

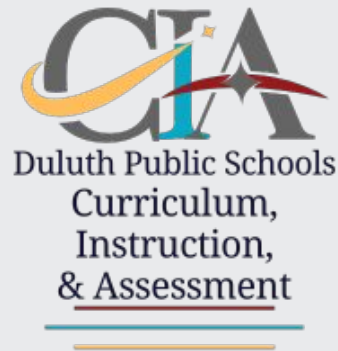


Course
Registration
Guide
2025-2026

Grades
6-8

Duluth Public Schools

Duluth Public Schools works to inspire every student to achieve their potential and prepares students to lead productive, fulfilling lives as citizens of Duluth and the wider world.



DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

John Magas
Superintendent

Anthony Bonds
Assistant Superintendent

Jennifer Larva
Director of Secondary Education

Jason Crane
Director of Special Services

Dale Uselman
Curriculum Coordinator

MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Brian Kazmierczak, *Principal*
Barry Fischer, *Asst. Principal*
Lincoln Park Middle School

Susan Lehna, *Principal*
Jodi Stacken, *Asst. Principal*
Eric Stang, *Asst. Principal*
Ordean East Middle School

Danette Seboe, *Principal on Special Assignment*
Career & Technical Education
College, Career, & Life Readiness
School Counseling Coordinator

Dear Duluth Public School Students and Families,

It is with great enthusiasm that we present to you this year's course registration guide. As you explore the diverse range of academic offerings, we encourage you to embrace the opportunities that align with your passions, interests, and aspirations.

Duluth Public School's mission is to empower every student, every day, with learning opportunities that foster growth, creativity, and curiosity. This catalog is a testament to that commitment, reflecting our dedication to preparing you for a successful future in an interconnected global community.

Remember, your educational journey is unique. As you engage in the course selection process, please discuss your choices with your family and seek guidance from your counselor and teachers. The registration guide has been designed to assist you in the registration process and help you plan your high school career. Review carefully the course requirements for graduation; examine, as well, your interests and future plans; and then select courses that will contribute to the realization of those plans. Together, we can create a personalized learning experience that empowers you to reach your full potential.

We are excited to embark on this journey of discovery and growth with you. Let's make the 2025-2026 academic year a memorable one, filled with exploration, achievement, and a shared commitment to excellence.

Sincerely,

Jen Larva
Director of Secondary Education
Department of Teaching, Learning, and Equity

Dale Uselman
K-12 Curriculum Coordinator

Contacts - Principals and Counselors



Ordean East Middle School
2900 East 4th Street
Duluth, MN 55812
218-336-8940

Administration

Sue Lehna
Principal
ext 2520
susan.lehna@isd709.org

Jodi Stacken
Assistant Principal
ext 2697
jodi.stacken@isd709.org

Eric Stang
Assistant Principal
ext 1349
eric.stang@isd709.org

School Counselors *2025-2026 Grade Assignments*

Ashley Kedrowski
6th Grade
ext 2222
ashley.kedrowski@isd709.org

Sarah Seglem
7th Grade
ext 3327
sarah.seglem@isd709.org

Morgan Costley
8th Grade
ext 1262
morgan.costley@isd709.org



Lincoln Park Middle School
3215 West 3rd Street
Duluth, MN 55806
218-336-8880

Administration

Brian Kazmierczak
Principal
ext 3346
brian.kazmierczak@isd709.org

Barry Fischer
Assistant Principal
ext 2320
barry.fischer@isd709.org

School Counselors *2025-2026 Grade Assignments*

Lisa Wentworth
6th Grade
ext 2167
lisa.wentworth@isd709.org

April Laurent
7th Grade
ext 2897
april.laurent@isd709.org

Nicole Steinsberger
8th Grade
ext 3330
nicole.steinsberger@isd709.org

Table Of Contents

Click to Jump to Page

School Counselors

Registration Information and Worksheets

Students wishing to continue with Immersion

Student Supports in the Middle School Model

Bell Schedule: The Middle School Block Model

6th Grade Course Descriptions

Required Courses

Music Electives

Exploratory Electives

7th Grade Course Descriptions

Required Courses

Music Electives

Art Electives

Exploratory Electives

World Languages

8th Grade Course Descriptions

Required Courses

Art and Music Electives

Exploratory Electives

World Language

Courses for Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)

Course for English Language Development

Middle School FAQs

Clubs, Athletics, and Activities

How do I report attendance and why is it so important?

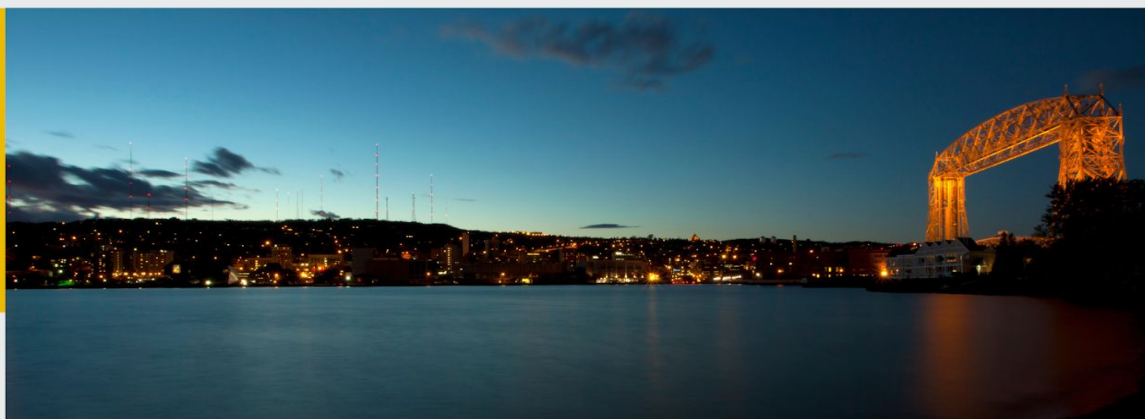
What is CANVAS?

