



**OAKWOOD**  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

# 8TH GRADE

## TRANSITION GUIDE

**2024**

**WATCH  
ME SOAR**



# Oakwood Middle School 2024

## Welcome to Oakwood!

It is our privilege to share the opportunities that await your student at Oakwood Middle School. Oakwood is proud to house the 7th and 8th graders from Plain Local in one building. We are made up of a diverse student population who bring a multitude of gifts and experiences in academics, arts and athletics. Our goal is to cultivate talents and motivation in your student by providing the opportunity to explore, grow, and shine! We are excited to share our academic opportunities, exploratory arts options, activities/ clubs, and scheduling options. Please review the following contents of this document to assist you in the scheduling process.

- Scheduling Process Checklist
- HAC Instructions
- 8th Grade Course Descriptions
- Sample Scheduling Forms
- Oakwood Athletics, Clubs, and Activities

Students may begin scheduling classes in the Home Access Center on Feb. 20. Individual conferences will be held with the counselors. All course requests must be entered in HAC by Mar. 22.

We are proud to be your first choice in education and look forward to serving your family!

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# Oakwood Scheduling Checklist for Incoming 8th Grade Students

- Ask your student about the presentations given by the Oakwood Counselors during visits to 7th grade Historical Literacy Classrooms.

**2/13 Mrs. Torrence Historical Literacy Classes**

**2/14 Mrs. Vaughn Historical Literacy Classes**

**2/15 Mr. Marzilli Historical Literacy Classes**

- Check your parent email for the attached course selection guide and selection worksheet. Discuss options with your student.
- Select and submit your course selections in the Student Home Access Center.
- Students will attend a personal, individual scheduling conference with an Oakwood Counselor to review their selections in the Student Home Access Center.

**2/22 Mrs. Torrence Historical Literacy Classes**

**2/23 Mrs. Vaughn Historical Literacy Classes**

**2/26 Mr. Marzilli Historical Literacy Classes**

All classes must be scheduled in HAC by March 22, 2024.

# Oakwood HAC Instructions

Student Name:

Grade:

## Online Requests

1. Login to Home Access Center
  - a. Username:
  - b. Password:
2. Click on **CLASSES**



3. Click the tab called **REQUESTS**



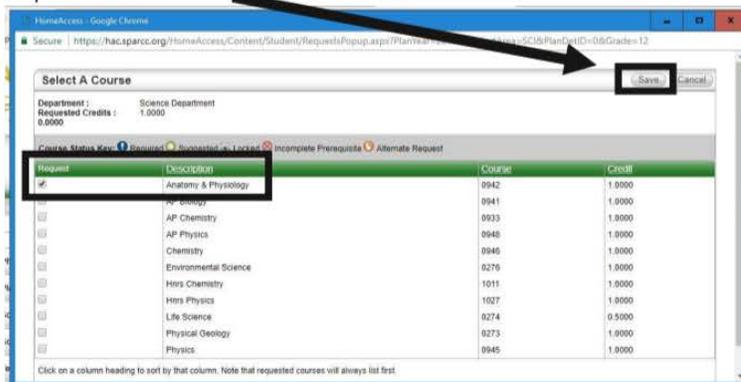
4. The Course Request Banner should show next school year and grade.



5. Locate the appropriate department – Click **Edit**



6. **Select a Course** window will appear. Click in the checkbox in front of the course you want to request. Click **SAVE**.



7. The course requested will appear under the department heading.



8. Repeat Steps # 5-7 for each department.
9. To remove/change a request – repeat steps #5-7 – removed checkmark – select a new course click SAVE.
10. When you are done **logout** in the upper right hand corner.



