAREER READINESS</p> <p><b>Transportation, Distribution &amp; Logistics</b></p>

# MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE SELECTION OPTIONS

CORE REQUIREMENTS	
LANGUAGE ARTS 6, 7, 8	
MATHEMATICS 6, 7, 8	
SCIENCE 6, 7, 8	
SOCIAL STUDIES 6, 7, 8	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6, 7, 8	
HEALTH & WELLNESS 7, 8	
EXPLORING ART (Grade 6)	
EXPLORING COMPUTER SCIENCE (Grade 6)	
EXPLORING PATHWAYS (Grade 6)	
EXPLORING WORLD LANGUAGE (Grade 6)	
MUSIC ELECTIVE (Grade 6)	
ELECTIVES	
2D ART 7, 8	EXPLORING MUSIC (Grade 6)
3D ART 7, 8	FITNESS FOR LIFE (Grade 8)
APP CREATORS (Grade 8)	FRENCH 7, 8
AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS (Grade 8)	GUITAR (Grade 8)
BAND 7, 8	MEDICAL DETECTIVES (Grade 8)
BEGINNING BAND 6	ORCHESTRA 7, 8
BEGINNING ORCHESTRA 6	PIANO AND UKULELE (Grade 7)
CHINESE 7, 8	PIANO (Grade 8)
CHOIR 6, 7, 8	SPANISH 7, 8
CULINARY ARTS & HOSPITALITY 7, 8	STRENGTH, SPORTS, & FITNESS (Grade 8)
ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY A (Grade 7)	
ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY B (Grade 7)	
DESIGN & MODELING (Grade 8)	

# MIDDLE SCHOOL THREE-YEAR PLAN GUIDE

## Grade 6

Core	Exploratory (Required)	Elective
Language Arts 6	Exploring Art 6	Beginning Band 6
Mathematics 6	Exploring Computer Science 6	Beginning Orchestra 6
Science 6	Exploring Pathways 6	Choir 6
Social Studies 6	Exploring World Language and Cultures 6	Exploring Music 6
	Physical Education 6	

## Grade 7

Core	Elective	
Language Arts 7	2D Art 7	Chinese 7
Mathematics 7	3D Art 7	French 7
Science 7	Band 7	Spanish 7
Social Studies 7	Choir 7	Culinary Arts & Hospitality 7
<b>Exploratory (Required)</b>	Orchestra 7	Engineering & Technology A
Physical Education 7	Piano and Ukulele 7	Engineering & Technology B
Health & Wellness 7		

## Grade 8

Core	Elective	
Language Arts 8	Band 8	Chinese 8
Mathematics 8	Choir 8	French 8
Science 8	Orchestra 8	Spanish 8
Social Studies 8	2D Art	Medical Detectives
<b>Exploratory (Required)</b>	3D Art	App Creators
Physical Education 8	Guitar 8	Culinary Arts
Health & Wellness 8	Piano 8	Strength, Sports, & Fitness
	Fitness for Life	Design & Modeling
	Automation & Robotics	

## THREE-YEAR PLAN WORKSHEET

### Grade 6

Language Arts 6			
Mathematics 6			
Science 6			
Social Studies 6			
Physical Education 6			
Exploring Art 6	Exploring Computer Science 6	Exploring Pathways 6	Exploring World Language and Cultures 6
Music Elective ( <i>must choose one</i> ):			

### Grade 7

Language Arts 7	
Mathematics 7	
Science 7	
Social Studies 7	
Health & Wellness 7	
Physical Education 7	
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
Elective:	Elective:
Elective:	Elective:
Elective:	Elective:

### Grade 8

Language Arts 8	
Mathematics 8	
Science 8	
Social Studies 8	
Health & Wellness 8	
Physical Education 8	
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
Elective:	Elective:
Elective:	Elective:
Elective:	Elective:



# Grade 6

## Core Course Descriptions

<b>LANGUAGE ARTS 6</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; daily	<b>Content:</b> In Grade 6, students will read and write in a variety of texts, genres, and formats; conduct research; and strengthen discussion and oral presentation skills to explore a variety of themes. Students will deepen their understanding of texts by building vocabulary and by applying comprehension strategies and expanding their ability to use them independently at grade-level or beyond. Students will develop as writers by planning, drafting, revising, and editing with a focus on the integration of text-based evidence. Knowledge and command of grammar, language use, and punctuation will be developed and applied within the writing process.
<b>MATHEMATICS 6</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; daily	<b>Content:</b> Students will engage with the mathematical practices in order to build conceptual understanding and procedural fluency, as well as apply math concepts to real-world problems. Grade level content includes topics in: Expression and equations, the Number System, Ratios and Proportional Relationships
<b>SCIENCE 6</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; daily	<b>Content:</b> Students engage in science and engineering practices and use the cross cutting concepts in order to build, deepen, and apply content knowledge with grade-level topics in physical, life, and earth and space science, as well as engineering. Students will investigate the world around them in order to explain phenomena and use their scientific understanding to design solutions.
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES 6</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; daily	<b>Content:</b> In Grade 6, students will demonstrate how contributions of ancient cultures impact societies. Students will apply reading strategies to demonstrate understanding of social studies concepts and use cause/effect and sequencing to compare and contrast social studies concepts. Students will also interpret charts, graphs, and maps, and explain the relationship between people and their environment.
<b>EXPLORATORY (REQUIRED)</b>	
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> Physical Education is an important component of each student's school experience. Physical wellness, cognitive, and psychomotor skills are developed through a variety of activities. It is important to acquire and refine skills that will enhance quality of life through physically active and healthy habits. Sixth grade will be a combination of lifetime fitness and sport activities, along with knowledge regarding development of a personal fitness program.
<b>EXPLORING ART</b> <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> In sixth grade Art students explore a variety of media as they continue to build their skills in drawing, painting, graphics, and sculpture. Theory is introduced to further elaborate upon Art Elements and Principles.
<b>EXPLORING COMPUTER SCIENCE</b> <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> Throughout the class, students learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development, allowing students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects

<b>EXPLORING PATHWAYS</b> <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> How many times have you heard, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” When you close your eyes and picture yourself in the future, what do you see? There are so many careers to choose from and it can be confusing knowing where to start your search. This class will give you the chance to explore careers in Ag, Business, Engineering and Technology, Computer Science, and the Family and Consumer Science pathways. Discover which careers you might enjoy the most and which ones you’ll want to take more courses in middle and high school.
<b>EXPLORING WORLD LANGUAGE &amp; CULTURE</b> <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> This course will provide students with a basic introduction to Chinese, French, and Spanish languages and cultures as well as the usefulness of proficiency in a world language in a variety of career pathways. Students will have the opportunity to experience learning each language to communicate basic greetings and expressions and will explore key products and practices of each culture. This course is designed to support students in making a more informed decision about future world language study.

## Elective Course Descriptions

<b>MUSIC (Must Choose One)</b>	
<b>BEGINNING BAND 6</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> 6th grade band is a class for students who want to learn how to play a band instrument, which include woodwinds, brass, and percussion. Students will learn how to play an instrument and read music. Students will choose their instrument with the help of the middle school band teacher and elementary general music teacher during 5th grade music class. Instruments will then need to be rented or purchased from a music store. A limited number of school owned instruments may be available to rent in the case of financial need. Two or three evening concerts are a class requirement. Concert dates are announced at the beginning of the year. Practice time outside of class is required and considered vital to the student’s growth on his/her instrument. Grading is based on performance and written assessments. The band performs a wide variety of music, with emphasis placed on continued growth and development of playing skills, as well as ensemble performance skills and music reading.
<b>CHOIR 6</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> Fundamentals of musicianship and singing skills are learned and implemented. Students will master unison singing and will be introduced to 2-part music. Students will sing in large and small groups, and will be exposed to sight reading, proper concert etiquette, concert critiquing, and will connect performance pieces to historical events and /or times. Attendance is required for all performances
<b>EXPLORING MUSIC 6</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> Instrumental Music and Technology - Introduction to technology based music. Learn how to use music notation and looping software such as noteflight, garageband and more. Students will also learn basic music theory involving rhythm and melodic notation.