How do I set up my CANVAS Observer account so I can monitor my student?

How are lockers assigned and do we need to purchase locks?

How do we get homework if my student misses school?

When should we worry about getting an instrument if our student is signing up for Band or Orchestra?



option A: Middle School Counselors

Middle Schools in Duluth Public Schools assign a School Counselor to support our students. The School Counselor usually follows the group of students through all 3 years.

- Lincoln Park Middle School assignments for the 2025-2026 school year
 - Lisa Wentworth: 6th Grade, ext 2167, lisa.wentworth@isd709.org
 - April Laurent: 7th Grade, ext 2297, april.laurent@isd709.org
 - Nicole Steinsberger: 8th Grade, ext 3330, nicole.steinsberger@isd709.org
- Ordean East Middle School
 - Ashley Kedrowski: 6th Grade, ext 2222, ashley.kedrowski@isd709.org
 - Sarah Seglem: 7th Grade, ext 3327, sarah.seglem@isd709.org
 - Morgan Costley: 8th Grade, ext 1262, morgan.costley@isd709.org

What can my school counselor help me with?

- School counselors help all students:
 - Apply academic achievement strategies
 - Manage emotions and apply interpersonal skills
 - Plan for postsecondary options
 - (higher education, military, work force)
- They can provide:
 - Individual student academic planning and goal setting
 - School counseling classroom lessons based on student success standards
 - Short-term counseling to students
 - Referrals for long-term support
 - Collaboration with families/teachers/ administrators/ community for student success
 - Advocacy for students at individual education plan meetings and other student-focused meetings
 - Data analysis to identify student issues, needs and challenges
 - Acting as a systems change agent to improve equity and access, achievement and opportunities for all students



Course Registration Resources

Registration Worksheets: Paper copies will be given to students when the school counselors present course information.

- [6th Grade Registration Worksheet](#)
 - NEW: All 6th grade students must also turn in a completed [Transportation Information Form](#) with their registration. Paper copies will be distributed with the registration sheets.
 - [Selecting a Music Course](#)
- [7th Grade Registration Worksheet](#)
- [8th Grade Registration Worksheet](#)



Students who plan to continue with the Spanish Immersion program at LPMS should direct any questions to your School Counselor. Immersion students will be enrolled in available immersion courses at their grade level.

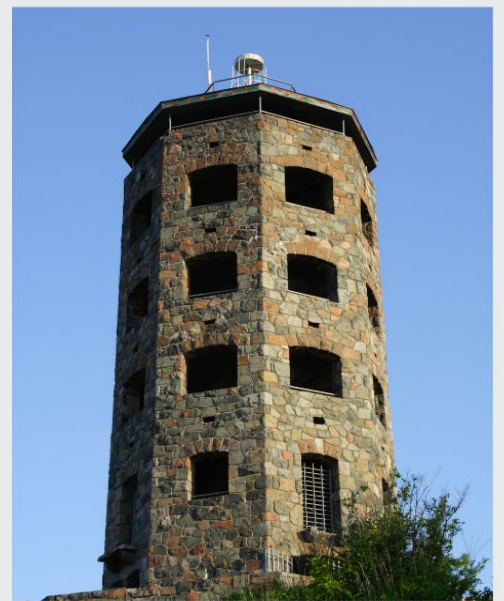
Course offerings may change annually based on student need and staff availability. Spanish immersion courses may include:

- ***Language Arts 6 (6th grade)***
- ***Minnesota Studies (6th grade)***
- ***US Studies (7th grade)***
- ***Other 7th & 8th grade courses TBD***

Student Supports in the Middle School Model

Middle School Model Information

- Student supports are built into the middle school schedule to give more direct guidance to our students with the intent of helping them learn and practice social emotional skills, build community within our buildings, and support academic needs.
- A.R.E.A. Time
 - AREA stands for Academics, Relearning, Enrichment, and Activities and is a time each week dedicated to offering students choice. A variety of enrichment and relearning activities are offered during this time to provide students an opportunity to learn new skills or receive extra support on skills they are already learning.
- Advisory Time
 - This is a class that focuses on social and emotional learning, building community, and supporting academic goals.



A/B Schedule

- Some courses meet all year but only meet every other day. These classes are labeled as “A Day” or “B Day.”
- There is a course that meets on the opposite day.
- For example: 6th grade students may attend Phy Ed on A Day and Choir on B day.
- A calendar is published every year that will help you know if it’s an A Day or a B Day.

Block Schedule

- Two days per week, our middle schools use a Block Schedule.
- This means that three days per week, ALL 7 classes meet for 47 minutes.
- On the other two days, the schedule is adjusted to allow for longer periods and the addition of AREA time and Advisory Time
 - On one block day, Periods 1, 3, and 5 meet in longer “blocks” of time.
 - On the other block day, those longer periods are 2, 4, and 6.
 - Period 7 meets in a shorter “skinny” block on both days.
 - AREA and Advisory meet both block days.

The Middle School Schedule is detailed on the next page.