# Eighth Grade Course Descriptions by Department 2024

## Career Tech and STEM

- **Entertainment Technology (OW8603):** In this semester course, students use various Mac-Based design programs, such as Photoshop and iMovie to create works of art. Photography and online portfolio design are also introduced in this career-tech inspired course. Students are expected to participate in creating works for school and district events.
- **Gateway to Technology Automation and Robotics (OW8303):** Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics. They learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. Students use a robust robotics platform to design, build and program a solution to solve an existing problem.
- **Gateway to Technology Coding (OW8302):** Students will build their knowledge and experience in Coding through the web-based Code.org curriculum.
- **Gateway to Technology Design and Modeling (OW8300):** In this unit, students begin to recognize the value of an engineering notebook to document and capture their ideas. They are introduced to and use the design process to solve problems and understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on our lives. Students use industry standard 3D modeling software to create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their creative solutions.
- **Drones (OW8304):** Students will learn how to use drones to study forces, motion, and investigation design: changing one variable, test, record, question, field surveying simulation, elevation test, and coding. Students will study various career paths that drone pilots can pursue, including paths right out of high school. Students will complete the curriculum by learning FAA rules/regulations and eventually taking the Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST) and earning their recreational drone pilot license.
- **Intro to Horticulture (OW8900):** This is the first course in the Agricultural and Environmental Systems career field. It introduces students to the pathways that are offered in the Agricultural and Environmental Systems career field. As such, learners will obtain fundamental knowledge and skills in plant horticultural science and biotechnology. Students will be introduced to the FFA organization and begin development of their leadership ability.
- **Intro to Music Production (OW8920):** This exploratory course is designed to help students better understand music for the purpose of creating their own. Music is experienced through historical, theoretical, aesthetic, and performance lenses. A significant portion of class time is also dedicated to developing skills in the context of a guitar ensemble. The course will introduce digital technologies such as Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs), Recording Interfaces, Keyboard Controllers, MIDI, and more. Students completing this course may continue their Musical Arts Pathway by enrolling in Guitar Ensemble and/or Career Tech Music Production courses at GlenOak HS.

## English

- **Book Study (OW8700):** Students in this eighth grade class will be working with a class from Israel to learn about our similarities and differences between our two cultures. Both middle school classes will be reading the same book, *The Island on Bird Street*, which discusses the Warsaw ghetto during the Holocaust. Students will have a partner that they will correspond with about the book. This class is a great way to expand your horizons, meet new people, and have a great time.

## Fine Art

- **Art Experience (OW8600):** A semester-long course where students are exposed to many different two- and three-dimensional art techniques. This course also incorporates a study of art history and culture. Students work on independent and small group projects in a studio setting.
- **Honors Art (OW8610):** An intensive, year-long arts program that is designed for students whose primary interest is in visual art. Included in this course are experiences in two- and three-dimensional art, art history, art criticism, aesthetics and critiques. Students work in a studio setting and are required to keep a sketchbook as well as keep a portfolio for an end-of-year review. Students will also participate in art shows and field trips.
- **Fashion and Costume Design (OW8604):** This semester course will focus on four main themes: Fashion/Costume History, Art Skills, Design Skills, and Related Careers. Students will create and design wearable art pieces while learning about the past and future of this field. Guest speakers will present to the class about their experiences with fashion or costume design in person or via skype. Students will be expected to help create costumes for school productions, and also produce a themed fashion show. The assessments for this course are based on the ODE standards for Visual Arts.
- **Dance (OW8620):** The students will perfect the principles of ballet, jazz, tap and lyrical technique. They will research periods of dance and famous dancers. Students will perform solo and ensemble dances with artistic expression and advanced performance skills. Basic anatomy, fitness and nutrition for dancers will be studied.
- **Drama (OW8630):** Students who like to be on the big stage will love this course. Core concepts of this class include ensemble skills, acting techniques, improvisation, theater history, and playwriting. Commitment to stage and studio etiquette is an expectation. Students will participate in mini dramas throughout the year, and they are encouraged to be a part of the school musical as a member of the cast, crew, or design team.

