

Middle School Course Guide



USD 232
2024-2025



**Lexington Trails
Middle School**
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De Soto, KS 66018
(913) 667-6260



**Monticello Trails
Middle School**
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Shawnee, KS 66226
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Middle School**
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Curriculum and Courses

Course Overview		
6th Grade Required Courses	7th Grade Required Courses	8th Grade Required Courses
Pathways 6	Pathways 7	Pathways 8
English Language Arts	English Language Arts	English Language Arts
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics
Science 6	Science 7	Science 8
Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies
Physical Education (semester)	Physical Education (semester)	Physical Education (semester)
Band OR Vocal Music OR World Music 6 (MTMS and MCMS only)		

Exploratory Courses

Course Overview		
6th Grade (quarter long unless noted as semester)	7th Grade (semester long unless noted as year)	8th Grade (semester long unless noted as year)
Art 6	Art I	Art I or II
Engineering 6th Grade	Engineering Tech I	Engineering Tech I or II
FACS 6th Grade	Intro to FACS I	Introduction to FACS I or II
World Languages 6	Exploratory French and Spanish 7	Spanish I (year)
		Beyond Basic Spanish 8
Digital Media Apps 6 (semester)	Digital Media I	Digital Media I or II
	Publications 7-8 (year)	Publications 7-8 (year)
Theater Communications 6	Advanced Theater Communications 7-8	Advanced Theater Communications 7-8
	Band (semester/year)	Band (semester/year)
	Vocal Music (semester/year)	Vocal Music (semester/year)
	Jazz Band (semester/year)	Jazz Band (semester/year)

- Students attend eight classes daily, with one academic extended learning time. This time is used for getting support/assistance from a teacher, small “targeted skill” group instruction, extended learning opportunities, homework, make-up work and more.
- Students’ five core subjects (English Language Arts, Pathways, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies) are taught by a team of teachers who coordinate instruction and routines to address student needs. Students are assigned to grade level teams each school year. Students remain together as a team for their five core subjects.
- Students earn one credit for each year-long class they earn passing grades in both semesters. For passing a semester-long class, they earn .5 credits. Only sixth graders are offered quarter-long elective courses for which they may earn .25 credit per quarter.

6th Grade Required Curriculum and Courses

Pathways 6 /7/8 Grades 6/7/8

MSG68-89A/B Credit: 1

Pathways is a cross-curricular course. Students build 21st century skills through critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, communication, and creativity. Themes and subjects explored in this course introduce students to Individual Plans of Study, which allow them an opportunity to explore educational and career paths that align with their interests. According to the Kansas State Department of Education, the Individual Plan of Study "includes development of a flexible career focus and an education plan that is clearly-defined, rigorous, and relevant to assure a successful and efficient transition to postsecondary education and/or the workforce." Additional units of study include self-exploration, project-based learning and use of the Xello program.

English Language Arts 6 Grade 6

CAG60A/B Credit: 1

In 6th Grade English Language Arts, students will explore such themes as character and citizenship, conformity and individuality, justice and diversity, as well as investigations and future. During the school year, students will read a variety of texts and genres to enhance and enrich their knowledge while also building comprehension skills. Students will build critical thinking skills through writing, discussions, media clips, and vocabulary acquisition.

Mathematics 6 Grade 6

MAG60A/B Credit: 1

During sixth grade math, the students will continue on their journey into becoming college and career ready. This course will incorporate mathematics concepts. The main components in sixth grade math are proportional reasoning, fractions, percents, decimals, algebraic expressions, algebraic equations, inequalities, integers, coordinate plane, area, third dimension, and data.

Physical Education 6 Grade 6

PEGG60-61A/B Credit: .5

Goals are to improve the student's level of physical fitness, to develop good social skills, to learn new skills, to actively participate in a variety of sports and games, to improve the skills the student already possesses, and to share information on a variety of health topics.

Vocal Music 6 Grade 6

MUG60A/B Credit: 1

6th grade vocal music is a comprehensive performance-based program. Using the voice as a learning tool, we will cover concepts such as rhythm, melody and pitch, as well as the skills of listening to, analyzing, reading and performing choral music. Healthy and proper singing techniques will also be emphasized. Students will be required to perform in 2 evening performances during the school year. There will be specific concert attire suggestions that might require a small fee (t-shirt, black/white apparel, etc.) *

Science 6 Grade 6

SCG60A/B Credit: 1

6th Grade Science is designed to address the Next Generation Science Standards. Throughout this year, students will learn about the scientific method, states of matter, interactions of matter, atoms-elements-compounds, energy, motion, and simple machines.