Middle School Schedule

Regular 7 Period Schedule		Block Schedule	
Entry Bell	8:30	Entry Bell	8:30
1st Period	8:40-9:27	1st/2nd Period	8:40-9:58
2nd Period	9:32-10:19		
3rd Period	10:24-11:16	Advisory	10:03-10:35
		Flex	10:40-11:14
6th: Lunch/P4/P5	Lunch A 11:21-11:51 Period 4A 11:56-12:43 Period 5A 12:48-1:35	6th: Lunch then 3rd/4th Period	Lunch A 11:19-11:49 Period 3A/4A 11:54-1:12
7th: P4/Lunch/P5	Period 4B 11:21-12:08 Lunch B 12:13-12:43 Period 5B 12:48-1:35	7th: 3rd or 4th Period with Lunch break in the middle	Period 3A/4A 11:19-11:55 Lunch B 12:00-12:30 return to 3A/4A 12:35-1:12
8th: P4/P5/Lunch	Period 4C 11:21-12:08 Period 5C 12:13-1:00 Lunch C 1:05-1:35	8th: 3rd or 4th then Lunch	3C/4C 11:19-12:37 Lunch C 12:42-1:12
6th Period	1:40-2:27	5th/6th Period	1:17-2:35
7th Period	2:32-3:19	7th Period	2:32-3:19
After School Time	3:25-5:05	After School Time	3:25-5:05
Activity Bus Leaves	4:15 OEMS (M,Tu,Th) 4:25 LPMS (M,W,Th)	Activity Bus Leaves	4:15 OEMS (M,Tu,Th) 4:25 LPMS (M,W,Th)

6th Grade Course Offerings

<i>Every 6th grade student will be automatically enrolled in:</i>	<i>All 6th grade students must choose one Music Course:</i>	<i>6th grade students will choose one Exploratory Course:</i>
English 6		
Math 6	Beginning Band	*Exploring Robotics and Coding 6/7
Earth Science	or	or
Minnesota Studies	Beginning Choir	*Exploring Outdoor Education 6/7
Physical Education	or	or
Skills for Success	Beginning Orchestra	Media Arts 6
Computer Literacy	<i>Students who have Individual Education Plans (IEPs) may be placed in alternate courses to meet their needs based on IEP Team determinations.</i>	<i>*Note: Robotics 6/7 and Outdoor Ed 6/7 may only be taken once in 6th or 7th. If you take it in 6th you may not take it again in 7th and will try a different exploratory course.</i>
Visual Arts 6		

6th Grade Required Course Descriptions

Course # M042101-M042102	Course Name: English 6
REQUIRED Year Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description This course will provide opportunities for all students to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strategies for comprehension and analysis of literary and informational texts • Improve reading fluency • Use the writing process to develop writing that uses evidence to support ideas • Access, analyze, evaluate, and create media • Present information • Improve language skills including vocabulary, spelling, and conventions
Course # M071001-M071002	Course Name: Math 6
REQUIRED Year Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Students will solve real-world and mathematical problems by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the concept of ratio and its relationship to fractions and whole number multiplication and division • Understanding and performing calculations with positive rational numbers • Representing relationships between varying quantities with tables, graphs, and rules and translating between them • Using properties of arithmetic to generate equivalent numerical expressions and evaluating expressions involving positive rational numbers • Using equations and inequalities to represent problems involving positive rational numbers • Calculating measurements (perimeter, area, surface area and volume) of two and three-dimensional shapes
Course # M104001-M104002	Course Name: Earth Science
REQUIRED Year Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description In this Earth Science course, also known as Geology, science and engineering practices are used to explore the world and our solar system's structures and processes through a variety of hands-on investigations. The course will examine the core ideas in Geology, Meteorology (weather and climate), Solar System Astronomy, movement of Earth's crust, human involvement in the environment, cycling patterns of water, energy and minerals, and the contribution to the world by Minnesota American Indian Tribes and other cultures relating these core ideas to student life of today. Students will be asked to complete a series of units that focus on the unit's core ideas, practices that engineers and scientists do, and cross cutting concepts that drive higher level thinking. The course will examine natural processes through the use of student built models, student driven experimentation, and student led discussions that focus on natural events impacting our lives. The course is fully aligned to the 2019 Minnesota State Science Standards.
Course # M111001-M111002	Course Name: Minnesota Studies
REQUIRED Year Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Students will apply and evaluate concepts of Minnesota government, economy, geography, and history. An integrated approach to Minnesota will provide students with an understanding of the Minnesota Constitution, elected offices, and laws as well as state and personal economics. Students will also gain an understanding of the influence of Minnesota's geography on the population and cultures of the state. Study of Minnesota history will allow students to investigate the history of the state from before European contact to the present as well as the geography, culture, economy, and history of Duluth.

6th Grade Required Courses Descriptions

Course # M250001-M250002	Course Name: Skills for Success
REQUIRED Year Long Meets on either A day or B day (Opposite Computer Literacy)	Course Description This course sets students up for future success by learning study skills, literacy skills, personal interests, and career exploration.

Course # M021001-M021002	Course Name: Computer Literacy
REQUIRED Year Long Meets on either A day or B day (Opposite Skills for Success)	Course Description This course provides an in-depth and dynamic program that develops broad-based internet and computing skills. The purpose of the course is to provide students with the educational foundation to succeed in their middle and high school courses requiring the use of technology. This course will introduce students to computational thinking and problem solving, digital citizenship, coding, AI, animations, web design, and data analytics.

Course # M011000	Course Name: Visual Arts 6
REQUIRED Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Students will build skills in Visual Arts 6 through the exploration of a variety of materials and techniques, such as drawing, painting, sculpture, graphic arts, fibers, and ceramics. Visual Arts 6 builds visual literacy by engaging students in the meaning and use of art images across cultures and times. Students have the opportunity to analyze why and how people make art and its connections to other areas of learning and human experiences.

Course # M091001-M091002	Course Name: Physical Education
REQUIRED Year Long Meets on either A day or B day (Opposite Music choice)	Course Description This course fulfills the MN 6th grade state requirement for Physical Education. It is meant to introduce aspects of MN state standards. The curriculum addresses these standards through aquatics, physical fitness and individual/team indoor and outdoor activities. An emphasis is placed on positive social behaviors within class settings.