- **Creative Musicianship (OW7640):** This course will invite students to be active, participatory music makers through engagement with popular music. Students will be provided with practical application of musical knowledge through the study of the ukulele. This course will introduce and elaborate on basic music theory concepts and musical literacy. This course is open to students with and without previous musical experience and to seventh and eighth graders. Please note, students may only take this course once, either in seventh grade or eighth grade.
- **Musical Arts (OW7645):** This course will provide students the opportunity to develop musical skills and knowledge to prepare for future musical experiences and career pathways. Topics will include music theory and notation, the history of popular music, world music, careers in the music industry, and digital music creation. Students can take this course once in seventh grade and once in eighth grade, if interested.
- **Band (OW8800):** This course is open to students that currently play a concert band instrument. Students will prepare music to perform in concerts throughout the year, participate in 8th grade band night, and have the opportunity to participate in solo and ensemble, large group contest and Oakwood's jazz band. The bands at Oakwood have a history of achieving excellence at contests and regularly travel for special performances and experiences. Students are required to have previously participated in band class to participate in 8th grade band.
- **Beginning Strings (OW9020):** This course is designed for the true beginner OR the student who would like to brush up their skills before going on to the Strings class.
- **Strings (OW8825):** This course is designed for the continuing string player wishing to play in high school ensembles. There is an emphasis on more complex rhythms, styles of playing from classical to contemporary, bow technique, ensemble balance, ensemble precision, sight reading and scale theory (major and minor) with basic chord progressions and applications. For students who have not participated in the Strings program, they can sign up for Beginning Strings (OW9020).
- **Choir (OW8875):** In Choir, we will equip students with the musical skills necessary to facilitate a lifetime of musical experiences, preparing them for an easy transition into the choral music program at GlenOak High School. This endeavor will include the learning of basic music literacy skills, the practice of proper singing technique, and required performances. The majority of learning will take place in the form of participation in daily rehearsals. The Ohio Music Learning Standards will be utilized in all teaching.

## Foreign Language

- **French I: Level 1 - Second Semester (O186E):** The course is devoted to the acquisition of speaking, reading, writing and listening comprehension skills. Culture is an integral part of the course and is introduced through the use of media, readings and class discussions. In addition to written tests and quizzes, students may also be assessed by means of oral activities. Homework assignments are an integral part of this course. Active participation is required. \*8th graders earn second ½ of the Level 1 HS Credit.
- **Spanish I: Level 1 - Second Semester (O183):** The students in 8th grade Spanish must have met the prerequisite for this course by completing the year-long Spanish course in 7th grade. They will continue to learn Spanish vocabulary while deepening their understanding of using the language to comprehend and dialogue with others. \*8th graders earn second ½ of the Level 1 HS Credit
- **World Cultures (OW8710):** World Cultures is a semester course designed to foster an appreciation and understanding of their own and other cultures. Students will widen their perspective on what is "normal" (i.e. what is normal for a student may be unusual for someone from another culture, and vice versa), and to encourage students to familiarize themselves with other cultures in a judgment-free manner. The course will be taught from French and Spanish perspectives.

## Health

- **Health (HS8325):** Good health is both mental and physical. Making good decisions starts with knowing the facts, understanding the consequences, and having the confidence to choose well. Students learn to use important tools for communicating feelings and opinions. Other tools provide a foundation of friendly practices that will help the environment. Successful students manage time well and work independently to complete academic tasks. This Course meets the Ohio Revised Codes for Health and is required for 8th grade students to receive their 1/2 HS Credit for Ohio High School Graduation Requirements.

## Physical Education

- **Advanced Fitness (OW7540):** This course offers an outlet for the highly motivated student who wants to enhance their overall physical wellbeing and also make themselves better athletes in the process. Students will be taught basic weight training, speed development, plyometrics, and core workouts. Students will also create portfolios and learn valuable goal setting skills. All course material follows all state Physical Education standards.
- **Physical Education (OW8530):** This course is designed to practice and develop skills in activities that will help you maintain fitness throughout your life. It provides opportunities for students to develop life skills such as effective communication, problem solving and decision making.
- **Sports Science (OW8545):** Sports Science is a semester-long course for 8th grade students to help them gain exposure to careers available in sports and health-related fields. Coursework includes the basic anatomy and physiology as it pertains to sports and fitness, along with work on projects that would provide opportunities for students to collect data and learn the basic tenets of exercise science.

