



**Welcome to
Madeira
Middle School
2024 - 2025**

WELCOME TO MADEIRA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Welcome to Madeira Middle School. We hope that this information is useful and informative. Madeira Middle School is a true “middle school” which means every phase of the school works under the team concept, where the core content teachers (language arts, math, science, and social studies) work together for each student. We hope you enjoy becoming a member of our team.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“Madeira Middle School is a school community where learning is personalized and success ensured.” Our goal is to meet each child where he or she is and take him or her as far as we can in three years, recognizing we receive children in upper elementary (6th grade) and say goodbye to teenagers ready for high school.

WHAT IS MIDDLE SCHOOL ALL ABOUT?

The middle grades (6 through 8) are a time of transition, growth, and a time for students to find out who they are. Between the ages of 10 and 15, humans change more than at any other time in their lives and so it is important in our middle school for us to focus on the intellectual, physical, social, emotional, and moral needs of each child. Students come to us riding bicycles and skateboards, and leave us thinking of when they can get their “temps” and begin to drive. For some parents and students middle school can be a bit overwhelming. Our job is to help ease the transitions and encourage each student (and parent) to enjoy the journey middle school has to offer!

EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHILD

Throughout the middle school years we are working to develop each student academically, but we are also concerned with other aspects of each child’s education. Together the five areas are:

- Intellectual – academic skills, processes, content knowledge, vocabulary, and thinking skills.
- Physical – physical education, recess (5th and some 6th grade), interscholastic sports (7th and 8th grade).
- Social – working in small groups or teams, forming new friendships, changing roles of boys and girls.
- Emotional – moving from childhood to the teen years, conflict resolution, managing freedom and responsibility.
- Moral – practicing leadership, integrity, generosity, honesty, and teamwork (LIGHT) in decision-making.

Changes in thinking patterns emerge during the middle school years, which becomes clear through questions students ask at home and school and the way in which they see their world. Becoming more socially aware also may bring a certain sense of awkwardness or being less sure of oneself as friendships change, and an interest in new activities and experiences takes place. This is very normal and part of growing up. Middle school students are in the process of “becoming” and as they gain more independence they also need a safe place to land at school and at home. This is why an awareness of the intellectual, physical, social, emotional, and moral needs of each student is important to his or her overall education. We want to balance a rigorous academic program with a school climate of acceptance and tolerance for different opinions and attitudes. Making “LIGHT” a theme of our school makes us stronger and provides students with a good rallying point to be positive toward one another. Student Council has helped promote this theme through the introduction of “houses” with quarterly spirit week competitions promoting Leadership, Integrity, Generosity, Honesty and Teamwork (L.I.G.H.T.)

As we go through this exciting time together, communicating with parents is important to us and will help us all be in the best position to support each student. One of our coaching points at school is to ask each student, “Who can you control?” knowing the answer is, “Myself.” It is important to show students they are responsible for their actions and there are positive and potentially negative consequences for their actions. The way students carry out their academic responsibilities, and manage their peer relationships makes a difference in how their day goes and how they feel about school. Peer relationships are significant during the middle school years and conflicts in these relationships can be unsettling. Understanding and embracing the idea of personal responsibility is important to each child’s success and once again reflects back to the five areas we want to develop while your children are in middle school. Please do not hesitate to call the office (513-561-5555) and/or call or email a teacher if you have a question about your child’s education or the programming available at school. We want to work with you to ensure the success of every student!

The rest of this packet is designed to give you a glimpse of how each grade level works and the courses offered at each grade level. The scaffold or ladder of skills within each content area is important and every year our teachers work on the alignment between grades (vertical) as well as the connection at each grade level (horizontal) to make the year a great one for each student. Thank you for being a part of our middle school experience. Go Amazons! Go Mustangs!

DAILY SCHEDULE

School will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. In grades 6-7, students will have five academic core classes and one special area core class daily. Students in grade 8 will have four academic core classes, and a health/physical education core class daily. If an 8th

grader decides to take world language, they will begin their day at Madeira High School at 7:35 a.m. with the world language they choose and then be bussed back to Madeira Middle School for the remainder of their day. All students have encore classes that will consist of music or fine art. For students in 7th and 8th grade more encore options are available to choose from.

