



Florence M.
Gaudineer
Middle
School



Program of Studies

2024-2025

Approved:

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Our Vision: Cultivating compassionate and extraordinary learners.
Our Mission: Springfield Public Schools will challenge every student through meaningful, engaging experiences — empowering all students to flourish and contribute in an evolving world.

School Administration

Mr. Ronald Slate, Principal
Mr. Matthew Lynch, Assistant Principal

Student Support Services

Mrs. Lillian Abadir Chou, School Counselor
Mr. William Douma, School Counselor
Mrs. Maria Sista, Student Assistance Counselor
Mrs. Renee Mowczan, Nurse
Ms. Regine Rousso, Psychologist
Mrs. Kim Paz, Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant
Mrs. Kelly Schulster, Social Worker

District Administration

Dr. Rachel Goldberg, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Erica Scudero, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Michelle Calas, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Mrs. Tiffany Boehm, Director of Student Support Services
Ms. Chihui Seo-Alfaro, Director of Early Childhood & Elementary Education
Mr. Anthony Salerno, Athletic Director
Mr. Daniel Cocco, Supervisor of School Counseling Services
Mr. Gregory Salmon, Supervisor of STEM
Mrs. Candice Schiano, Supervisor of Humanities
Mrs. Ashley Bauers, Coordinator of Visual, Performing, & Practical Arts

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PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

It is with great pleasure that I introduce to you the Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School Program of Studies for the academic year 2024-2025. This comprehensive guide is designed to serve as a roadmap for your educational journey over the coming year. Within these pages, you will find a diverse array of courses and opportunities carefully curated to foster your growth, curiosity, and passion for learning.

At FMG, we believe in empowering our students to explore and excel in a nurturing environment that values academic excellence, creativity, and personal development. Our curriculum is not just a collection of subjects but a gateway to discovery and understanding of the world around us.

In this program of studies, you will discover subjects ranging from the foundational to the innovative, each crafted to inspire intellectual curiosity and critical thinking skills. Whatever your subject of choice may be, Math, English, Science, or the Arts, there is a path here for you.

Beyond academic subjects, we offer a variety of enrichment opportunities including arts, music, physical education, and technology courses, ensuring a well-rounded education that nurtures both the mind and spirit. Additionally, our commitment to fostering social-emotional learning and character development is reflected in our advisory programs and extracurricular offerings.

As you embark on this academic year, I encourage you to approach your studies with enthusiasm and determination. Embrace challenges as opportunities for growth, seek understanding beyond the classroom, and collaborate with your peers and teachers to create a supportive community of learners.

To our parents and guardians, thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. Together, we will work to cultivate a learning environment where each student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

I invite you to explore this program of studies with excitement and anticipation. Let this be the beginning of an extraordinary journey filled with learning, discovery, and the joy of intellectual exploration.

Here's to a rewarding and successful school year ahead!

Best regards,

Mr. Ronald Slate
Principal

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

The following information is designed to inform you of the courses taken for the years you will spend in middle school. To a very large degree, your success, your pride in achievement, and your own personal accomplishments will be determined by the effort you put forth in your classes.

Middle School Requirements

All courses satisfactorily completed count toward promotional requirements. Specific courses that must be completed satisfactorily are:

Communication Arts Grades 6, 7, 8

Mathematics Grades 6, 7, 8

Science Grades 6, 7, 8

Social Studies Grades 6, 7, 8

Physical Education and Health Grades 6, 7, 8

Practical Arts Grades 7, 8 (1 semester)

Visual and Performing Arts Grades 6, 7, 8 (1 semester)

World Languages Grades 6, 7 (full year) (alternating days) Grade 8 (full year)

Financial Literacy 1 semester (alternating days) between grades 6 and 8

State and District Assessments

Students will be administered the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) in the Spring of sixth, seventh, and eighth grade. The iReady Diagnostic benchmark assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics are given three times a year to track progress toward grade-level mastery. Students in Communication Arts 6, 7, and 8 and all students in Math 6, Math 7, Math 8, Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry, and Science 8 will take the corresponding assessments on the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA). All courses follow the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) and comply with all New Jersey Department of Education policies and regulations.

Attendance

Students **must** meet attendance requirements for each course. These requirements vary according to the length of the course (i.e., full-year, semester). The standard is 90% attendance.

Grading Scale

The middle school uses a numerical grading scale with a grade of 65 or higher as passing.

Honor Roll

At the end of each marking period, students who meet the requisite course averages are recognized by being placed on the FMG Honor Roll. Students that have a 95 or above average, with no grade under 90, are placed on **HIGH HONOR ROLL**. Students who have an 89 or above average, with no grade under 85, are placed on **HONOR ROLL**.

Technology Literacy

Technology and Media Literacy are infused into the standard curriculum as essential skills needed by students for academic and career success. All curriculum is regularly revised to incorporate developing skills, tools, and resources in a rapidly evolving world. Each course incorporates and aligns with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for College and Career Readiness with regard to Technology and Media Literacy.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Board of Education policy states that the assignment of students to subject areas is to follow all pertinent federal and state laws and regulations and such assignment will not be predicated on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, social or economic status or handicapping conditions.

School Counseling & Social-Emotional Learning

Each student is assigned to a school counselor alphabetically based on their last name. Students can request to meet with their counselor independently or through a referral from a parent, teacher, or other faculty & staff. The middle school counselor assists with the social, emotional, and academic needs of students and acts as an important liaison between the student, teacher, and parents. The counselors work with the classroom teachers as well as the Student Assistance Counselor (SAC) to meet the needs of the changing adolescent and develop school-wide character education lessons throughout the year. In addition, they provide classroom lessons on Social Media Safety, HIB/Code of Conduct, and Social-Emotional Learning. The counselors also provide restorative circles, implement I&RS and 504 Plans, assist with academic scheduling and testing programs, and help students with the transitions that occur from elementary school through middle school and into high school.