Social Studies 6 Grade 6

SOG60A/B Credit: 1

The Ancient World History course covers the time period from the birth of the river civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China to the Middle Ages in Europe. Students will examine the impact of geography on the development of civilizations. The course will include a discussion of characteristics of civilizations including the development of agriculture, governments, division of labor, social hierarchies, and culture. Students will focus on causes, effects, and turning points in the rise and fall of various civilizations. They will investigate major religions including Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam and their impact on governments, society, and culture. The course will include an examination of the spread and transformation of culture and ideas across these regions through trade and conquest. Students will draw conclusions about the significance of various civilizations and their connection to events, ideas, and culture today. The course should be rigorous and relevant with instruction that integrates thinking skills, historical processes, and content so that students are able to apply their learning to their own lives. Instruction should include the integration of concepts and principles from history, economics, geography, civics, and the humanities.

Band 6 Grade 6

BNG60A/B Credit: 1

Students will continue to build the musical skills necessary to play a band instrument. These include reading and interpreting notes, rhythms, and musical terms, instrument-specific techniques, exploring music history, listening to and evaluating musical performances. The sixth grade band students have a varied number of required performances throughout the year.*

World Music 6 Grade 6

MUG61A/B Credit: 1

The 6th grade World Music class is designed to develop an appreciation of all types of music through listening, analyzing, evaluating, and composing skills. The curriculum encourages students to develop an understanding of the elements of music including rhythm, melody, harmony, form, and tone color, while fully engaging students in hands-on activities. Students then showcase their knowledge and skills learned through original, creative projects. Music technology (Garage Band, www.musictheory.net, etc.) is utilized via the student Mac.

6th Grade Exploratory Curriculum and Courses

Art 6 Grade 6

ARG60 Credit: .25

6th grade art is a nine-week introductory course that concentrates on exposing students to the Elements of Art: line, value, color, shape, space, texture, and form. Students will experiment using a variety of mediums, some of which are: markers, tempera paints, watercolors, fabrics, pastels, and clay.

Engineering Tech 6: Exploration & Gateway to Engineering Grade 6

TCG61 Credit: .25

Welcome to the world of avionic engineering! In this course, students will explore the science behind flight by applying the laws of physics. They will also learn to identify the differences between aircraft and their use. Additional topics will also include Newton's Laws of Motion, forces, wind power, and simple machines. Hands-on activities might include building model aircraft such as a hot air balloon, parachute, kite, and airplane. Students will engage in creative problem-solving, learn to use basic engineering tools, and develop a foundational understanding of the design process. This course aims to ignite curiosity and inspire a lifelong interest in the diverse field of engineering.

World Languages 6 Grade 6

WLG60 Credit: .25

This course explores seven major world languages: ASL, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Latin and Spanish. Students will receive brief exposure to cultural topics, regional maps and vocabulary relating to travel.

FACS 6th Grade Grade 6

ARG60A/B Credit: .25

In this introductory Family and Consumer Services (FACS) course, 6th-grade students will embark on a journey to discover essential life skills that form the foundation for responsible and independent living. Through engaging activities, hands-on projects, and interactive lessons, students will explore topics such as time management, effective communication, how to care for textile products, nutrition and food selection, manners and dining etiquette, basic food safety and preparation techniques. This course aims to empower students with the knowledge and skills necessary for making informed decisions and building a strong foundation for their future.

Digital Media Apps 6 Grade 6

CMG60 Credit: .5

This engaging and hands-on course is designed to introduce middle school students to the exciting world of digital media creation. In this course, students will explore various tools and techniques to expand their creativity and develop essential digital communication skills. Students will learn the fundamentals of digital media production, including graphic design, and various media applications. The course aims to provide a well-rounded foundation in the use of digital tools and platforms, empowering students to express themselves and communicate effectively in our increasingly digital world.

Theater Communications 6 Grade 6

CAD66 Credit: .25

This course helps students strengthen their effectiveness in presenting and performing for an audience, as well as develop critical thinking and listening skills. During the theater units, student study acting styles, develop performance and directing skills, and increase their understanding and appreciation of theater. During the communication units, students learn techniques for public speaking and presentations. (MT & MC)

7th Grade Required Curriculum and Courses

Pathways 6 /7/8 Grades 6/7/8

MSG68-89A/B Credit: 1

Pathways is a cross-curricular course. Students build 21st century skills through critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, communication, and creativity. Themes and subjects explored in this course introduce students to Individual Plans of Study, which allow them an opportunity to explore educational and career paths that align with their interests. According to the Kansas State Department of Education, the Individual Plan of Study "includes development of a flexible career focus and an education plan that is clearly-defined, rigorous, and relevant to assure a successful and efficient transition to postsecondary education and/or the workforce." Additional units of study include self-exploration, project-based learning and use of the Xello program.