LUNCH PERIODS/STUDENT LUNCHES

Students are given a 30-minute lunch period. Students are asked to sit down when they enter the cafeteria. Students will then be dismissed by tables. Students may purchase lunches and a la carte (items priced separately). Parents may put money on their student's account from which students can debit lunch purchases. Money can be sent in the form of a check or paid online through the Madeira Schools website via PaySchools Central (same as MHS & MES).

THE SCHOOL NURSE AT MADEIRA MIDDLE SCHOOL

The professional school health nurse is a member of the educational team in the Madeira School District, striving to enable each student to work to his/her potential. Keeping in mind that the health status of each student directly affects his or her learning experience, the primary goal of this Registered Nurse is to assist in strengthening the educational process in a variety of ways.

The duties of the school nurse at Madeira Middle School include:

- Monitoring and administering medication prescribed by a physician (specific district form required for **all** prescription and non-prescription drugs)
- Assessing ill and injured students and staff and making appropriate referrals when necessary
- Maintaining health records, including reviewing and interpreting immunization requirements
- Enforcing communicable and nuisance disease control policies and procedures
- Assisting in writing school health policies and procedures
- Performing health counseling and promoting and maintaining optimal health of students, families, and school personnel
- Assisting in implementing appropriate plans for the education and care of children with medical needs
- Performing various health screenings for students and staff and making referrals when needed

If you have any health concerns regarding your child or the school, please contact the Madeira Middle School Nurse, Madison Ehler by phone at (513) 924-3771 or email mehler@madeiracityschools.org.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Madeira Middle School has one full time counselor. Some of the school counselor's roles include:

- Helping students transition from grade level to grade level
- Peer relationships
- Academic interventions and support
- Career guidance
- 504 Case Manager
- Scheduling
- Social emotional support
- Small group guidance
- Study skills and test taking strategies

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child, please contact Mrs. Julia Cabral by phone at (513) 924-3817 or by email jcabral@madeiracityschools.org.

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

Our parent organization is very active in all phases of school operation. We welcome and encourage parents to serve on various committees including: tutoring, chaperones, team parents, teacher appreciation and awards. If you are interested in joining the parent organization, please call the front office at (513) 561-5555, for further information.

COMMUNICATION

We feel it is very important to keep close communication with parents through frequent emails from our principal. However, there are times on a day-to-day or weekly basis when parents want to be kept apprised of their child's performance. This can be arranged through a parent-team conference. In addition, Schoology allows parents to go online to check student grades and homework assignments, etc. Please contact any of the team teachers or the counselor to set up a conference.

SCHOOLGY

This learning management system allows parents and students to stay updated on their homework assignments via the Internet. This program allows parents to log-in to the website with a secure activation code and see information, assignments, and other coursework that have been posted by their child's teachers.

CHROMEBOOKS and 1:1

Each student will be provided a Chromebook for the entire year that enables him/her to work on assignments and projects in their regular classroom. Students are not permitted to bring their own devices. Insurance is offered annually per device and covers accidental breakages and technical problems. Insurance cost is currently \$25 per Chromebook (*cost is subject to change*). If the device is lost or stolen, the cost to replace will be the parents' responsibility. Chromebook replacement cost is currently \$225 (*cost is subject to change*). It is recommended that each student put a protective case on the Chromebook to help avoid damage. Students have access to the Internet and are expected to use this access in an appropriate manner. No games, email, chat rooms, or personal printing is allowed. The school district is proud of its technology and uses a filtering system to protect our students from inappropriate sites while at school and on school devices outside of school.

TEACHING TEAMS

Madeira Middle School is founded on the principles of the middle school philosophy. As such our teachers are organized by teaching teams. Academic teams have a common planning period each day to meet to discuss team-related issues. This teaming philosophy allows teachers to coordinate their teaching schedules, tests, and promote interdisciplinary learning. This also allows the teachers to plan strategies to help struggling students, conference/communicate with parents, and provide one-on-one and small group instruction.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS BY GRADE LEVEL

6th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (College Prep)

This is a common core aligned curriculum with a focus on developing reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and speaking and listening skills. Students will develop and utilize active reading strategies to produce evidence-based analyses of both literary and informational texts. Students will work on finding evidence that supports analyses. In addition, students will enhance their vocabulary skills through the study of both academic vocabulary and Greek and Latin roots. Through writing workshop, students will write for various purposes and explore how to use language effectively by following the steps of the writing process. Speaking and listening skills will be developed through both small group and whole class discussion, as well as through independent and collaborative presentations.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (Honors)