SCHEDULING

The daily schedule consists of 8 periods arranged in an “A-day” and “B-day” rotation. Each academic period is 50 minutes long, except the first period which has 6 minutes added for morning announcements. Each grade has a 35-minute lunch period. The school year is arranged into semesters and quarters.

While the schedule is arranged into “A-days” and “B-days”, the rotation does not apply to all courses. All Core academic courses meet on both “A-Days” and “B-Days”. The “A” or “B” rotation applies to elective courses and world language courses in grades 6 and 7. Physical Education meets every day for three quarters and Health meets every day for one quarter. The daily bell schedule is as follows:

Regular Schedule

Period	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
HR	7:45 – 7:52	7:45 – 7:52	7:45 – 8:41
1	7:54 – 8:44	7:54 – 8:44	7:54 – 8:44
2	8:46 – 9:36	8:46 – 9:36	8:46 – 9:36
3	9:38 – 10:28	9:38 – 10:28	9:38 – 10:28
4	Lunch 10:30 – 11:02	10:30 – 11:20	10:30 – 11:20
5	11:04 – 11:54	Lunch 11:22 – 11:54	11:22 – 12:12
6	11:56 – 12:46	11:56 – 12:46	Lunch 12:14 – 12:46
7	12:48 – 1:38	12:48 – 1:38	12:48 – 1:38
8	1:40 – 2:30	1:40 – 2:30	1:40 – 2:30

Note: Please see the Student Handbook or the FMG Website for Early Dismissal and Delayed Opening Time Schedules:

GIFTED AND TALENTED

All students who are recommended for this program will develop and pursue their own Individual Education Project under the direction of a mentor teacher. Also, included in this program is individual and group training in creative problem-solving and research techniques.

Discovery 6 (M6225), Discovery 7 (M7225), Discovery 8 (M8225) The Discovery program is designed to enrich the educational experience of those students who demonstrate exceptional intellectual ability, creativity, and/or task commitment under the Renzulli model of Giftedness. The Discovery Classes run on the same alternating day schedule as the other elective classes, in which students pursue an inquiry project for the duration of the year, as well as critical thinking, lateral thinking, and collaborative exercises. To complete this inquiry project, students choose a topic of personal interest, and with the aid of the Discovery instructor, explore and research that topic for expertise through each of four marking period projects that culminate in an end-of-the-year presentation to the school community and parents.

TALENTED ART PROGRAM (T. A. P.) (M6230), (M7230), (M8230) This program is open to interested students continuing to expand their artistic ability through an annual application process based upon nominations and portfolio reviews. It is designed to augment the program for students who demonstrate a passion and aptitude for the fine and visual arts. Participants in the Talented Art Program (TAP) will be offered exciting and meaningful opportunities to enrich, nurture, and explore their artistic skills and appreciation for the Visual Arts. Students selected for TAP will participate in the program during an elective period for the entire year.

The course meets every other day for a full academic year. The focus of the individual student work is a result of collaboration between the individual student and the art teacher. A portfolio review will be submitted at the conclusion of each course.

RELATED COURSES

In addition to the Discovery program, FMG offers additional accelerated courses in Communication Arts and Mathematics in grades 7 and 8. In addition to the designated Gifted and Talented courses, a variety of rigorous academic and academically challenging elective courses are offered to all students.

Accelerated Communication Arts 7 & 8 (M7034) (M8034)
 Algebra 7 (M7012)
 Geometry (M8010)

*Also see our course listing for extensive academic electives

SUBJECT LISTINGS

Program Selection

Our robust program includes four core academic classes, physical education, world language, and one elective each semester.

Sample Student Schedule

Based upon an 8-period Instructional Day

Grade 6	Grade 7 Grade 8
PE/Health	Math 7, Pre-Algebra, or Algebra Communication Arts
Communication Arts	Communication Arts Science 8
Math 6	PE/Health Math 8, Algebra, or Geometry
Lunch	Elective A/B Rotation World Language
Social Studies 6	Lunch Social Studies 8
World Language/Elective A/B Rotation	World Language/Elective A/B Rotation Lunch
Science 6	Social Studies 7 Elective A/B Rotation
Elective A/B Rotation	Science 7 PE/Health

COMMUNICATION ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Each student is required to take three years of Communication Arts. Each of the courses is one year in length. Students are required to read at least one assigned book over the summer. Novels may be selected by the teacher(s) or the student(s) depending on the course. In September, every student will be required to complete an assignment or activity based on the summer reading.

COMMUNICATION ARTS 6 (M6022)

The 6th grade Language Arts Curriculum consists of a comprehensive program incorporating literature, informational texts, digital literacy, composition, grammar, and verbal and written communication. It is constructed around our Literacy Program *myPerspectives* to support and reinforce the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. The units of study are divided into themes and core texts. The thematic units in Grade 6 are Childhood, Animal Allies, Modern Technology, Imagination, and Exploration. The course incorporates a wide variety of resources including informational texts, interviews, media clips, short stories, poetry, biographies, memoirs, literature excerpts, and anchor novels. The program takes a differentiated approach to literacy education offering whole class, small group, and individualized resources to support reading and writing skill development.

COMMUNICATION ARTS 7 (M7029)

The 7th-grade Language Arts Curriculum consists of a comprehensive program incorporating literature, informational texts, digital literacy, composition, grammar, and verbal and written communication. It is constructed around our Literacy Program *myPerspectives* to support and reinforce the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. The units of study are divided into themes and core texts. The thematic units in Grade 7 are Rites of Passage, The Holocaust, What Matters, Human Intelligence, and Invention. The course incorporates a wide variety of resources including informational texts, interviews, media clips, short stories, poetry, biographies, memoirs, literature excerpts, and anchor novels. The program takes a differentiated approach to literacy education offering whole class, small group, and individualized resources to support reading and writing skill development.