<p><b>BEGINNING ORCHESTRA 6</b></p> <p><b>Length:</b> Yearlong; Every other day</p>	<p><b>Content:</b> This class is for 6th grade students who would like to learn how to play an orchestra instrument (violin, viola, cello, or string bass.) Students will choose their instrument with the help of the middle school orchestra teacher and elementary general music teacher during 5th grade music class. Students in this ensemble are involved in exploring new techniques to develop musicianship. The music performed by the orchestra is selected for expanding the scope of musical understanding and for improving the technical skills of the students enrolled. Music of many periods and styles are studied and opportunity is offered for chamber ensemble performance and or composing. Attendance is required at all performances.</p>
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# Grade 7

## Core Course Descriptions

<b>LANGUAGE ARTS 7</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; daily	<b>Content:</b> In Grade 7, students will read and write in a variety of texts, genres, and formats; conduct research; and strengthen discussion and oral presentation skills to explore a variety of themes. Students will deepen their understanding of texts by building their vocabulary and by applying comprehension strategies and expanding their ability to use them independently at grade-level or beyond. Students will develop their writing skills by planning, drafting, revising, and editing with a focus on the integration of text-based evidence and research. Knowledge and command of grammar, language use, and punctuation will continue to be developed and applied to meet the demands of academic writing.
<b>MATHEMATICS 7</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; daily	<b>Content:</b> Students will engage with the mathematical practices in order to build conceptual understanding and procedural fluency, as well as apply math concepts to real-world problems. Grade level content includes topics in: Expression and equations, the Number System, Ratios and Proportional Relationships
<b>SCIENCE 7</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; daily	<b>Content:</b> Students engage in science and engineering practices and use the cross cutting concepts in order to build, deepen, and apply content knowledge with grade-level topics in physical, life, and earth and space science, as well as engineering. Students will investigate the world around them in order to explain phenomena and use their scientific understanding to design solutions.
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES 7</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; daily	<b>Content:</b> In Grade 7, students will examine the use of surroundings and standard of living while analyzing cultures around the world. Students will apply reading strategies to demonstrate understanding of social studies concepts, and use cause/effect and sequencing to compare and contrast social studies concepts. Students will also construct and interpret graphs, charts, media and maps.
<b>EXPLORATORY (REQUIRED)</b>	
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> Physical Education is an important component of each student's school experience. Physical wellness, cognitive, and psychomotor skills are developed through a variety of activities. It is important to acquire and refine skills that will enhance quality of life through physically active and healthy habits. Seventh grade will be a combination of lifetime fitness and sport activities, along with continued development of knowledge regarding development of a personal fitness program.
<b>HEALTH &amp; WELLNESS 7</b> <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> Students will begin to demonstrate goal setting and decision making in self-management scenarios. Students will begin to apply strategies to access valid sources or information and analyze influences on health. Students will also begin to demonstrate healthful communication skills and learn how to become advocates for a healthy lifestyle.