This is a common core aligned curriculum with a focus on developing reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and speaking and listening skills. Students will develop and utilize active reading strategies to produce evidence-based analyses of both literary and informational texts. Students will work on finding evidence that supports analyses. In addition, students will enhance their vocabulary skills through the study of both academic vocabulary and Greek and Latin roots. Through writing workshop, students will write for various purposes and explore how to use language effectively by following the steps of the writing process. Speaking and listening skills will be developed through both small group and whole class discussion, as well as through independent and collaborative presentations. Differentiation will be based on content, teacher input, level of support, learning process, final products, learning environment, assignments, and assessments. The honors course fosters more student independence with rigor and higher-level thinking skills and questioning.

MATH 6 (College Prep)

Students focus on three major categories- number sense, ratios and proportions, expressions and equations, and two minor categories- geometry and statistics. Number sense involves a review of previous understandings of fractions and decimals with an application to new concepts. In addition, students will also begin to investigate positive and negative numbers, including the operations, opposites, absolute value and graphing in four quadrants. Unlike number sense building on previous understandings, ratios are new to sixth graders, and therefore the focus is on students understanding and applying ratios and unit rates at an introductory level. Students also further their understanding of a percent by applying it to word problems. Much like ratios, students begin a thorough investigation of expressions and equations. This includes such topics as order of operations, the distributive property, solving equations, and writing equations and inequalities. Students will understand the connection between tables, graphs, and equations. In each of these three major categories, students are expected to apply their understanding to real-world problems. In addition to these major categories, students learn about area, surface area, and volume with fractions in the geometry unit, and analyze data in the statistics unit. As with the other topics, each of these is also taught using real-world problems. This course is meant for students in a traditional college prep track who will take Algebra I in 9th grade.

HONORS MATH 6

Students recommended for honors math are expected to investigate each topic listed above at a more rigorous level with extensions that promote deeper understanding, critical thinking, and independence in problem solving. This course provides a rigorous curriculum with a faster pace than College Prep. This course is aligned with Ohio's New Learning standards with the focus that these students will

be taking the Honors 7th grade math class and then Algebra I in 8th grade. A student will remain in the honors track unless notified by the teacher of placement change recommendation.

SCIENCE

In 6th grade, students learn that all matter is made up of small particles called atoms and that the properties of matter are based on the order and organization of atoms and molecules. This theme is explored and reinforced through the study of cells, rocks, minerals, soil and energy. A common theme in grade six is helping students use scientific inquiry to discover patterns, trends and relationships that may be inferred from simple scientific principles.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students study the Eastern Hemisphere (Africa, Asia, Australia and Europe), its geographic features, early history, cultural development and economic changes. Students learn about the development of river civilizations in Africa and Asia, including their governments, cultures and economic systems. The geographic focus includes the study of contemporary regional characteristics, the movement of people, products and ideas, and cultural diversity. Students develop their understanding of the role of consumers and the interaction of markets, resources and competition.

ART

Students study the art of the Eastern Hemisphere (Africa, Asia, Australia, and Europe) as it aligns with their sixth grade social studies curriculum. In doing so, students recognize that examining the artistic works of others leads to a greater understanding about cultural traditions, history, politics and their world. Over the duration of the course students learn to generate ideas and engage in thoughtful planning when solving a visual art problem. Throughout the art making process students are encouraged to use life experiences and imagination as sources for visual symbols, images and creative expression. Students will maintain an artist's portfolio demonstrating their artistic growth and the evolution of their creative process.

BAND

Sixth grade band is a year long course designed to give students the opportunity to further develop their instrumental skills. Students entering 6th grade band will be given instruction on their instrument in both homogenous groupings (similar instruments) and in a full band setting. Though this course is designed for the musician that is continuing their studies from 5th grade, all students are welcome in this class. This class will cover a variety of musical styles while developing proper instrumental technique. This class meets three times per week and will have at least two performances per year.

CHOIR

Sixth grade choir is a year- long course for students who desire the opportunity to sing in a large choral ensemble. The singers study a variety of music from different styles and cultures. Through classroom activities and performance, these students further develop their knowledge of the elements of music, proper vocal technique, and music reading skills. Students will sing a wide variety of quality choral music and will participate in at least three performances a year.