## College Credit Plus (CCP)

- **College Credit Plus (CCP)** is Ohio's dual enrollment program which provides an opportunity for students who are college-ready to earn transcribed college credit while in grades 7-12. CCP classes are sometimes taught on the GlenOak High School campus by adjunct faculty; however, some students choose to take classes on a college campus. All admissions standards, grading policies, textbooks, deadlines, and regulations for taking a CCP course are governed by individual university policies. Students earn high school credit as well as college credit for the successful completion of the CCP course.

# 8th Grade Course Selection Worksheet

## 2024/2025

**Directions:** Each student must select a total of 2.25 units of electives.

Students can choose a combination of electives to compose their 2.25 units.

Students can use this sheet for planning their elective courses. Once the student has read the course descriptions and planned their selections, the students must enter their selections into their Student Home Access Center account following the directions given in this booklet.

<p><b>STUDENTS MUST SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES.</b></p> <p>_____ OW9020 Beginning Strings <b>1 unit</b>          _____ OW8800 Band <b>1 unit</b>          _____ OW8825 Strings <b>1 unit</b>          _____ OW8875 Choir <b>.5 unit</b>          _____ OW8620 Dance <b>.5 unit</b>          _____ OW8630 Drama <b>.5 unit</b>          _____ OW7640 Creative Musicianship <b>.25 unit</b>          _____ OW7645 Musical Arts <b>.25 unit</b></p> <p><b>The following courses are worth .5 units.          These courses meet every other day for the entire school year.</b></p> <p>_____ 0186E French I <b>.5 unit</b>          _____ OW8610 Honors Art <b>.5 unit</b>          _____ 0183 Spanish I <b>.5 unit</b>          _____ OW8920 Intro to Music Production <b>.5 unit</b>          _____ OW8700 Book Study <b>.5 unit</b>          _____ OW8710 World Cultures <b>.5 unit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spanish and French are worth High School Credit. The first half of this course must be completed successfully in 7th grade before a student will be enrolled in the second half of these World Languages.</li> </ul> <p><b>The following courses are worth .25 units          These courses meet every other day for a semester.</b></p> <p>_____ OW8540 Advanced Fitness <b>.25 unit</b>          _____ OW8600 Art Experience <b>.25 unit</b>          _____ OW8604 Fashion/Costume Design <b>.25 unit</b>          _____ OW8603 Entertainment Tech <b>.25 unit</b>          _____ OW8303 GTT Automation/Robotics <b>.25 unit</b>          _____ OW8302 GTT Coding <b>.25 unit</b>          _____ OW8300 GTT Design/Modeling <b>.25 unit</b>          _____ OW8304 Drones <b>.25 unit</b>          _____ OW8530 Physical Education <b>.25 unit</b>          _____ OW8545 Sports Science <b>.25 unit</b>          _____ OW8900 Intro to Horticulture <b>.25 unit</b></p>	<p><b>Planning your electives</b>          Please use the table below to help calculate the unit values of your electives to ensure that you have chosen enough courses.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Course Name</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Unit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>HS8325 HEALTH</td> <td>.25</td> </tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOTAL: 2.25 UNITS</b></p> <p><b>ALL 8TH GRADE STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE HEALTH FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT.</b></p> <p><b>If your student is interested in taking the required Health course during the summer, the information is provided below. <u>THIS SUMMER COURSE CAN BE TAKEN FREE OF CHARGE AND WILL PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ADVANCEMENT OF COURSES AT OAKWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL AND GLENOAK HIGH SCHOOL.</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>WHO:</b> Students entering grade 8 in the fall of 2024</li> <li>• <b>LOCATION:</b> GOHS and Online</li> <li>• <b>Students must attend four mandatory face to face classes and complete all coursework on their own time during this six week course.</b></li> <li>• <b>Students will need to have access to a computer and the internet in order to complete coursework.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>SIGN UP on the Plain Local District website.</b></p>	Course Name	Unit Value	HS8325 HEALTH	.25																		
Course Name	Unit Value																						
HS8325 HEALTH	.25																						

# Oakwood Athletics, Clubs, and Activities

## Academic Clubs

**Academic Challenge** - An academic team that competes against schools in Stark County to answer the most questions about math, science, language arts, and history.