6th Grade Music Electives Course Descriptions

Course # M081001-M081002	Course Name: Beginning Band
CHOOSE ONE Year Long Meets on either A day or B day (Opposite Phy Ed)	<p>Course Description</p> <p>This course is open to all interested 6th-grade students. Students will study performance skills on an assigned instrument and learn how to work effectively in a group. Basic music theory will be studied which includes the knowledge of music fundamentals, scales, and rhythms. A prescribed amount of daily practice is recommended outside of school. Weekly group lessons are provided. Concert participation is expected.</p> <p>*Instruments are assigned AFTER the school year begins!</p>
Course # M083001-M083002	Course Name: Beginning Orchestra
CHOOSE ONE Year Long Meets on either A day or B day (Opposite Phy Ed)	<p>Course Description</p> <p>This course is open to all interested 6th grade students. Students will study technical playing skills on a given instrument and learn how to work effectively in a group. Basic music theory will be studied which includes the knowledge of music fundamentals, scales, and rhythms. A prescribed amount of daily practice is recommended outside of school. Weekly group lessons are provided. Concert participation is expected.</p> <p>*Instruments are assigned AFTER the school year begins!</p>
Course # M082001-M082002	Course Name: Beginning Choir
CHOOSE ONE Year Long Meets on either A day or B day (Opposite Phy Ed)	<p>Course Description</p> <p>This course is open to all interested students in Grade 6. Students will study performance skills related to their voice and learn how to work effectively in a group. Basic music theory will be studied which includes treble note recognition, simple rhythms, and basic music terminology. One and two-part music reading, choral rehearsal techniques, and sight-singing skills will be studied and assessed. Individual practice is recommended and concert participation is expected.</p>

6th Grade Exploratory Course Descriptions

Course # M011500	Course Name: Media Arts 6
CHOOSE ONE Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	<p>Course Description</p> <p>Students will be introduced to media arts exploring photography, digital communications, animation and cinema. Students will learn about photo composition and editing, stop motion, sound and video (cinematography) software and equipment. Students will develop story building skills, editing processes, and use/care for equipment. This course meets the required Minnesota State Standards for Media Arts.</p>
Course # M021500	Course Name: Exploring Robotics and Coding 6/7
CHOOSE ONE Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	<p>Course Description</p> <p>This course provides an opportunity for students to explore Lego robotics, coding, and other engineering activities.</p> <p>*Students may only take this course once, either in 6th or 7th grade.</p>
Course # M106000	Course Name: Exploring Outdoor Education 6/7
CHOOSE ONE Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	<p>Course Description</p> <p>This course offers students the opportunity to participate in several fun, exciting and healthy activities, including hiking, orienteering, biking, canoeing, fishing, and nature art. We'll also cover camping essentials like fire building, cooking with camp stoves, setting up shelters, and trip planning. This course is designed for any student wanting to learn or better skills needed to enjoy these activities and want to learn about the environment through various phenology and environmental science activities. Much of this class is taught outdoors so you will need to be prepared to enjoy the outdoors and dress appropriately. While most of this class will be taught on school grounds, we will also utilize the natural spaces within walking distance of campus.</p> <p>*Students may only take this course once, either in 6th or 7th grade.</p>

7th Grade Course Offerings

<i>Every 7th grade student will be automatically enrolled in:</i>	<i>All 7th grade students must choose one Music Course:</i>	<i>7th grade students will choose one Exploratory Course:</i>
English 7	Beginning Band	*Exploring Robotics and Coding 6/7
Math 7	Beginning Choir	*Exploring Outdoor Education 6/7
Life Science	Beginning Orchestra	Communication Arts 7
United States Studies	General Music	World Language (Spanish 1A, German 1A, Ojibwemowin 1A)
Physical Education	<i>7th grade students will choose one Art Course:</i>	Visual or Media Arts (if not already selected)
Industrial Technology	Visual Arts 7	<i>*Note: Robotics 6/7 and Outdoor Ed 6/7 may only be taken once in 6th or 7th. If you took it in 6th you may not take it again in 7th and will need to try a different exploratory course.</i>
Family and Consumer Science (FCS)	Media Arts 7	<i>Students who have Individual Education Plans (IEPs) may be placed in alternate courses to meet their needs based on IEP Team determinations.</i>

7th Grade Required Course Descriptions

Course # M043001-M043002	Course Name: English 7
REQUIRED Year Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description This course will provide opportunities for all students to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrate literal, interpretive, inferential, and evaluative understanding of literary and informational texts ● Write clearly and coherently for a variety of audiences and purposes ● Access information and use a variety of sources to answer a question or support a claim ● Access, analyze, evaluate, and create media ● Practice listening and speaking skills ● Improve language skills including vocabulary, spelling, and conventions

Course # M072001-M072002	Course Name: Math 7
REQUIRED Year Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Students will solve real-world and mathematical problems by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Understanding and performing calculations with positive and negative rational numbers ● Understanding the concept of proportionality and distinguishing between proportional and other relationships ● Representing proportional relationships with tables, verbal descriptions, symbols and graphs and explaining results in original contexts ● Applying understanding of the order of operations and algebraic properties to generate equivalent numerical and algebraic expressions and solving equations symbolically, graphically and numerically ● Using reasoning with proportions and ratios to determine and justify formulas involving circles and related geometric figures ● Analyzing the effect of change of scale, translations, and reflections on the attributes of two-dimensional figures ● Applying concepts and tools of data to solve problems and make predictions (median, mean and range) ● Displaying and interpreting data in a variety of ways, including circle graphs and histograms ● Understanding probability calculations using proportions

Course # M102001-M102002	Course Name: Life Science
REQUIRED Year Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Life Science is a basic biology course where students will learn about living things. Students will complete a series of units that focus on the unit's core ideas, practices that engineers and scientists do, and cross cutting concepts that drive higher level thinking. The hands-on curriculum will focus on: the practices of science and engineering, the importance of cells as the basic unit of life, the structure of organisms and maintaining a balanced body, reproduction, heredity and growth, how matter and energy flow within and between organisms, the history of life through Earth's history and contributions to the scientific world by Minnesota American Indian Tribes and other cultures. The course will examine these natural processes through the investigation of real world phenomena, the use of student built models, student driven experimentation, and student led discussions. The course is fully aligned to the 2019 Minnesota State Science Standards.