DIGITAL ART

In this course, creativity meets technology as learners embark on an exciting journey into the world of digital media and design. This course is designed to equip students with fundamental skills and knowledge in various digital art forms, fostering their creativity, critical thinking, and technological literacy.

TECH SKILLS

Students will spend a semester at the beginning of the year working on various computer skills. Internet safety as well as policies and procedures for appropriate technology use will be emphasized. Computer skills, keyboarding, and library skills will also be taught. Many projects are connected to other academic courses so computer skills are more meaningful and relevant.

DESIGN AND MODELING

Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

MAGIC OF ELECTRONS

How do electricity and electronics affect my life? In this course students use tools such as the engineering design process, computer simulations, and circuit design prototyping materials to invent and innovate. Through hands-on projects, students explore electricity, the behavior and parts of atoms, and sensing devices. They learn knowledge and skills in basic circuitry design and examine the impact of electricity on the world around them.

TEAM SPORTS 1

The goal of this course is to develop an awareness of the benefits of physical activity on overall health, and to build skills and confidence in various activities to support an ongoing lifetime of healthy choices. This course focuses on introducing students to a variety of activities and sports that they continue to build outside of the classroom setting.

WELLNESS

Character education emphasizes the importance of the pillars of character. It is a course designed to expose students to a broad range of issues including trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, honesty, courage and integrity. All share a commitment to helping young people become responsible, caring, and contributing citizens.

7th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (College Prep)

This course emphasizes the fundamental language skills of reading, writing, speaking, listening, thinking, and presenting per Grade 7 of the Ohio Common Core Curriculum. An emphasis on vocabulary and grammar (specifically sentence structure) will be an on-going part of the class. The course includes studies and analyses of various literary and informational texts, including novels, articles, plays, and poetry. Students will work on finding evidence that most strongly supports analyses. In addition, students will follow a quarterly independent reading program to foster recreational reading habits. The development of critical reading, writing, and metacognitive skills are given strong emphasis in this course.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (Honors)

This course emphasizes the fundamental language skills of reading, writing, speaking, listening, thinking, and presenting per Grade 7 of the Ohio Common Core Curriculum. An emphasis on vocabulary and grammar (specifically sentence structure) will be an on-going part of the class. The course includes studies and analyses of various literary and informational texts, including novels, articles, plays, and poetry. Students will work on finding evidence that most strongly supports analyses. In addition, students will follow a quarterly independent reading program to foster recreational reading habits. The development of critical reading, writing, and metacognitive skills are given strong emphasis in this course. The speed and depth in which students analyze these skills is more thorough, as is the expectation of advanced writing techniques and skills, independent thinking, and reflection as a learner. This course also includes a summer reading assignment.

MATH 7 (College Prep)

A rigorous curriculum, aligned with Ohio's New Learning Standards for 7th grade, with a pace that is suited for students who will take Algebra I in 9th grade. The course emphasizes many pre-algebraic concepts, along with some geometry, probability, and statistics.

The main topics covered include: *Ratios, Rates, Percentages, and Proportional Relationships, Rational Number Operations with Positive and Negative Values, Applications of Algebraic Properties (such as the Distributive Property and Like Terms), Writing and Solving Multi-step Linear Equations, Relationships between Graphs, Tables, and Equations for Linear and Proportional Relationships, Area, Volume, Surface Area, and Scale Factor Relationships for Geometric Figures, Analyze Data from a Sample and Apply it to a Population, and Determine the Probability for Experimental, Theoretical, and Compound Events.*

ADVANCED MATH 7

The course curriculum is the same as that of the College Prep 7 course. The pace of this course is faster and geared toward students who will thrive in that environment. Mastery of prerequisite skills is essential as the focus of this course will be on grade level content, not prerequisite skills. A strong background in operations involving fractions, a basic understanding of writing, interpreting and using expressions and equations, and a basic understanding of rates and ratios is critical for success in this course. Students will also be exposed to writing the approximate value of irrational numbers and locating their value on a number line. Students successful in the course will be recommended for Advanced Math 8 for 8th grade.