COMMUNICATION ARTS 8 (M8024)

The 8th-grade Language Arts Curriculum consists of a comprehensive program incorporating literature, informational texts, digital literacy, composition, grammar, and verbal and written communication. It is constructed around our Literacy Program *myPerspectives* to support and reinforce the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. The units of study are divided into themes and core texts. The thematic units in Grade 8 are Generations, A Starry Home, Turning Points, People and the Planet, and Facing Adversity. The course incorporates a wide variety of resources including informational texts, interviews, media clips, short stories, poetry, biographies, memoirs, literature excerpts, and anchor novels. The program takes a differentiated approach to literacy education offering whole class, small group, and individualized resources to support reading and writing skill development.

ACCELERATED COMMUNICATION ARTS 7 & 8 (M7034) (M8034) Throughout the 7th or 8th-grade year, students can expect to increase skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking through a variety of activities. Usage, mechanics, and vocabulary will be taught in context with literature and language-based units. There will be more opportunities to practice higher-level thinking, reading, and writing skills due to an increase in rigor, inquiry, and reflection. Students are expected to be independent learners, meet deadlines, read on or above a 7th or 8th-grade level, and have superior writing ability. Research skills, assignments, and projects are infused throughout the year. Students should be active participants who demonstrate that they can manage their time efficiently for both short and long-term assignments. Students will work at an accelerated pace throughout the course.

CREATIVE WRITING (M1678)

In this course, students will read, critique, and compose original poetry, short fiction, and creative non-fiction. Students will examine the works of published writers, as well as peers, to discover, expand, and refine their own skills, voice, and style.

JOURNALISM (M7035)

Journalism is a project-based elective where students will explore the history of Journalism and Media from original newspapers to the advent

of social media. This course is designed to teach you how to be a more effective communicator across all platforms, including communication arts, creative writing, blogging, social media, photography, and podcasts. You will engage in a variety of independent and group-based projects which include creating newspapers, social media posts, podcasts, videos, interviews, and more.

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Each student is required to take three years of Social Studies. Each course is one year in length.

SOCIAL STUDIES 6 (M6040)

Students will begin by digging into archaeology and using skills such as analyzing to figure out the many life-ways of early people (Stone Age). After that, students will move on to the ancient river valley civilizations in order to investigate which factors led to the success of specific thriving societies. During the second half of the year, students will examine classical civilizations such as China, Greece, and Rome. Throughout our explorations, students will learn how different forms of technology, organized government, and cultures impacted the lives of ancient people

In order to learn about each civilization, students must be able to use essential Social Studies skills such as; reading, writing, researching, communicating, drawing conclusions, and predicting future issues and/or problems. These skills will be taught in a variety of ways in order to appeal to all the different learners in the classroom.

SOCIAL STUDIES 7 (M7040)

Seventh-grade Social Studies is a hybrid course consisting of the study of Civics and Early American History. The course opens with an introduction to the Foundational Concepts and Principles of our democracy and its impact on the world. Students will explore the various roles of citizens and the many rights, duties, and responsibilities they have within our democracy. The framework of this course is to empower students through participation and knowledge. It is designed to provide students with an understanding of America's past so they can become active members in America's present and future.

Students will travel back in time to explore how and why North America was colonized. They will discuss the impact of European colonization on the indigenous tribes of North America. Students will also identify the changing relationship between the American colonies and Great Britain and determine what led to our fight for independence. Additionally, America's first government will be explored under the Articles of Confederation and the events that inspired the writing, ratification, and implementation of the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Students will investigate how this government, created over two centuries ago, is able to still effectively govern America. Students will analyze the evolution of our government and how it has adapted through times of change, war, differing political ideologies, severe and prosperous economic trends, and the constantly changing social conditions in our extremely diverse society.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8 (M8040)

This course will focus on American History from the Reconstruction Era to Modern Day. Students will explore the geographical and industrial expansions that occurred within the United States. They will analyze how these expansions led to great times of economic prosperity and the increased role of the United States on the world stage. Students will study the causes of WWI and WWII and how they had lasting implications that led to the Cold War and contributed to the global tension of today's world. The skills of critical thinking and problem solving are central to this course thus resulting in many research activities and simulations. Writing skills that will be emphasized are the analysis and construction of informational texts.

MOCK TRIAL (M0678)

In the mock trial class students will have the chance to take on the role of lawyers, witnesses, and jurors to conduct civil and criminal trials from start to finish. Students will develop an understanding of the fundamentals of the American legal system and the role a trial plays within that system. The class will cover the trial process, including the purpose of a trial, the layout of the courtroom, and the roles of the people involved in a civil and criminal trial. Students will analyze various methods of dispute resolution including negotiation, mediation, and trial. Students will obtain an understanding of the steps in civil and criminal proceedings. Students will have the opportunity to reflect, analyze, and

use creative skills to take on the role of an advocate to prepare and write legal arguments, question witnesses on behalf of a given client, and act as witnesses and jurors to present a trial and render a verdict.

MODEL UN (M8045)

Students will study the structure and goals of the United Nations and practice skills relevant to the world's nations' participation in the actual international organization. The student's area of focus will center primarily on cultural competency, public speaking, debate, and research. In the second half of the course, students will take on the role of delegates from different countries and attempt to solve real-world issues with the policies and perspectives of their assigned country.