English Language Arts 7 Grade 7

CAG70A/B Credit: 1

The learner will understand and interpret information received through reading, understand and apply skills, concepts, rules and spelling of the Standard American English language and its dialects and use appropriate tools of technology that promote learning and aid in the development of skills for lifelong application. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of genres from various cultures and times by both men and women and will be able to recognize a variety of literary terms and concepts. Students will read and interpret the following forms of written expression: narrative, expository, persuasive, and technical. Students will study literature both from novels and short stories.

Mathematics 7 Grade 7

MAG70A/B Credit: 1

The seventh grade math uses an integrated approach to mathematics. It includes both the conceptual process of mathematics and the content of math. The conceptual process includes 8 Mathematical Practices such as making sense of real world problems using viable arguments and appropriate tools. The main components in seventh grade math are proportional reasoning, developing number sense, algebraic thinking, geometry, and statistical thinking and probability.

Compact Math 7 (invitation only) Grade 7

MAG71A/B Credit: 1

The Seventh Grade Compact Math Course contains the same standards as the non-compacted course. In addition, the course will also include the First Semester standards from the 8th grade math course. This course will only be recommended for those students who have shown through multiple data points and observation the need for acceleration.

Science 7 Grade 7

SCG70A/B Credit: 1

Seventh grade science is a life science course focusing on living vs. non-living, ecology, scientific process, cells, heredity/genetics, human organs and organ systems, microorganisms, fungi and plants, and environmental science.

Social Studies 7 Grade 7

SSG70A/B Credit: 1

The geography course in the seventh grade will familiarize students with their world using the essential elements and geography themes. Students will develop knowledge about location, place, human environment interaction, movement and regions. The course will compare and contrast these themes across all continents. This course will integrate historical thinking skills, historical processes and content so student can apply their learning to their own lives. Students will be able to apply their knowledge to their community, state, nation, world and themselves. Instruction will also integrate concepts and ideas from history, economics, geography, civics and the humanities. The Kansas History course begins with a study of native inhabitants of the land that was to become Kansas. Students will analyze major events, individuals, groups, innovations, and movements from pre-historic days to the present. It will build a connection or relationship between the student and the state. Just like the geography course, this will integrate thinking skills, historical processes and content so the students can apply their learning to their own lives.

Physical Education 7 Grade 7

PEGG70-71A/B Credit: .5

Seventh grade PE meets every day for a semester. Goals are to improve the student's level of physical fitness, to develop good social skills, to learn new skills, to actively participate in a variety of sports and games, to improve the skills the student already possesses, and to share information on a variety of health topics.

8th Grade Required Curriculum and Courses

Pathways 6 /7/8 Grades 6/7/8

MSG68-89A/B Credit: 1
 Pathways is a cross-curricular course. Students build 21st century skills through critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, communication, and creativity. Themes and subjects explored in this course introduce students to Individual Plans of Study, which allow them an opportunity to explore educational and career paths that align with their interests. According to the Kansas State Department of Education, the Individual Plan of Study "includes development of a flexible career focus and an education plan that is clearly-defined, rigorous, and relevant to assure a successful and efficient transition to postsecondary education and/or the workforce." Additional units of study include self-exploration, project-based learning and use of the Xello program.

English Language Arts 8 Grade 8

CAG80A/B Credit: 1
 At the eighth grade level at USD 232, our students will focus on reading and writing experiences that are developmentally appropriate. The focus will include vocabulary instruction, the importance of literary devices, as well as accurately identifying various text types and structure. Students will deepen their literary analysis skills through the exploration of the themes Coming of Age, Morality, Perseverance and Oppression by reading various types of fiction and nonfiction literature.

Mathematics 8 Grade 8

MAG80A/B Credit: 1
 Math 8 focuses on algebraic thinking, geometry, and statistical thinking and probability, and revisits prior algebraic concepts and geometry. There will be hands-on exploratory, and activity-oriented instruction. Manipulatives and graphing calculators will be used extensively and students will be actively involved in using mathematics in real-world applications. There will be group work and projects incorporated into instruction, along with current technology. This course strives to foster improvement in problem-solving skills, problem analysis, and independent thinking in preparation for high school mathematics.