HONORS MATH 7

Rigorous and fast-paced course that includes all of the 7th grade Ohio's Learning Standards and most of the 8th grade standards. This course emphasizes pre-algebra and algebraic concepts, and it is a prerequisite for taking Algebra I in 8th grade. Students are expected to have a strong work ethic, motivation, MAP scores greater than the 85th percentile, previous math classroom assessment grades of 88% or higher, and teacher recommendation. Students are also expected to maintain at least a B average in the course. The main topics covered include: *ALL topics listed for 7th Grade college prep plus, Estimation and explanation of values of irrational numbers, Properties of Exponents, Calculation of Numbers in Scientific Notation, Finding, Graphing, and Applying the Slope-Intercept form of a Line and Analyzing and Applying the Effect of Transformations of Figures on a Graph.*

SCIENCE

7th grade science will focus on the following topics: Scientific Method & Metric System, Ecology (EcoTanks, biomes, and photosynthesis), Earth's Cycles & Weather (water, nitrogen, carbon cycles, predicting and severe weather), The Moon (phases, eclipses, seasons and tides), Waves (mechanical and electromagnetic), and Elements Matter (chemical/physical change, Periodic Table of Elements, and Energy). Students will utilize hands-on, minds-on interactions while integrating technology, collaboration, critical thinking, and active learning.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The seventh grade year is an integrated study of world history, beginning with ancient Greece and continuing through global exploration. Social Studies skills are used to illustrate how historic events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic and political factors. Students develop their understanding of how ideas and events from the past have shaped the world today.

ART

In grade seven, students learn to represent depth and volume in their two dimensional art, and consciously apply art and design principles in the creation of three-dimensional art work. The seventh grade artist demonstrates a stronger understanding of visual literacy and graphic communication than previously exemplified at the fifth and sixth grade level, through the meaningful creation and explanation of their artwork using appropriate visual art vocabulary. Students also examine the art of various eras and cultures as it aligns with the seventh grade social studies curriculum.

TECH APPLICATIONS

Students will spend a semester at the beginning of the year working on various computer skills. Internet safety as well as policies and procedures for appropriate technology use will be emphasized. Computer skills, keyboarding, and library skills will also be taught. Many projects are connected to other academic courses so computer skills are more meaningful and relevant.

SCIENCE OF TECHNOLOGY

This Project Lead the Way course focuses on how Science impacts the technology of yesterday, today, and the future. Students apply the concepts of physics, chemistry, and nanotechnology to STEM activities and projects, including making ice cream, cleaning up an oil spill, and discovering the properties of nano-materials.

MEDICAL DETECTIVES

Students play the role of real life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, and investigate disease outbreaks.

BAND

Seventh grade band is a year long elective course open to all students regardless of previous musical experience. Students in this class will further develop their musical abilities through study of a variety of musical literature. The students in this class have a variety of different musical opportunities including participation in honor bands, solo and ensemble festival, Junior CYWE and many other options. This class meets in a full band setting three times per week and will have at least three concerts per year.

PERCUSSION

Seventh grade percussion is a year long elective course that is an extension of sixth grade band. This class is designed for the percussion section of the seventh grade band and provides individualized instruction to this section of the band. Students in this class will cover a variety of literature in addition to that which is covered in full band class. Students will further develop techniques learned in previous years as well as develop advanced techniques through the study of solo and chamber literature. This ensemble will meet twice a week as a percussion section and once a week as part of the full band. This group will follow the same performance schedule as the full band.

CHOIR

Seventh Grade Choir is an elective course open to all students who desire the opportunity to sing in a large choral ensemble. The chorus sings a variety of music, including but not limited to pop, movie/musical music, spirituals, world music, patriotic music, and more! The objectives of the choral program are to provide students an opportunity to enjoy choral music through active participation, to acquaint students with a wide variety of quality choral, solo, and ensemble literature, and represent the school in public performances. Students are required to attend school performances throughout the year, and are encouraged to participate in optional events such as Solo and Ensemble and Honors Choir.

MUSIC MEDIA

Music media is a semester-long elective course open to all seventh grade students interested in the study of electronic music development. Students participating in this class will gain hands-on knowledge of different music production programs including garage band, iMovie, iPhoto, and other similar programs. Students complete several projects throughout the course of the class to further their understanding of the programs involved in basic music production. In addition to the electronic aspect of this class, students will develop a functional knowledge of some elements of music theory. This course meets two times per week.