MYSTERIES OF HISTORY (M7045)

American History is filled with many unsolved mysteries. In this course, students will take on the role of detectives to try and solve some of America's coldest cases. Students will dig for clues and evidence in six different cases assigned using the FMGIU (Florence M. Gaudineer Investigative Unit). Students will forensically analyze the evidence and draw conclusions. Do you know who truly "discovered" America? Can you figure out how a colony of over 100 people vanishes into thin air? Was the death of American hero, Meriwether Lewis a murder? How was an American President assassinated in a public theater in front of over 1,000 witnesses? Also, did they really catch the assassin responsible? Lastly, can you uncover who was responsible for the Lindbergh Baby kidnapping? The FMGIU needs your help to solve these cold cases once and for all!

MYSTERIES OF HISTORY 2 (New Course)

This course is a second-level course of the existing Elective History's Mysteries. The course will utilize the same approach as utilized in the existing course to new topics and subjects. In this course, students will take on the role of detectives to try and solve some of America's coldest cases. Students will dig for clues and evidence in six different cases assigned using the FMGIU (Florence M. Gaudineer Investigative Unit). Students will forensically analyze the evidence and draw conclusions.

PROJECT CITIZEN (M7046)

In Project Citizen, students will learn about the inner workings of our government and the important role they have as citizens within it. They will learn how they can use their voice to influence positive changes in our society. Each class will decide on a public policy issue that needs to be addressed. They will conduct interviews and meet with our lawmakers/policymakers to try and bring about the change they wish to see. Project Citizen is part of a worldwide initiative to empower students to use their voices to change the world. It is also part of a state and national competition, in which FMG holds many winning titles! One PC class will be selected to represent FMG at the New Jersey State Project Citizen Showcase in June.

WORLD LANGUAGE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Grades 6 and 7 World Language courses are on a full-year basis; every other day. Grade 8 World Language courses and ESL are full-year courses every day.

SPANISH 6 (M6060)

Entering Sixth-grade students choose from the two available World Languages: Spanish and French. In sixth grade, students begin their formal study of their chosen language through eighth grade on an alternating-day schedule. This is an introductory Spanish course designed to expose students to both language and culture in an interactive communicative environment. The content is taught through thematic units that provide enjoyable and varied opportunities for students to investigate the Spanish language, and to benefit from the cultural exposure to the history, geography, and customs of the various Hispanic countries. The sixth-grade experience is unique in that they learn the many skills involved in second language acquisition as they learn “how” to learn a language.

SPANISH 7 (M7060)

This course is a continuation of sixth-grade Spanish. Students continue to learn the Spanish language and culture through thematic units that focus on common informal settings and the aspects of daily life. Emphasis is placed on using the language communicatively in authentic situations,

and instruction is mainly in Spanish. Student-centered activities continue to actively engage the learners in demonstrating language proficiency. This course meets on an alternating day schedule.

SPANISH 8 (M8060)

In this course, students will continue developing and mastering their Spanish language skills. Emphasis will be given to the development of the student's ability to communicate in Spanish, to learn and apply new vocabulary, and to utilize appropriate grammatical structures. The four skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening will continue to be used so that students can reach communicative competence and linguistic accuracy while continuing to expand their awareness and appreciation of Spanish culture. This course meets every day. Upon successful completion of the three years of the Spanish program, students will have completed Spanish 1 and will be placed into Spanish 2 in high school.

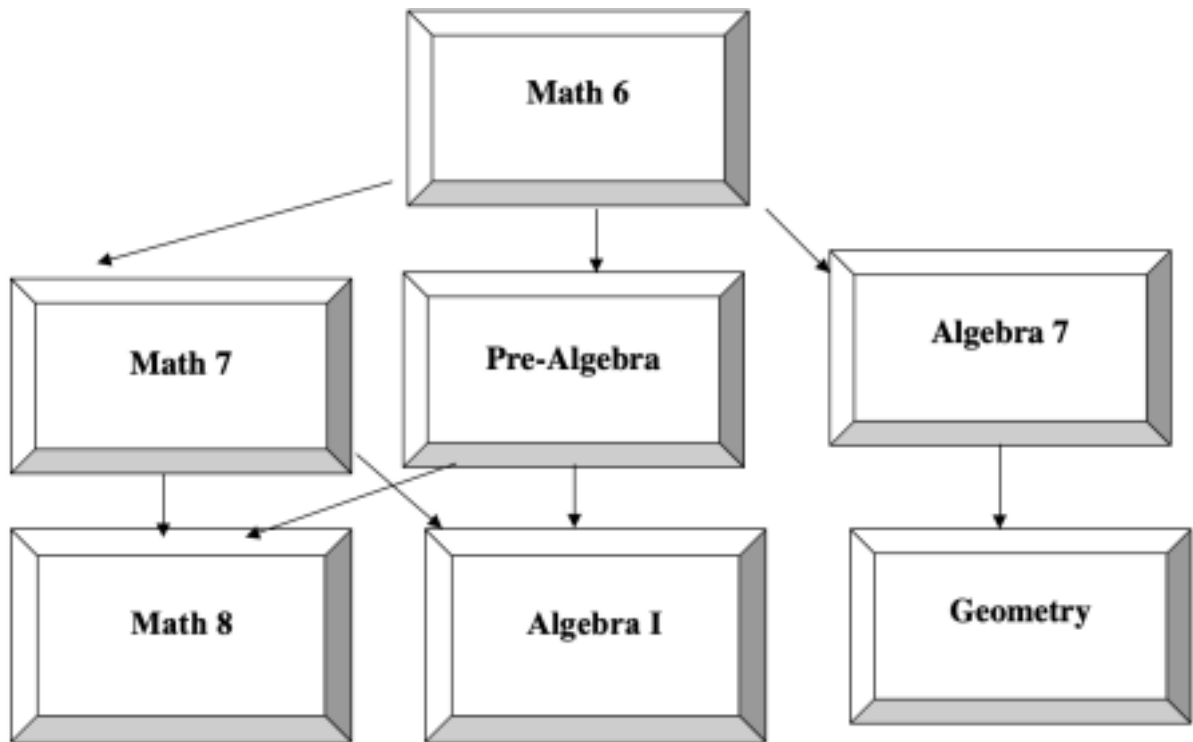
FRENCH 7 (M7070)

This course is a continuation of sixth-grade French. Students continue to learn the French language and culture through thematic units that focus on common informal settings and the aspects of daily life. Emphasis is placed on using the language communicatively in authentic situations, and instruction is mainly in French. Student-centered activities continue to actively engage the learners in demonstrating language proficiency. This course meets on an alternating day schedule.