Compact Math 8 (invitation only) Grade 8

MAG81A/B Credit: 1
 The Eighth Grade Compact Math Course contains the same standards as the non-compacted course. In addition, the course will also include the Second Semester College and Career Ready Standards from the 8th grade math course and the Integrated Math 1 curriculum. This course will only be recommended for those students who have shown through multiple data points and observation the need for acceleration.

Science 8 Grade 8

SCG80A/B Credit: 1
 In eighth grade science, students will begin the year reviewing the Scientific Method. Throughout the year, they will learn about Rocks and Minerals; Earth Processes: Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Erosion and Weathering; Water: Rivers, Oceans, and Weather; Astronomy; and Natural Resources.

Social Studies 8 Grade 8

SSG80A/B Credit: 1
 This course will examine the major ideas, people, events, and cultural shifts of the United States of America from the writing of the Constitution to the late 1800's. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking skills, analyzing primary sources, determining cause and effect relationships, and developing and defending opinions.

Physical Education 8 Grade 8

PEGG80-81A/B Credit: .5
 Eighth grade PE meets every day for one semester. Goals are to improve the student's level of physical fitness, to develop good social skills, to learn new skills, to actively participate in a variety of sports and games, to improve the skills the student already possesses, and to share information on a variety of health topics.

7th & 8th Grade Exploratory Curriculum and Courses

Art I	Grades 7-8
ARG70	Credit: .5

Art I is a semester course which continues the art curriculum begun in the 6th grade. We will explore the Elements of Art: line, value, color, shape, space, texture, and form. In addition to production, students will be exposed to art history, aesthetics, and art criticism.

Engineering Tech I	Grades 7-8
CTG02	Credit: .5

In Engineering Tech I, students will study and practice manufacturing, the engineering design process, and more! The curriculum will cover topics such as structural engineering, computer-aided design, simple machines, basic computer science and electronics. Students will participate in collaborative projects that emphasize teamwork, critical thinking, and effective communication. This course aims to strengthen problem-solving skills and foster a deeper appreciation for the role of engineering in shaping our world. This Career & Technical Education (CTE) course provides a broad range of foundational skills for a wide range of CTE courses offered at the high school level.

Intro to FACS I	Grades 7-8
CTG00	Credit: .5

Introduction to Family and Consumer Services (FACS) I focuses on navigating the realm of home economics with a more in-depth exploration of essential life skills. Students will delve into topics like nutrition and meal planning, budgeting, sewing basics, and understanding the importance of environmental sustainability. Through hands-on projects and collaborative activities, students will develop practical skills that contribute to their overall well-being and prepare them for the responsibilities of adolescence and beyond. This Career & Technical Education (CTE) course provides a broad range of foundational skills for the FACS and Teacher Training CTE courses offered at the high school level.

Exploratory French & Spanish	Grade 7
WLG72	Credit: .5

This course will explore both the French and Spanish languages in a communicative context. Students will learn greetings and conversation pertaining to introductions. Vocabulary relates to the classroom: school supplies, simple commands, calendar and telling time.

Beyond Basic Spanish	Grade 8
WLG81	Credit: .5

This introductory course will prepare students for further language study in high school Spanish I. We will look at cultures of the Spanish-speaking world, descriptive vocabulary and basic grammatical structures.

Art II	Grades 7-8
ARG80	Credit: .5

Prerequisite: Art I

Art II is a semester course that continues to expose students to the Elements of Art but also addresses the Principles of Design: balance, emphasis, rhythm, contrast, pattern, movement, and unity. In addition, production, art history, aesthetics, and art criticism will be integrated throughout the curriculum.

Engineering Tech II	Grades 7-8
CTG03	Credit: .5

Prerequisite: Engineering Tech I

In Engineering Tech II, students will study the design and manufacture of structures and the materials involved. Major topics include automation/robotics, sustainable design, and computer-aided design. Students will tackle real-world challenges, applying their knowledge to design and build more complex projects. Emphasis will be placed on refining analytical and technical skills while encouraging innovation. This Career & Technical Education (CTE) course provides a broad range of foundational skills for a wide range of CTE courses offered at the high school level.

Intro to FACS II	Grades 7-8
CTG01	Credit: .5

Prerequisite: Intro to FACS I

In this culminating Intro to FACS II course, students will engage in a comprehensive exploration of skills vital for future independence. The curriculum includes advanced cooking techniques, financial literacy and consumer skills, clothing construction, family structures and functions in society, parenting styles and developmental milestones of children. Through project-based learning and real-world applications, students will hone their critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities that await them in high school and beyond. This Career & Technical Education (CTE) course provides a broad range of foundational skills for the FACS and Teacher Training CTE courses offered at the high school level.