7th Grade Required Course Descriptions

Course # M112001-M112002	Course Name: United States Studies
REQUIRED Year Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	<p>Course Description</p> <p>This course takes an integrated approach to the study of the United States, with an emphasis on U.S. History after the year 1800. Students will inquire as to how citizenship and government, economics, and geography influence the United States in past and present eras. U.S. Studies will provide students with an understanding of foundational documents of American History, the structure of the U.S. government as well as the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Students will investigate how the country has changed over time due to geography, economic shifts, and cultural changes.</p>

Course # M032000	Course Name: Family and Consumer Science (FCS) 7
REQUIRED Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	<p>Course Description</p> <p>FCS 7 is a semester-long course required for all 7th graders. This course gives students the opportunity to develop individual skills as well as discover personal strengths when collaborating in groups. Lessons will explore healthy food choices, nutrition, basic food preparation, etiquette, introduction to financial literacy and budgeting. This course will further prepare students for the future and foster lasting life skills</p>

Course # M062010	Course Name: Industrial Technology 7
REQUIRED Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	<p>Course Description</p> <p>In this</p>

Course # M092000	Course Name: Physical Education 7
REQUIRED Year Long Meets on either A day or B day (Opposite Music choice)	<p>Course Description</p> <p>This course fulfills the MN 7th grade state requirement for Physical Education. It is meant to enhance student's knowledge of the components and concepts of MN state standards. The curriculum addresses these standards through aquatics, physical fitness and individual/team indoor and outdoor activities. An emphasis is placed on each student developing positive social behaviors within class settings.</p>

7th Grade Music Electives Course Descriptions

Course # M081101-M081102	Course Name: Intermediate Band
CHOOSE ONE Year Long Meets on either A day or B day (Opposite Phy Ed)	Course Description This course is open to all interested 7th-grade students who have had previous band experience. Students will study performance skills on an assigned instrument and learn how to work effectively in a group. Basic music theory will be studied which includes the knowledge of music fundamentals, scales, and rhythms. A prescribed amount of daily practice is recommended outside of school. Weekly group lessons are provided. Concert participation is expected. Completion of Beginning Band is recommended but not required.
Course # M083101-M083102	Course Name: Intermediate Orchestra
CHOOSE ONE Year Long Meets on either A day or B day (Opposite Phy Ed)	Course Description This course is open to all interested 7th grade students who have had previous orchestra experience. Students will study technical playing skills on a given instrument and learn how to work effectively in a group. Basic music theory will be studied which includes the knowledge of music fundamentals, scales, and rhythms. A prescribed amount of daily practice is recommended outside of school. Weekly group lessons are provided. Concert participation is expected. Completion of Beginning Orchestra is recommended, but not required.
Course # M082101-M082102	Course Name: Intermediate Choir
CHOOSE ONE Year Long Meets on either A day or B day (Opposite Phy Ed)	Course Description This course is open to all interested students in Grade 6. Students will study performance skills related to their voice and learn how to work effectively in a group. Basic music theory will be studied which includes treble note recognition, simple rhythms, and basic music terminology. One and two-part music reading, choral rehearsal techniques, and sight-singing skills will be studied and assessed. Individual practice is recommended and concert participation is expected.
Course # M082301-M082302	Course Name: General Music
CHOOSE ONE Year Long Meets on either A day or B day (Opposite Phy Ed)	Course Description This non-performance course offers an exploration into the world of music. The course includes elements of singing and playing a variety of musical instruments. During this course the students will learn some music history along with composing and reflection on music. The course would follow the Minnesota Arts Standards. Throughout this course, students would be exposed to a diverse group of performers either in person or virtually.

7th Grade Art Electives Course Descriptions

Course # M011600	Course Name: Visual Arts 7
CHOOSE ONE Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Students will build on skills gained in Visual Arts 6 through the exploration of a variety of materials and techniques, such as drawing, painting, sculpture, graphic arts, fibers, and ceramics. Visual Arts 7 further builds upon visual literacy skills by engaging students in the meaning and use of images across cultures and times. Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their developing skills with various materials, methods, and approaches in creating works of art and design.
Course # M011610	Course Name: Media Arts 7
CHOOSE ONE Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Students will build on skills learned in Media Art 6 furthering their skill sets with software programs and proper care of equipment. Continued development of storytelling, communicating with sound, images, light, genre, and compositional design using a variety of technology as a tool. This course meets the required Minnesota State Standards for Media Arts.

7th Grade Exploratory Course Descriptions

We will do our best to schedule you into your first choice. Due to class sizes, the number of requests, and teacher/room availability, you may be placed in an alternate selection so please choose those carefully, too!