# Elective Course Descriptions

ARTS	
<b>2D ART 7</b> <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> In seventh grade art students focus on further developing art skills, vocabulary, creativity, and concepts of design. Two-dimensional lessons may include painting, drawing, printmaking and computer graphics.
<b>3D ART 7</b> <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> In seventh grade art students focus on further developing art skills, vocabulary, creativity, and concepts of design. Three-dimensional projects may include functional or sculptural ceramics and metals experiences.
FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES	
<b>CULINARY ARTS &amp; HOSPITALITY 7</b> <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> This course will introduce students to the fundamentals and principles of cooking, including trends in diet, food science and culinary careers. Explore what your food is made of, where it comes from and the science behind it.
MUSIC	
<b>BAND 7</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> This class is for 7th grade students who want to play a band instrument, which includes woodwinds, brass and percussion. The band performs a wide variety of music, with emphasis placed on continued growth and development of playing skills, as well as ensemble performance skills and music reading. Two or three evening concerts are a class requirement. Concert dates are announced at the beginning of the year. Practice time outside of class is required and considered vital to the student's growth on his/her instrument. Grading is based on performance and written assessments.
<b>CHOIR 7</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> Fundamentals of musicianship and singing skills are learned and implemented. Students will master two-part singing and will be introduced to 3-part music. Students will sing in large and small groups, and will continue learning sight reading, proper concert etiquette, concert critiques and will connect performance pieces to historical events and /or times. Attendance is required for all performances.
<b>PIANO &amp; UKULELE 7</b> <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> Students will learn how to read tablature and/or standard notation and chords and the basics of piano playing including proper hand position and reading treble and bass clef. Students will learn basic music theory involving rhythm, melody, melodic notation and harmony.
<b>ORCHESTRA 7</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> This class is for 7th grade students who want to play an orchestra instrument, which include violin, viola, cello, and string bass . Students in this ensemble are involved in exploring new techniques to develop musicianship including advanced bow technique and vibrato. The music performed by the orchestra is selected for expanding the scope of musical understanding and for improving the technical skills of the students enrolled. Music of many periods and styles are studied and opportunity is offered for chamber ensemble performance and/or composing. Attendance is required at all performances.

## TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING

### ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY A 7

**Length:** Semester;  
Every other day

**Content:** Get ready for a hands-on adventure in STEM! Students can take both Course A & B, as there will be unique projects, offering a new experience in both semesters. In this seventh-grade course, you'll tackle cool projects focusing on design, teamwork, and solving problems creatively. Learn how to use computer modeling and 3D printing to bring your ideas to life. Safely explore woodshop tools for awesome woodworking projects. Dive into the basics of robotics, from programming to building your own robots. And don't forget coding – create computer applications to show off your creativity! In the "Solving Medical Mysteries" unit, find out how STEM helps solve health challenges through hands-on biomedical activities. Get set for an exciting journey into the world of STEM!

### ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY B 7

**Length:** Semester;  
Every other day

**Content:** Get ready for a hands-on adventure in STEM! Students can take both Course A & B, as there will be unique projects, offering a new experience in both semesters. In this seventh-grade course, you'll tackle cool projects focusing on design, teamwork, and solving problems creatively. Learn how to use computer modeling and 3D printing to bring your ideas to life. Safely explore woodshop tools for awesome woodworking projects. Dive into the basics of robotics, from programming to building your own robots. And don't forget coding – create computer applications to show off your creativity! In the "Solving Medical Mysteries" unit, find out how STEM helps solve health challenges through hands-on biomedical activities. Get set for an exciting journey into the world of STEM!

## WORLD LANGUAGE

### CHINESE 7

**Length:** Yearlong;  
Every other day

**Content:** Chinese 7 is the equivalent of the first semester of Chinese I at high school. Students completing Chinese 7 and 8 in middle school may move into Chinese II in 9th grade. Students will explore and begin to develop an understanding of Chinese culture past and present. Students will begin learning formation and recognition of Chinese characters and be supported through the use of pinyin (Chinese words written with the English alphabet). Students will learn Chinese tones and basic vocabulary, and conversational skills will be developed through the use of interaction and technology.

### FRENCH 7

**Length:** Yearlong;  
Every other day

**Content:** French 7 is the equivalent of the first semester of French I at high school. Students completing French 7 and 8 in middle school may move into French II in 9th grade. Students will explore and begin to develop an understanding of French-speaking cultures around the world. Students will learn French vocabulary and expressions related to their own lives and conversational skills will be developed through the use of interaction and technology.