FRENCH 8 (M8070)

In this course, students will continue developing and mastering their French language skills. Emphasis will be given to the development of the student's ability to communicate in French, learn and apply new vocabulary, and utilize appropriate grammatical structures. The four skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening will continue to be used so that students can reach communicative competence and linguistic accuracy while continuing to expand their awareness and appreciation of French culture. This course meets every day. Upon successful completion of the three years of the French program, students will have completed French 1 and will be placed into French 2 in high school.

MATHEMATICS COURSE SEQUENCE



Based upon the successful completion of the middle school math pathway, in most cases, Math 8 advances to Algebra 1, Algebra 1 advances to Geometry, and Geometry advances to Algebra 2 Honors. Please see the [Jonathan Dayton High School Program of Studies](#) for more specific information on the mathematical progression for grades 9-12.

MATHEMATICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Each student is required to take three years of Math. Each of the courses is one year in length. All Math courses place heavy emphasis on creative thinking and fluency with number facts. *Selection Criteria are based on teacher recommendation, iReady scores, NJSLA, and final average from the previous year.*

MATH 6 (M6013)

The grade 6 technology-based course of study begins by building on students' computational background and knowledge of fractions. It extends fractional knowledge by relating it to decimals and percentages. After achieving competency in the computation area, geometric principles are explored. Through hands-on activities, students investigate and create geometric principles that are based on real-life applications. As students build fluency with standard algorithms, two-dimensional geometry is introduced. Students then solve problems implementing the aforementioned algorithms. Statistics are explored by evaluating data from the student population and creating a variety of data representations with the results. Furthermore, probability is explored through the creation and analysis of game theory.

Additionally, students extend their understanding of numbers to include negative rational numbers, absolute value as a distance, and all four quadrants of the coordinate plane. Finally, the course of study is synthesized to enhance students' knowledge of rational and proportional reasoning.

MATH 7 (M7206)

Offers students the opportunity to focus on the development of essential mathematics skills, practices, and applications. Students will be engaged in the discovery and application of mathematical properties with numbers and operations; measurement; patterns; functions; algebraic formulas; geometry; data sets; statistics; and probability. Students will apply the eight mathematical practices as well: make sense of problems and persevere in solving them; reason abstractly and quantitatively; construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others; model with mathematics; use appropriate tools strategically; attend to precision; look

for and make use of structure; and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning. This course focuses on four critical areas: (1) developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. This course will use formative and summative data to target specific topics for students throughout the course. This course is designed to prepare students for Math 8.

PRE-ALGEBRA (M7013)

Seventh Grade Pre-Algebra is a course that reinforces and builds upon mathematical skills taught in previous mathematical classes with additional advanced computation, including an emphasis on Algebraic concepts. Students study concepts that include: ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics and probability.

Students will solve real-world math problems that will include analyzing proportional relationships; solving problems using numbers and algebraic expressions and equations; solving problems involving angle measures, area, surface area, and volume; analyzing situations involving games of chance and probability outcomes; evaluating data for a given situation using calculations of measures of central tendencies; and understand congruence and similarity in geometric shapes, solids, and scale drawings. Students will continue to solve problems that will include all operations with all real numbers. Students will be able to use properties of operations to create equivalent expressions. Students will also be able to draw, construct, and describe geometric figures and describe the relationships between them. Students will be able to use random sampling to draw inferences about a population, draw informal comparative inferences about two populations, investigate chance processes, and develop, use, and evaluate probability models. Students will verify experimentally the properties of geometric shapes under transformations: rotations, reflections, and translations and recognize the congruence between transformed shapes.

ALGEBRA 7 (M7012)

Algebra 7 begins with a review of major topics that are covered prior to high school, including properties of real numbers, arithmetic involving fractions and positive and negative numbers, and the concept of variables. Beyond these fundamental building blocks, Algebra 1 is an organized study of various families of functions and relations, with special emphasis on linear and quadratic functions. As students study each family of functions and relations, they will learn to represent them in multiple ways—as verbal descriptions, equations, inequalities, tables, and graphs. An emphasis is placed on modeling real-world situations using functions in order to solve problems that arise from those situations.

MATH 8 (M8208)

This course emphasizes proficiency in skills involving numbers and operations, measurement, patterns, simple functions, algebra, geometry, statistics, and probability. Students will apply the eight mathematical practices as well: make sense of problems and persevere in solving them; reason abstractly and quantitatively; construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others; model with mathematics; use appropriate tools strategically; attend to precision; look for and make use of structure; and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

This course focuses on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. This course will use formative and summative data to target specific topics for students throughout the course. This course is designed to prepare students to take Algebra 1 in Grade 9.