**Mathletes** - An ambitious group of students that compete in the areas of team problem solving, mental computation, number sense, and geometry.

**National History Day (NHD)** - National History Day allows students to create a documentary, write a play, or design a website about a historical topic of their choice and enter their projects into regional and state competitions.

**Ohio Model United Nations (OMUN)** - Ohio Model United Nations is a student-led event held in Columbus, Ohio, where students learn how to use research, writing, and communication skills to debate peaceful solutions to real issues that countries face.

**Power of the Pen** - a writing league for all who share the love of being creative and self-expressive through words.

**Science Olympiad** - Members design, create, practice, and experiment in order to compete at a regional tournament at the University of Akron. Students are building mousetrap cars, boomilevers, and practicing being crime busters!

**French Club** - Members will explore cultural experiential learning opportunities about French and Francophone culture.

**Student Council** - A dedicated group of students that are given the opportunity to develop leadership through organizing and planning student activities and service projects.

**Yearbook** - A creative, responsible group of students that work together to capture Oakwood memories.

**Art Club** - This club is for students who want to do MORE art after school and who are ready and willing to be creative, to contribute ideas and work with the group, and to be productive.

**Fashion and Costume Design** - Fashion and Costume club is a group of students who want to learn about fashion design and fiber arts, and to create wearable artworks. We make costumes for the musical, and also produce a fashion show at the end of each school year.

**Jazz Band** - A group of band students who rehearse once per week and perform a variety of jazz, rock, funk and latin tunes at concerts, the Plain Local Jazz Festival, as well as for the Glenwood students each year.

**Musical** - Each year, Oakwood produces a musical from the Broadway Jr. series. The most recent show featured over 100 Oakwood students in the cast, crew and design team.

**Select Choir** - An auditioned, advanced choir made up of 7th and 8th Graders that perform for our community.

## Athletics

Cheerleading, Girls and Boys Cross Country, Football, Volleyball, Girls and Boys Basketball, Wrestling, Girls and Boys Track

**Student Athletic Council** - A dedicated group of Oakwood student-athletes who work to develop policies for all Oakwood athletic teams. Their goal is to be supportive of all teams while maintaining a high level of collaboration and competition amongst the student-athletes at Oakwood.

## Oakwood Community Partners

**Child and Adolescent** - Provides a full-time mental health therapist for Oakwood, as well as prevention counseling.

**Junior Achievement (JA)** - Junior Achievement USA is the nation's largest organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future, and make smart academic and economic choices. During 8th grade, Oakwood students complete an online career program that prepares them for a career fair to show them different pathways in preparation for high school.

**Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)** - Oakwood has an active PTO that supports both student and teacher activities and interests.

**STEM - 8th Grade Career Day** - Local Engineers and Trades representatives spend the day with STEM students to explore a variety of engineering opportunities.

**Tom Tod, Inc.** - Tom Tod programming enables students to explore their innate abilities, connect to their community's possibilities, and apply what they learn toward community impact. Students embed their work with Tom Tod in Historical Literacy class. They meet guest presenters, take launch trips, and cultivate their ideas in a project-based opportunity.

**University Partners** - University of Akron, Kent State Stark, Malone University, Mount Union University, Stark State, and Walsh University: These educational institutions support our students by hosting a variety of launch trips, providing pre-service teachers for observational hours and student teaching opportunities, and providing professional development opportunities for our staff.



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# OAKWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Thank you for making  
Oakwood your first choice  
in middle school education.

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WATCH  
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