Course # M011600	Course Name: Visual Arts 7 (if not already selected)
CHOOSE ONE Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Students will build on skills gained in Visual Arts 6 through the exploration of a variety of materials and techniques, such as drawing, painting, sculpture, graphic arts, fibers, and ceramics. Visual Arts 7 further builds upon visual literacy skills by engaging students in the meaning and use of images across cultures and times. Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their developing skills with various materials, methods, and approaches in creating works of art and design.
Course # M011610	Course Name: Media Arts 7 (if not already selected)
CHOOSE ONE Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Students will build on skills learned in Media Art 6 furthering their skill sets with software programs and proper care of equipment. Continued development of storytelling, communicating with sound, images, light, genre, and compositional design using a variety of technology as a tool. This course meets the required Minnesota State Standards for Media Arts.
Course # M021510	Course Name: Exploring Robotics and Coding 6/7
CHOOSE ONE Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description This course provides an opportunity for students to explore Lego robotics, coding, and other engineering activities. *Students may only take this course once, either in 6th or 7th grade.
Course # M106010	Course Name: Exploring Outdoor Education 6/7
CHOOSE ONE Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description This course offers students the opportunity to participate in several fun, exciting and healthy activities, including hiking, orienteering, biking, canoeing, fishing, and nature art. We'll also cover camping essentials like fire building, cooking with camp stoves, setting up shelters, and trip planning. This course is designed for any student wanting to learn or better skills needed to enjoy these activities and want to learn about the environment through various phenology and environmental science activities. Much of this class is taught outdoors so you will need to be prepared to enjoy the outdoors and dress appropriately. While most of this class will be taught on school grounds, we will also utilize the natural spaces within walking distance of campus. *Students may only take this course once, either in 6th or 7th grade.
Course # M046000	Course Name: Communication Arts 7
CHOOSE ONE Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Students will engage in collaborative activities that allow for creative and individual expression of ideas through debate, speaking, storytelling, and dramatic dialogue. The course will also include opportunities for students to evaluate mass media, mediate, and problem solve with discussion while presenting ideas in diverse media and formats. This elective course provides students with a deeper exploration of the Listening, Speaking, Viewing and Exchanging Ideas standard within English-Language Arts.

7th Grade Exploratory Course Descriptions

World Languages Notes:

- Students may take a language 1A in 7th then proceed to the same language 1B in 8th grade.
- They may also choose to try a new language 1A in 8th grade.
- **No high school credit is given to middle school language.**
- All students will be required to take a placement test when registering for advanced high school language courses.

Course # M240001	Course Name: German 1A
CHOOSE ONE Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Curious about German? German 1A is an introduction to the German language. Explore the language and start getting familiar with the German-speaking world! Upon completion of German 1A the student is eligible to take German 1B in middle school or German 1 in high school.
Course # M241501	Course Name: Ojibwemowin 1A
CHOOSE ONE Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Curious about Ojibwemowin? Ojibwemowin 1A is an introduction to the Ojibwe language. Explore the language and start getting familiar with the Ojibwe-speaking world! Upon completion of Ojibwemowin 1a the student is eligible to take Ojibwemowin 1b in middle school or Ojibwemowin 1 in high school.
Course # M241301	Course Name: Spanish 1A
CHOOSE ONE Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Curious about Spanish? Spanish 1A is an introduction to the Spanish language. Explore the language and start getting familiar with the Spanish-speaking world! Upon completion of Spanish 1A the student is eligible to take Spanish 1B in middle school or Spanish 1 in high school.



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For students of Ojibwe heritage, the addition of Ojibwemowin signage will indicate an appreciation of their heritage and the history of the land on which the school sits, as well as foster a feeling of belonging in the school.

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8th Grade Course Offerings

Every 8th grade student will be automatically enrolled in:	Art Requirement (Must Choose 2)	Exploratory Courses (Choose 2 unless you selected a Music, then choose 1)	
English 8	Visual Arts 8	Visual or Media Arts 8 (if not already selected)	German 1A
Algebra 1 or Intermediate Algebra (Must Choose 1)	Media Arts 8	Communication Arts 8	German 1B
Physical Science	*Advanced Band	Computer Science 8	Ojibwemowin 1A
Global Studies	*Advanced Orchestra	Environmental Science 8	Ojibwemowin 1B
Physical Education	*Advanced Choir	Industrial Technology 8	Spanish 1A
Health	<i>*Note: Band, Choir, and Orchestra also take up one exploratory spot.</i>	Family and Consumer Science (FCS) 8	Spanish 1B

Students who have Individual Education Plans (IEPs) may be placed in alternate courses to meet their needs based on IEP Team determinations

8th Grade Required Course Descriptions

Course # M044001-M044002	Course Name: English 8
REQUIRED Year Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	<p>Course Description This course will provide opportunities for all students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate literal, interpretive, inferential, and evaluative understanding of literary and informational texts • Improve language skills including vocabulary, spelling, and conventions • Write clearly and coherently for a variety of audiences and purposes • Integrate information from a variety of sources to support a claim • Access, analyze, evaluate, and create media • Practice listening and speaking skills • Improve language skills including vocabulary, spelling, and conventions

Course # M105001-M105002	Course Name: Physical Science
REQUIRED Year Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	<p>Course Description Physical Science introduces students to the sciences of chemistry and physics. The course is designed to help students understand basic chemistry and physics by exploring natural phenomena in a laboratory situation. Students will complete a series of units that focus on the unit's core ideas, practices that engineers and scientists do, and cross cutting concepts that drive higher level thinking. The course will examine the structure of matter and how it interacts with each other through various chemical reactions, energy and energy transfer, the forces found in the natural world, how waves can be used to transfer information and contributions to the scientific world by Minnesota American Indian Tribes and other cultures. The course will examine these natural processes through the investigation of real world phenomena, the use of student built models, student driven experimentation, and student led discussions. The course is fully aligned to the 2019 Minnesota State Science Standards.</p>