ALGEBRA 8 (M8014)

Algebra 8 begins with a review of major topics that are covered prior to high school, including properties of real numbers, arithmetic involving fractions and positive and negative numbers, and the concept of variables. Beyond these fundamental building blocks, Algebra 1 is an organized study of various families of functions and relations, with special emphasis on linear and quadratic functions. As students study each family of functions and relations, they will learn to represent them in multiple ways—as verbal descriptions, equations, inequalities, tables, and graphs. An emphasis is placed on modeling real-world situations using functions in order to solve problems that arise from those situations.

GEOMETRY (M8010)

This course is structured around undefined terms, basic definitions, postulates, and theorems. Topics include properties of angles and their measures, parallel and perpendicular lines, congruent triangles, similar polygons, right triangles, segments and angles associated with circles, areas of polygons and circles, surface areas and volumes of solids, the distance and midpoint formulas, parallel and perpendicular lines in the coordinate plane, the equations of a line, properties of quadrilaterals and mathematical modeling. Transformations, which include reflections, translations, and rotations, will be covered. Throughout the course, students are asked to apply geometric facts and reasoning to problem-solving in real-world situations.

SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Each student is required to take three years of Science. Each of the courses is one year in length. All Science courses place heavy emphasis on understanding the process of Science.

SCIENCE 6 (M6050)

Students in grade six explore topics in earth, physical, and life science. Each unit gives students a hands-on, content-rich experience in science. The modules focus on ecosystems, resources, Earth's surface, rocks, fossils, water, weather, atoms, elements, energy, and heat. Experiments and activities are used to facilitate the learning process, and to develop in students a knowledge and appreciation of science and the scientific method. Assessment methods include laboratory reports, presentations, group and individual projects, quizzes, and tests.

SCIENCE 7 (M7050)

Grade seven science is grounded in the study of living things. Students will explore structures and functions of living things from bacteria to plants and animals. Students build upon their knowledge of living things and examine the cell as the basic building block of living things, how heredity influences characteristics of organisms, explore the classification of living things, the importance of microorganisms, plant biology, and introductory zoology. Many activities and experiments are used to enrich the course and provide opportunities for each learner to build a solid understanding of the living world. Assessment methods include laboratory reports, presentations, group and individual projects, quizzes, and tests.

SCIENCE 8 (M8050)

Eighth-grade science provides exploration with hands-on activities and problem-solving within the domain of physical science. The content covers general science (such as safety, scientific method, and measurement skills), engineering design, chemistry (such as classifications and interactions of matter), physics (such as motion, forces, energy, and waves), Earth's place in the universe, and human activity on Earth (such as Climate Change and use of renewable and non-renewable resources). Many activities and experiments are used to enrich the course and provide opportunities for each learner to build a solid understanding of the physical world. Assessment methods include laboratory reports, presentations, group and individual projects, quizzes, and tests.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT (M6055) (PLTW)

In this STEM-based engineering and design class students are challenged to work independently and think big toward the future as they explore and evaluate sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They explore the various fields and careers in engineering and learn how to implement the design process and develop design briefs. They investigate the scientific concept of energy, and its sources, and evaluate the options for reducing energy consumption.

ROBOTICS (M8173) (PLTW)

Robotics is the study of mechanical and automated systems. This course follows the Project Lead the Way model of instruction where students will work cooperatively to design, build, and program a robot to complete an assigned task. Students will learn programming basics and how simple mechanisms work. The robot will be assembled using VEX robotics components and controlled using VEX Code software.

FORENSICS (M0670)

This course is the FMG version of Crime Scene Investigations. The course introduces students to the principles behind gathering, preserving, and investigating evidence. Students use scientific principles to examine evidence in specific situations to solve mysteries and recreate events. Students travel through a series of investigations that rely on scientific reasoning and analysis of physical evidence to make conclusions as to what events occurred to create the scene.

Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (S.T.E.M.)

PLTW (Project Lead The Way)

Project Lead The Way is a provider of K-12 STEM-based curricula that provides students with engineering-rich, interactive, and project-based lessons in a variety of areas within the emerging STEM fields. Currently, FMG offers the following PLTW Courses:

- Computer Science for Innovators and Makers (M6650) - Grade 6
- Energy and the Environment (M6055) - Grade 6
- App Creators (M7153) - Grade 7
- Robotics (M8173) - Grade 8

PROGRAMS IN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

APP CREATORS (M7153) (PLTW)

This unit will expose students to computer science by computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society. Students will customize their experience by choosing a problem that interests them from the areas of health, environment, emergency preparedness, education, community service, and school culture. Because problems in the real world involve more than one discipline, the unit will introduce students to biomedical science concepts as they work on solutions for the specific problems they choose to tackle.

COMPUTER SCIENCE FOR INNOVATORS AND MAKERS (M6650) (PLTW)

This unit will allow students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects. Throughout the unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. They will design and develop a physical computing device, interactive art installation, or wearable, and plan and develop code for microcontrollers that bring their physical designs to life. Physical computing projects will promote student awareness of interactive systems, including Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and broaden their understanding of abstract computer science concepts through meaningful and authentic applications.

FINANCIAL LITERACY (M0627)

Students will learn the basic components of a growing global economy. Instruction will focus on individual banking and financial products, processes, and skills needed for a person to function and participate.

Required for all students before completing Grade 8

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Music and Choir courses meet for a full year every other day. All other classes are semester courses that meet every other day. Concert Band and Chorale are performance-based courses that provide students with many opportunities to exhibit their musical skills.

CHORUS 6 (M6185), CHORUS 7 (M7185), CHORUS 8 (M8185)

A mixed choir environment where we learn the basics of music theory and sight singing while also singing fun repertoire in a group setting. The objectives of this course are to develop vocal skills, knowledge, understanding, and appreciation, and to develop the highest possible standards of performance. Membership is open to any student who is interested in singing. All concerts and rehearsals are required; failure to attend may adversely affect a student's proficiency and grade in this course. Some rehearsals and performances may be on weekends or in the evening.