### SPANISH 7

**Length:** Yearlong;  
Every other day

**Content:** Spanish 7 is the equivalent of the first semester of Spanish I at high school. Students completing Spanish 7 and 8 in middle school may move into Spanish II in 9th grade. Students will explore and begin to develop an understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures around the world. Students will learn Spanish vocabulary and expressions related to their own lives and conversational skills will be developed through the use of interaction and technology.



# Grade 8

## Core Course Descriptions

<b>LANGUAGE ARTS 8</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; daily	<b>Content:</b> In Grade 8, students will read and write in a variety of texts, genres, and formats; conduct research; and strengthen discussion and oral presentation skills to explore a variety of themes. Author's craft, including language usage for effect and higher level control of the conventions of academic language will be emphasized. Through specific strategy instruction and a variety of activities including collaborative discussions, presentations, performances, peer debates, on-demand and process writing, students will deepen their understanding of the texts read, develop as writers with a focus on the integration of text-based evidence, and further their ability to apply literacy skills independently at grade level or beyond.
<b>MATHEMATICS 8</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; daily	<b>Content:</b> Students will engage with the mathematical practices in order to build conceptual understanding and procedural fluency, as well as apply math concepts to real-world problems. Grade level content includes topics in: Statistics and Probability, Geometry, Functions, and Mathematical Modeling.
<b>SCIENCE 8</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; daily	<b>Content:</b> Students engage in science and engineering practices and use the cross cutting concepts in order to build, deepen, and apply content knowledge with grade-level topics in physical, life, and earth and space science, as well as engineering. Students will investigate the world around them in order to explain phenomena and use their scientific understanding to design solutions.
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES 8</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; daily	<b>Content:</b> In Grade 8, students will interpret the significance of key historical figures, groups, and symbols in American History. Students will analyze information from a variety of sources and arrange events in chronological order, as well as explain the significance of the events. Students will also demonstrate an understanding of American History through writing.
<b>EXPLORATORY (REQUIRED)</b>	
<b>HEALTH &amp; WELLNESS 8</b> <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> Students will continue to demonstrate goal setting and decision making in self-management scenarios. Students will continue to apply strategies to access valid sources or information and analyze influences on health. Students will also continue to demonstrate healthful communication skills and learn how to become advocates for a healthy lifestyle.
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8</b> <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> Physical Education is an important component of each student's school experience. Physical wellness, cognitive, and psychomotor skills are developed through a variety of activities. It is important to acquire and refine skills that will enhance quality of life through physically active and healthy habits. Eighth graders will have a combination of sport and fitness activities. They will learn how to implement and develop their own personal fitness program.

# Elective Course Descriptions

ARTS	
<b>2D ART</b>  <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> In 2D eighth grade art, students express themselves creatively through drawing, graphics, painting and printmaking to further develop art skills and concepts. Composition, technique, the elements and principles of design, and attention-to-detail are explored.
<b>3D ART</b>  <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> In 3D eighth grade art students express themselves creatively through a variety of materials to further develop art skills and concepts. Projects may include metalwork and jewelry, ceramic sculpture, plaster, papier mache, etc.... Composition, technique, the elements and principles of design, and attention-to-detail are explored.
COMPUTER SCIENCE	
<b>APP CREATORS</b>  <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> In this computer science course, you'll get to express your thoughts and opinions while collaborating with your peers to build projects. Activities you'll do in this class are designed to build on what you're interested in and give you the freedom to share your passions and creativity. Learn how to make your own website, design an app, program a game, and even create physical devices that interact with the outside world. You'll learn the computer science underlying the technology you use everyday and then get the skills to bring your own vision to life.
FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES	
<b>CULINARY ARTS &amp; HOSPITALITY</b>  <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> This course will continue to build on the fundamentals and principles of cooking, including trends in diet, food science and culinary careers. Explore what your food is made of, where it comes from and the science behind it.
HEALTH SCIENCES	
<b>MEDICAL DETECTIVES</b>  <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a "crime scene." They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.
MUSIC	
<b>BAND 8</b>  <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> This class is for 8th grade students who successfully completed at least one year of band. The band performs a wide variety of music, with emphasis placed on continued growth and development of playing skills, as well as ensemble performance skills and music reading. Three or four evening concerts are a class requirement. Concert dates are announced at the beginning of the year. Practice time outside of class is required and considered vital to the student's growth on his/her instrument. Grading is based on performance and written assessments.