Spanish I	Grade 8
WLG82	Credit: 1

This class is designed to be the first in a series of five classes that can be taken through high school. The 2 main objectives in this Spanish class are: (1) to help students attain an acceptable degree of proficiency in the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing; and (2) to present the language with the context of the contemporary Spanish speaking world and its culture. Students will become aware of the variety of the Spanish speaking world from South American to Caribbean, from Mexico and Central America to Europe.

*Spanish I at the Middle School level does not count as a credit toward Kansas Scholars Curriculum at the High School. Spanish I curriculum is thorough in preparing students for the Spanish II curriculum.

7th & 8th Grade Elective Curriculum and Courses

Digital Media I Grades 7-8

CTGM06 Credit: .5
Get ready to unleash your creativity and embark on a journey into the exciting world of Digital Media Applications! By the end of this project-based course, students will have gained practical skills in digital media applications, developed a digital portfolio of their work, and cultivated a deeper understanding of the role digital media plays in today's society. This course provides a foundation for students to pursue further studies in multimedia production and fosters a lifelong appreciation for the creative possibilities within the digital realm. This Career & Technical Education (CTE) course provides a broad range of foundational skills for a wide range of CTE courses offered at the high school level.

Publications 7-8 (application only) Grades 7-8

CAG90 Credit: 1
This class will be responsible for creating the yearbook using an online yearbook program provided by the yearbook publisher. It will also publish the school newspaper, sports programs and other various school publications. We will be using Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, Microsoft Word and photography to accomplish our tasks. Students must submit an application to be accepted in this class.

Band 7 Grades 7

BNG70 Credit: .5 or 1
Seventh grade Band is a year-long class and is a continuation of the band curriculum begun in 5th grade. Students will continue to build and master the musical skills necessary to play an instrument. These include reading and interpreting notes, rhythms, and musical terms, instrument-specific techniques, exploring music history, listening to and evaluating musical performances. 7th Grade Band students have a varied number of required performances throughout the year.

Vocal Music 7 Grades 7

MUG70 Credit: .5 or 1
7th grade vocal music is a comprehensive performance-based program. Using the voice as a learning tool, we will cover concepts such as rhythm, melody and pitch as well as the skills of listening to, analyzing, reading and performing choral music. Healthy and proper singing techniques will also be emphasized. Students will be required to perform in 2 evening performances during the school year. There will be specific concert attire suggestions that might require a small fee (t-shirt, black/white apparel, etc.)

Jazz Band Grades 7-8

ETG78A/B Credit: .5 or 1
In this course, students will be introduced to and learn to play blues scales, modal scales, swing, rock, Latin, and funk. A heavy emphasis will be placed on listening and learning about jazz performers, both past and present.

Digital Media II Grades 7-8

CTGM07 Credit: .5
Prerequisite: Digital Media I
Digital Media Applications II extends the knowledge learned in Digital Media I and provides experience with relevant and current practices related to digital and print media using career-related software, video/audio applications, and internet-based resources. Students will continue their digital portfolios and manage hands-on, real-world projects to create, edit, promote, and publish various forms of print and digital media for the school/district. This Career & Technical Education (CTE) course provides a broad range of foundational skills for a wide range of CTE courses offered at the high school level.

Advanced Theater Communications Grades 7-8

CAD71 Credit: .5
This course will guide students in planning, preparing and presenting theatrical works and public speaking. In the theater units, students will use drama techniques to create characters and scenes, use improvisation, and develop stage presence. Students will watch and evaluate performances and learn how to offer constructive criticism. Students will utilize technical and design elements in class productions. During the communication units, students will organize, construct and deliver a variety of individual and group presentations. (MT & MC)

Band 8 Grade 8

BNG80 Credit: .5 or 1
Eighth grade Band is a year-long class. It is a continuation of the band curriculum begun in 5th grade. By 8th grade, students have developed many of the skills necessary to play an instrument and begin working on advanced skills and concepts. These include mixed meter, extended ranges, composition, music history, music theory, ensemble technique, and musicality. 8th Grade Band students have a varied number of required performances throughout the year.

Vocal Music 8 Grade 8

MUG80 Credit: .5 or 1
8th grade vocal music is a comprehensive performance-based program. Choral skills and concepts covered in the 6th and 7th grades will be expanded upon through study and performance of advanced choral literature. Students will be required to perform in 2 evening performances, as well as a myriad of other performance opportunities such as assemblies, community service trips, festivals/competitions, etc. There will be specific concert attire suggestions that might require a small fee (t-shirt, black/white apparel, etc.)