MUSIC 6 (M6114)

Also known as Theater 101. This is an introductory class to the stage. Students actively engage in improvisation exercises, and study character development as well as script composition and stagecraft basics like costuming, make-up, and blocking. The culminating project is staging a production of a student-authored script.

BAND 6 (M6186), BAND 7 (M7002), BAND 8 (M8215)

Students will have the opportunity to begin or continue studying the following instruments: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, and Percussion. Students who are enrolled in this class are also eligible to perform with the FMG Band. The culminating experiences in the band are the winter and spring concerts, which all members must attend. Additionally, students in 7th and 8th Grades are eligible to perform with both the FMG Jazz Band and the JDHS Marching Band.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE (M8219)

This course is a performance-based, repeatable elective for experienced music students in grades 7 and 8 who wish to perform in the FMG Jazz

Ensemble. Students who play saxophone, trombone, trumpet, as well as piano, guitar, bass, or percussion. The course offers a more rigorous repertoire in the jazz idiom, with a focus on improvisation and group performance. Students must have experience in the concert band or another music ensemble. As an alternative prerequisite, students may receive a recommendation from a member of the music faculty.

KEYBOARDS (M7085)

This class is for 7th-grade students and is focused on creating music and other projects using the piano keyboard. Students will learn to read music and play simple songs on the piano. Additionally, students will use GarageBand and iMovie software to create unique projects that highlight different skills learned in the class. Students should expect to spend a class period listening to good music, creating their own musical products, and sharing with one another. The culminating project for the course is a student-written silent film, in which students write the script, act on screen, and write the accompanying music.

INTRODUCTION TO DANCE (M0760)

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn the beginning skills of dance while improving their techniques, poise, self-confidence, and creative ability. Students will choreograph and dance in-class presentations. Through their own dance choreography, students explore the creative process, translating ideas, thoughts, and feelings into original dance pieces. This course also focuses on the study of dance forms from many cultures and time periods in cultural and historical contexts. The vocabulary of dance includes the basic elements of time, space, and force or energy. Students grow in understanding dance and its elements through direct experience. Students will also have the opportunity to explore the dance production process, through participating in the end-of-the-year dance showcase.

INTRODUCTION TO DANCE 2 (M0751)

This course is designed for students who have completed Intro to Dance 1. It extends the genres and styles introduced in the prerequisite. This course is designed to give students the opportunity to build the foundational skills of dance while improving their techniques, poise, self-confidence, and creative ability. Students will choreograph and

dance in-class presentations. Students continue to grow in understanding dance and its elements through direct experience. Students will also have the opportunity to explore the dance production process, through participating in the end-of-the-year dance showcase.

INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA (M0760)

Drama will examine the basics of theatrical productions. Students will explore the writing of scripts to the development of an actual performance. Students will learn the essential skills and components of a successful live performance.

INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA 2 (M0761)

This course is designed for students who have completed Intro to Drama 1. It extends the genres and styles introduced in the prerequisite. Drama will further examine the basics of theatrical productions. Students will explore the writing of scripts to the development of an actual performance. Students will learn the essential skills and components of a successful live performance.

21ST CENTURY MUSIC AND MUSIC TECHNOLOGY (M8167)

This course is an 8th-grade project-based elective that focuses on digital music production, audio editing, and expanding basic music literacy concepts. Students work heavily with GarageBand software with MIDI and live audio, utilizing a variety of pro audio peripherals. It is preferred but not required that students take Keyboard Skills in 7th grade to prepare themselves for the performance aspects of this course. Required materials include a laptop, wired headphones, and a place to corral handouts and other course materials. Students who successfully complete this course will be prepared for the JDHS Music Production Lab courses.

STRINGS 6 (M6187), 7 (M7187), 8 (M8187)

Open to any student who plays violin, cello, viola, or string bass, String Ensemble offers musicians challenging opportunities to develop many aspects of performance. This course offers students experience in studying and performing a wide variety of music such as chamber music, classical and contemporary literature as well as other repertoire appropriate to the students' degree of advancement. Elements such as intonation, articulation, rhythmic precision, dynamic variety, bowing techniques, balance, and blend are studied.

VISUAL ARTS

ART 6 (M6120)

Sixth-grade Art is a survey class, in which students have exposure to a variety of traditional 2D and 3D art media, which also includes work in the Digital Arts. The range of media of Sixth Grade Art encompasses, but is not limited to; ceramics, sculpture, painting, and drawing. During the course of the term, students also bring their iPads to art and work in Photoshop. The range of art media exposure in Sixth Grade Art is intended to prepare students for concentrations of study that follow in later grades. In addition to preparing students for coursework in middle school Art, the variety of art media is also intended to differentiate among learners, providing opportunities not only for different abilities but also to provide opportunities to achieve success, build confidence, and engage the learner for the whole Art Education program at FMG.

3D ART (M6126)

In this introductory course, students will become familiar with and learn how to use the elements of visual design, a variety of materials, processes, and techniques. Ceramics and sculpture are explored. Also, students will gain visual art techniques such as material modeling, carving, cutting, pasting and gluing, scaling, and sculpture design through direct instruction and independent research. Students should anticipate a studio-based art class which may include creative problem-solving, production of artwork, critiques, and self-evaluations. Also introduced in the class are historical and contemporary trends in art, which are explored through visual examples.