<b>CHOIR 8</b>  <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> Fundamentals of musicianship and singing skills are learned and implemented. Students will master three-part singing and will be introduced to 4-part music. Students will sing in large and small groups, and will continue learning sight reading, proper concert etiquette, concert critiques and will connect performance pieces to historical events and /or times. Attendance is required for all performances.
<b>GUITAR 8</b>  <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> Students will learn how to read tablature and/or standard notation and chords. Students will learn basic music theory involving rhythm, melody, and harmony.
<b>ORCHESTRA 8</b>  <b>Length:</b> Yearlong; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> This class is for 8th grade students who successfully completed at least one year of orchestra. Students in this ensemble are involved in exploring new techniques to develop musicianship including advanced bow technique, shifting and vibrato. The music performed by the orchestra is selected for expanding the scope of musical understanding and for improving the technical skills of the students enrolled. Music of many periods and styles are studied and opportunity is offered for chamber ensemble performance and/or composing. Attendance is required at all performances.
<b>PIANO 8</b>  <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> Students will expand on the basics of piano playing learned in Piano 7, proper hand position and reading treble and bass clef. Students will learn basic music theory involving rhythm, melody and harmony. Students will also learn basic music theory involving rhythm and melodic notation.
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>	
<b>FITNESS FOR LIFE</b>  <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> Do you want to get fit and healthy? This class will help you. You will develop a personalized fitness plan in a non-team sport environment. You will experience personal fitness activities in more depth than your regular P.E. class.
<b>STRENGTH, SPORTS, &amp; FITNESS</b>  <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> This is a class for those of you who want to compete in sports. You will have the opportunity to gain the strength and endurance that will make you more successful in the sports world. You will work on skills that translate to just about any sport.
<b>TECHNOLOGY &amp; ENGINEERING</b>	
<b>DESIGN &amp; MODELING</b>  <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. Using design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions.
<b>AUTOMATION &amp; ROBOTICS</b>  <b>Length:</b> Semester; Every other day	<b>Content:</b> Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

## WORLD LANGUAGE

### CHINESE 8

**Length:** Yearlong;  
Every other day

**Content:** Chinese 8 is the equivalent of the second semester of Chinese I at high school. Students completing Chinese 7 and 8 in middle school may move into Chinese II in 9th grade. Students will continue to explore and develop understanding of Chinese culture past and present. Students will continue learning formation and recognition of Chinese characters and be supported through the use of pinyin (Chinese words written with the English alphabet). Students will practice Chinese tones and expand their vocabularies, and conversational skills will be developed through the use of interaction and technology.

### FRENCH 8

**Length:** Yearlong;  
Every other day

**Content:** French 8 is the equivalent of the second semester of French I at high school. Students completing French 7 and 8 in middle school may move into French II in 9th grade. In French 8, students learn how to describe themselves, their friends and families, and their surroundings. They use beginning grammar and vocabulary to speak in detail about their likes and dislikes, pastimes, and school day. They study the French calendar and important contributions the French have made to our lives.

### SPANISH 8

**Length:** Yearlong;  
Every other day

**Content:** Spanish 8 is the equivalent of the second semester of Spanish I at high school. Students completing Spanish 7 and 8 in middle school may move into Spanish II in 9th grade. Students will continue to develop their understanding, speaking, reading, and writing of Spanish as well as continue exploring Spanish-speaking countries including their people, cultures, and influences in the U.S. and on each other.