Course # M113001-M113002	Course Name: Global Studies
REQUIRED Year Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	<p>Course Description Global Studies for eighth grade will provide an integrated look at the world and its people. The course will focus on societies throughout the world past and present. Through the use of geographic information systems, maps, population models, and informational text, students will gain an understanding of the ever-changing nature of global cultures. In addition, students will learn how cultural changes throughout recent history have been influenced by economic, political, and social factors.</p>

Course # M051001	Course Name: Health
REQUIRED Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	<p>Course Description This course provides students with the knowledge and skills of health and wellness core concepts, analyzing influences, accessing information, interpersonal communication, decision-making and goal setting skills, health-enhancing behaviors, and health and wellness advocacy skills. Instructional content will include personal, mental, emotional and social health. Topics will include: • First aid injury prevention and safety • Nutrition • Alcohol and tobacco use • Drugs • Growth and development</p>

8th Grade Required Course Descriptions

Course # M093000	Course Name: Physical Education 8
REQUIRED Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	<p>Course Description This course fulfills the MN 8th grade state requirements for Physical Education. It is meant to expand student's knowledge of the components and concepts of MN state standards. Fitness levels will be emphasized through aquatics, physical fitness, and individual/team/lifetime indoor and outdoor activities. Prior positive social behaviors emphasis will also be expanded and developed.</p>

8th Grade Math Course Descriptions

****Verify appropriate selection with your School Counselor.**

Course # M074101-M074102	Course Name: Algebra 1
REQUIRED Year Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	<p>Course Description Students will solve real-world and mathematical problems by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generating equivalent numerical and algebraic expressions and using algebraic properties to evaluate expressions • Comparing, classifying, and representing real numbers • Understanding the concept of functions and distinguish between linear and nonlinear functions • Representing linear functions with tables, verbal descriptions, symbols, and graphs • Using slope and intercepts of linear equations • Solving linear equations and inequalities • Solving systems of linear equations in two variables symbolically, graphically and numerically • Using the Pythagorean Theorem and its converse • Applying the properties of positive and negative integer exponents • Interpreting data and drawing conclusions using scatterplots and approximate lines of best fit

Course # M181001-M181002	Course Name: Intermediate Algebra
<p>REQUIRED Year Long Meets on BOTH A and B days</p> <p>COUNTS TOWARD HIGH SCHOOL MATH CREDIT</p>	<p>Course Description Students will solve real-world and mathematical problems by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparing, classifying, and representing real numbers • Understanding the concept of functions, and identifying important features of functions • Recognizing common functions in real-world and mathematical situations (linear, quadratic, absolute value, exponential, radical, and rational functions) • Representing common functions with tables, verbal descriptions, symbols, and graphs • Using slope and intercepts of linear equations • Understanding, interpreting and using equations and inequalities involving common functions • Solving linear equations and inequalities • Solving quadratic, absolute value, radical, and rational functions • Representing mathematical situations using equations and inequalities involving common functions • Solving systems of linear equations in two variables symbolically, graphically and numerically • using the Pythagorean Theorem and its converse Interpreting data and 17 drawing conclusions using scatterplots and approximate lines of best fit • Generating equivalent algebraic expressions involving polynomials and radicals; using algebraic properties to evaluate expressions Note: Intermediate Algebra is a high school level course, taught at a faster pace than Algebra 1. The content includes 8th grade MN Math Standards and high school algebra standards, such as linear algebra and quadratics. Successful completion of Intermediate Algebra places a student on the path to take Calculus as a senior.

8th Grade Art Electives Course Descriptions

Course # M011300	Course Name: Visual Arts 8
CHOOSE ONE Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Using Visual Arts concepts and tools, students apply critical and creative thinking skills, develop a sense of personal style, explore their ideas, and create and complete artworks through practice and new methods. Students will explore techniques and develop skills in a variety of mediums, such as drawing, painting, graphic design, printmaking, fibers, sculpture, and ceramics.
Course # M011700	Course Name: Media Arts 8
CHOOSE ONE Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Grade 8 Media Arts students will generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and media arts through their own imagination, creative processes, and experimentation through stop motion animation, the moving image, cartooning, object manipulation and photography. Students will experiment with movie genres and use computer science applications to design.

8th Grade Exploratory Course Descriptions

We will do our best to schedule you into your first choice. Due to class sizes, the number of requests, and teacher/room availability, you may be placed in an alternate selection so please choose those carefully, too!

Course # M081201-M081202	Course Name: Advanced Band
Year Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description This course is an elective for students who have successfully completed Intermediate Band or can demonstrate they have achieved a skill level equal to students who have completed Intermediate Band. This class involves the extensive study and application of music fundamentals through exposure to a broad spectrum of band literature with emphasis on performance. A prescribed amount of daily practice is recommended outside of school. Weekly group lessons are provided. Students who successfully complete Advanced Band will leave with the knowledge and ability to continue into a high school band program. Concert participation is expected. Completion of Intermediate Band or demonstration of Intermediate Band skills is required.
Course # M083201-M083202	Course Name: Advanced Orchestra
Year Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Advanced Orchestra is an elective class for students who have successfully completed Intermediate Orchestra or can demonstrate that they have achieved a skill level equal to students who have completed Intermediate Orchestra. This class involves the extensive study and application of music fundamentals through exposure to a broad spectrum of orchestra literature with emphasis on performance. A prescribed amount of daily practice is recommended outside of school. Students who successfully complete Advanced Orchestra will leave with the knowledge and ability to continue into a high school orchestra program. Weekly group lessons are provided. Concert participation is expected. Completion of Intermediate Orchestra or demonstration of Intermediate Orchestra skills is required.
Course # M083201-M083202	Course Name: Advanced Choir
Year Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description This course involves extensive study and application of music fundamentals and skills through exposure to a broad spectrum of choral literature with emphasis on performance. Individual practice is recommended. Students who successfully complete Advanced Choir will leave with the knowledge and ability to continue into a high school choral program. Concert participation is expected. Completion of Intermediate Choir or demonstration of Intermediate Choir skills is recommended but not required.