COMMUNICATIONS

This course will help students develop skills necessary to be successful in junior high and into high school. Oral and written communication skills, debate, media literacy, research skills, public speaking, building listening skills and your confidence will all be addressed.

FITNESS

The fitness curriculum is designed to teach each student the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle in a fun and meaningful way. The daily lessons include a wide range of healthy exercises including walking, stretching, and strengthening. Topics such as nutrition, importance of sleep, heart health and making the right choices are also discussed.

TEAM SPORTS II

This course is a continuation of Team Sports I with the goal to continue to focus awareness of the benefits of physical activity on overall health, and to build skills and confidence in additional activities and sports to support an ongoing lifetime of healthy choices. This course focuses on introducing students to a variety of activities and sports that they continue to build outside of the classroom setting. It is not necessary for students to have taken Team Sports I to enroll in this course.

8th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (College Prep)

The eighth grade standards based curriculum is composed of reading, writing, vocabulary and grammar. The metacognitive strategies taught in seventh grade are expected to be used throughout the eighth grade year. The course requires students to develop their analytical skills as well as evaluating and synthesizing various texts. Students will work on finding several pieces of evidence that most strongly supports analyses. Students will write for a variety of purposes and audiences, as well as write responses to show mastery of standards. The course will also focus on high school readiness and prepare students for state assessments.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (Honors)

The eighth grade standards based curriculum is composed of reading, writing, vocabulary and grammar. The metacognitive strategies taught in seventh grade are expected to be used throughout the eighth grade year. The course requires students to develop their analytical skills as well as evaluating and synthesizing various texts. Students will work on finding several pieces of evidence that most strongly supports analyses. Students will write for a variety of purposes and audiences, as well as write responses to show mastery of standards. The course will also focus on high school readiness and prepare students for state assessments. Honors level classes will learn at a faster, more rigorous pace, discuss and analyze at a deeper level, and explore more complex texts.

MATH 8 (College Prep):

A rigorous curriculum focused on Ohio's Learning standards for 8th grade. This class prepares students for 9th grade CP Algebra I. The instructional strategies employed in this class involve direct instruction, investigation, collaborative problem solving and online self-guided activities. Students are encouraged to persevere in their understanding of concepts and applying them to real world problems.

ADVANCED MATH 8:

A rigorous curriculum aligned with Ohio's Learning Standards, with a faster pace than CP Math 8. This class will cover all of the 8th grade standards and begin the study of concepts of 9th grade Algebra I. Students successful in this class will continue with CP:Advanced Algebra I in their freshman year.

HONORS ALGEBRA I **

This course is aligned with Ohio's Learning Standards and includes all of the high school Algebra I standards and the 8th grade standards not covered in the 7th grade. The content of this class is approximately 1 ½ years compacted into 1 year. Students are expected to have a strong work ethic and be motivated to learn. This course is suited for students whose plan it is to take AP Calculus in their senior year. **This is a high school Pass/Fair credit course that will appear on a student's high school transcript, but will not affect their GPA. Students successful in the Honors Algebra I will be recommended for Honors Algebra II for their freshman year.

SCIENCE

The eighth grade science class is a year long course that consists of three different branches of science. We will begin the year learning about physical science which includes topics such as: electrical charges, magnetism, gravity and motion due to external forces. Next, we will dive into earth science covering the topics of: layers of the earth, plate tectonics, constructive/destructive forces and geologic time. Finally, we will end the year with our life science unit learning about topics consisting of fossil record, species survival and genetics. Throughout the year, the students will use scientific inquiry and different applications to help master this content while also supporting literacy in the core content classes. This course is designed to help students achieve academic excellence as well as an appreciation for science.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The historical focus continues in the eighth grade with the study of European exploration and the early years of the United States. This study incorporates all four social studies strands into a chronologic view of the development of the United States. Students examine how historic events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic and political factors.

HEALTH/PE

Students participate in Health class 3 days a week and PE 2 days a week throughout the entire year. The Health curriculum focuses on leading a healthy lifestyle, self-esteem and mental health, managing stress, nutrition, understanding drugs and medicines, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs, risks of adolescent sexual activity, building responsible relationships, reproduction and development and physical fitness for life. Students will be introduced to these topics through textbook readings, teacher led discussions, guest speakers, video and student presentations. At the end of the year students will have earned high school credit on their transcript. Health is .5 (graduation requirement); PE is .25 (half of graduation requirement).