ART 7 (M7115)

In the Seventh grade, students focus on 3D artwork working in Ceramics throughout the term. Student work in Ceramics concentrates on hand-building construction; learning pinch, coil, and slab techniques for making pots and larger vessels. Later in the semester, students apply these hand-building techniques to create sculptures in mask making, sculpture of imaginary animals, or other sculpture-based experiences. Students also learn glazing and painting techniques to further develop their work. In addition to work in ceramics, students also incorporate writing in their description of sculpture. There are several goals in a

concentration study of the 3D art form. In one case a concentrated study in Ceramics allows the learner to develop an understanding of the medium, and what it is capable of with the material, and provides an opportunity for growth in confidence in manipulating and constructing with clay. Another goal is to provide opportunities, an entry for appreciation of an art form for those who may not have felt successful with 2D artwork, such as drawing or painting. Ceramic work provides a vehicle for accomplishment for those who have an affinity or ability for working and building with their hands.

ART LAB MAKERSPACE CLASSROOM (M7118)

Art Lab Makerspace is a collaborative setting where students learn to explore their imaginations and design their ideas. Picture a science lab, woodshop, computer lab, and art studios all blended together for a hands-on educational experience. This class fosters creativity as it provides students an opportunity to create, design, build, and tinker with all varieties of materials and resources.

ART 8 (M8080)

This course is designed for students to explore and experience creative expression, critical evaluation, and a greater appreciation for the Visual Arts. While learning about the elements and principles of design, students will develop their drawing, painting, sculpting, and printmaking skills. A variety of famous artists and their styles throughout history will be studied. This course will consist of a more in-depth study of art criticism, aesthetics, and art history. Students will develop an ability to talk about their work and the work of others.

21st CENTURY ARTIST (M8130)

21st Century Artist is a survey class, with a focus on Visual Culture and Personal Voice through work in two and three-dimensional work. Visual Culture recognizes the predominance of visual media in the postmodern world and merges popular and low-cultural forms and media with high-cultural forms of Fine Art and Design. Students work in both traditional and non-traditional media.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTED READING (M9115)

The Multisensory Reading program uses multi-sensory techniques and strategies to assist students increase their reading and comprehension skills. The teacher uses manipulatives and a variety of reading programs, including Orton-Gillingham, Wilson, Explode the Code, Jamestown Reading program, and Visualizing and Verbalizing as well as computer-based websites such as Reading A-Z. Students also use AceReader Pro, a computer program that helps increase reading speed and comprehension skills.

ENGLISH/SECOND LANGUAGE (M9520)

In the ESL class students who speak a first language other than English work to improve their English language skills. In this small class students actively speak, read, write, and listen to others in a supportive environment. Activities are designed to increase knowledge and vocabulary of the academic content areas as well as develop English language skills.

RESOURCES ROOM/SPECIAL EDUCATION

COMMUNICATION ARTS 6 (M9223), COMMUNICATION ARTS 7 (M9225), COMMUNICATION ARTS 8 (M9227)
MATHEMATICS 6 (M9224), MATHEMATICS 7 (M9226), and MATHEMATICS 8 (M9228) Courses in Communication Arts and Math following the corresponding curriculum are available in a Resource Room Setting available through a Student Services Evaluation.

STUDY SKILLS (M9660)

Recommended students will be given direct instruction covering general academic skills and strategies to enhance their understanding and participation in core academic classes. Organizational skills, mnemonic devices, time management, and individualized strategies will be applied to grade-level concepts and demands.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The Physical Education/Health Department at Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School's main goal is to provide information necessary for students to develop the ability to make healthy life choices that will last a lifetime.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6 (M6080), 7 (M7080), 8 (M8086)

The Physical Education program at Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School is an integral component of students' overall education experience. Participation in the program is essential in fostering the development of students' mental, moral, physical, and emotional growth. The Health and Physical Education curriculum provides movement-centered and knowledge-based activities for all students in a non-threatening but challenging environment. A variety of activities will be offered to students that promote fitness through a comprehensive spectrum of physical skills and knowledge necessary to maintain fitness for life.

The Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School Physical Education program consists of three marking periods of Physical Education and one marking period of Health. Students will receive health instruction for one marking period during one of the four marking periods. Each marking period contains approximately forty-five instructional days. Student performance is assessed in several areas using specific criteria. The program has established guidelines, rules, and regulations to ensure all students have a safe, satisfying education experience.

HEALTH 6 (M6090)

The "theme" for 6th-grade health is growth, development, and disease. The students will be taught overall health as it pertains to the theme in three parts: 1. Your Body Systems (Support & Control Systems and Energy & Transport Systems); 2. How You Grow (From Infancy Through Adolescence and Adulthood Through Old Age); & 3. Understanding Diseases (Communicable Diseases and Non-Communicable Diseases).

HEALTH 7 (M7079)

The "theme" for 7th grade health is personal responsibility. Students will be taught life skills covering the different aspects of health. Units will include substance awareness, safety, nutrition, decision-making and goal setting, health services, and advocacy, as well as addiction and treatment and social and emotional health.

HEALTH 8 (M8090)

Eighth-grade health is a marking period-long class that is part of the comprehensive Middle School Health Program. The students will learn lifetime skills related to health activities from the six components of health (Physical, Emotional, Social, Mental, Spiritual, and Environmental). Topics for discussion are Personal Growth and Development, Disease and Health Conditions, Character Development, Interpersonal Communication, Relationships, Pregnancy and Parenting, and Sexuality. These activities will prepare the students for their journey through life and their high school health courses.

This comprehensive program of studies has been carefully designed to provide you with a roadmap for academic success and personal growth during your time at FMG. We encourage you to explore the diverse array of courses and opportunities available to you, ensuring that your decisions align with your interests, goals, and aspirations. Our Teachers, School Counselors, and Administration are dedicated to supporting you every step of the way, offering guidance and assistance to help you navigate your academic journey effectively.

We hope that this program serves as a valuable resource and guide, empowering you to make informed decisions that will shape your future. Your success and well-being are our top priorities, and we look forward to being a part of your journey at FMG.