ART

In grade eight, students demonstrate increased technical skill and craftsmanship by using more complex drawing, painting, and digital processes to create artwork. Students engage in project critiques to personally assess their progress and successful manipulation of materials and application of the skills taught. Over the course of the semester students will maintain an artist's portfolio demonstrating their artistic growth and the evolution of their creative process.

CHOIR

Eighth grade choir is an elective course open to all students who desire the opportunity to sing in a large choral ensemble. The choir sings a variety of music, including but not limited to pop, movie/musical music, spirituals, world music, patriotic music, and more! The objectives of the choral program are to provide students an opportunity to enjoy choral music through active participation, to acquaint students with a wide variety of quality choral, solo, and ensemble literature, and represent the school in public performances. Students are required to attend school performances throughout the year, and are encouraged to participate in optional events such as Solo and Ensemble and Honors Choir.

BAND

Eighth grade band is a year long elective course open to all students regardless of previous musical experience. The eighth grade band is the premier performing ensemble in the middle school instrumental music program. Students in this ensemble will develop their musical skills by performing a variety of musical literature of varied difficulty levels. The students in this class have a variety of different musical opportunities including participation in honor bands, solo and ensemble festival, Junior CYWE and many other options. This class meets in a full band setting three times per week and will have at least three concerts per year.

PERCUSSION

Eighth grade percussion is a year long elective course that is an extension of eighth grade band. This class is designed for the percussion section of the eighth grade band and provides individualized instruction to this section of the band. Students in this class will cover a variety of literature in addition to that which is covered in full band class. Students will further develop techniques learned in previous years as well as develop advanced techniques through the study of solo and chamber literature. This ensemble will meet twice a week as a percussion section and once a week as part of the full band. This group will follow the same performance schedule as the full band.

TEAM SPORTS II

This course is a continuation of Team Sports I with the goal to continue to focus awareness of the benefits of physical activity on overall health, and to build skills and confidence in additional activities and sports to support an ongoing lifetime of healthy choices. This course focuses on introducing students to a variety of activities and sports that they continue to build outside of the classroom setting. It is not necessary for students to have taken Team Sports I to enroll in this course.

SCIENCE OF TECHNOLOGY

This Project Lead the Way course focuses on how Science impacts the technology of yesterday, today, and the future. Students apply the concepts of physics, chemistry, and nanotechnology to STEM activities and projects, including making ice cream, cleaning up an oil spill, and discovering the properties of nano-materials.

CODING 8

In 8th Grade Coding, students will be immersed into the world of programming. Through hands-on projects and engaging activities, they develop fundamental coding skills using various programs like Scratch and Code.org. Students will explore the principles of logic, problem-solving, and computational thinking while creating their own games, animations, and applications. They will learn to collaborate, debug, and iterate, fostering a growth mindset and resilience in the face of challenges. Students will also explore several computer science careers in order to expose them to future opportunities. By the end of the course, students will have more confidence to tackle real-world problems through the power of code.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Students are given the opportunity to take high school world languages starting in the eighth grade. The following languages are offered: Spanish, Latin, and French. These options are included in your scheduling option sheet as well as information regarding the decision to take a world language. World language is not required in the eighth grade and may not be recommended for all students.

SPORTS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Several school sports are open to students in grades 7 & 8. The list below can be subject to change. For any school sport, eligibility must be maintained and an annual yearly physical and participation fee is required.

Fall Sports	Winter	Spring
Golf (boys & girls)	Basketball (boys & girls)	Track & Field
Cross Country	Wrestling (boys)	Tennis (boys)
Football & Cheer	Cheer	
Volleyball (girls)		
Tennis (girls)		

Students are always encouraged to get involved at Madeira Middle School! The following is a list of extracurricular clubs that may be available for students to participate in. (This list is subject to change):

- Middle School Musical (grades 6-8)
- Math Counts (grades 6-8)
- Student Council (grades 6-8)*
- Buddy Club (grades 6-8)
- Girls on the Run (grade 6)
- National Junior Honor Society (grades 7-8)*
- Culture Club
- Art Club
- Chess Club
- Community Service Club

* Student selection/participation is based on specific criteria outlined by these groups.