8th Grade Exploratory Course Descriptions

Course # M011300	Course Name: Visual Arts 8 (if not already selected)
Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Students will use Visual Arts concepts and tools while applying critical and creative thinking skills, develop a sense of personal style, explore their ideas, and create and complete artworks through practice and new methods. Students will explore techniques and develop skills in a variety of mediums, such as drawing, painting, graphic design, printmaking, fibers, sculpture, and ceramics.
Course # M011700	Course Name: Media Arts 8 (if not already selected)
Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Students will generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and media arts through their own imagination, creative processes, and experimentation through stop motion animation, the moving image, cartooning, object manipulation and photography. Students will experiment with movie genres and use computer science applications to design.
Course # M046110	Course Name: Communication Arts 8
Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Students will engage in collaborative activities that allow for creative and individual expression of ideas through debate, speaking, storytelling, and dramatic dialogue. The course will also include opportunities for students to evaluate mass media, mediate, and problem solve with discussion while presenting ideas in diverse media and formats. This elective course provides students with a deeper exploration of the Listening, Speaking, Viewing and Exchanging Ideas standard within English-Language Arts.
Course # M021301	Course Name: Computer Science 8
Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description This course will expand on skills developed in 6th grade Computer Science, including a deeper exploration of AI, app development, animations, and gaming.
Course # M107000	Course Name: Environmental Science 8
Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description This elective course is designed to introduce you to topics and concepts surrounding the environment. Topics will range from plant sciences, forestry, studying our lakes and streams, and creating urban gardens. This elective course will provide you the opportunity to study the aquatic environment within our many lakes and streams. We will also explore how the changing climate has impacted the environment and what can be done to offset the changing climate. This course is designed for any student as well as the student who may want to take environmental courses in high school. A lot of this course is taught outside so you will need to be prepared to enjoy the outdoors and dress appropriately. While most of this class will be taught on school grounds, we will also utilize the natural spaces within walking distance of campus.
Course # M063011	Course Name: Industrial Technology 8
Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description This course is designed to build on and advance what skills and knowledge students have learned in the 7th grade Industrial Technology course. Students will gain a more advanced understanding of skills and processes dealing with industrial technology, manufacturing sciences, engineering/design process, technical drawing, 3D modeling, CAD design, 3D printing, wood production (design and fabrication), as well as technical science, math and reading). Students will have an opportunity to design and fabricate more advanced projects than the previous 7th grade course.

8th Grade Exploratory Course Descriptions

Course # 034001	Course Name: Family and Consumer Science (FCS) 8
Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description FCS 8 is also a semester-long elective course offered for 8th grade students. This course will further develop skills and knowledge involving food preparation, culinary careers in food production and services, healthy meal planning, global food influences and skills needed for the workforce. This course will encourage students to explore how they can make a positive impact on themselves, their families and the community through individual growth, relationships and connections to the community outside of school.

World Languages Notes:

- Students may take a language 1A in 7th then proceed to the same language 1B in 8th grade.
- They may also choose to try a new language 1A in 8th grade.
- **No high school credit is given to middle school language.**
- All students will be required to take a placement test when registering for advanced high school language courses.

Course # M240000	Course Name: German 1A
Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Curious about German? German 1A is an introduction to the German language. Explore the language and start getting familiar with the German-speaking world! Upon completion of German 1A the student is eligible to take German 1B in middle school or German 1 in high school.

Course # 240100	Course Name: German 1B
Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Prerequisite: One Semester German 1A Course Description German 1B is a deeper introduction to the German language. Continue expanding your language skills and cultural awareness. Upon completion of German 1B the student is eligible to test into German 2 in the high school.

Course # 241300	Course Name: Spanish 1A
Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Curious about Spanish? Spanish 1A is an introduction to the Spanish language. Explore the language and start getting familiar with the Spanish-speaking world! Upon completion of Spanish 1A the student is eligible to take Spanish 1B in middle school or Spanish 1 in high school.

Course # M241400	Course Name: Spanish 1B
Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Spanish Level 1B is a deeper introduction to the Spanish language. Continue expanding your language skills and cultural awareness. Upon completion of Spanish 1B the student is eligible to test into Spanish 2 in the high school.

8th Grade Exploratory Course Descriptions

World Languages Notes:

- Students may take a language 1A in 7th then proceed to the same language 1B in 8th grade.
- They may also choose to try a new language 1A in 8th grade.
- **No high school credit is given to middle school language.**
- All students will be required to take a placement test when registering for advanced high school language courses.

Course # M241500	Course Name: Ojibwemowin 1A
Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Curious about Ojibwemowin? Ojibwemowin 1A is an introduction to the Ojibwe language. Explore the language and start getting familiar with the Ojibwe-speaking world! Upon completion of Ojibwemowin 1a the student is eligible to take Ojibwemowin 1b in middle school or Ojibwemowin 1 in high school.

Course # M241600	Course Name: Ojibwemowin 1B
Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Prerequisite: One Semester Ojibwemowin 1A Course Description Ojibwemowin 1B is a deeper introduction to the Ojibwe language. Continue expanding your language skills and cultural awareness. Upon completion of Ojibwemowin 1B the student is eligible to test into Ojibwemowin 2 in the high school.



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Courses for Students with IEPs

Courses in this section are only for students with

Individualized Education Plans. Requires approval of Case Manager and IEP Teams.

Course # M941131-M941132	Course Name: Reading/Writing Strategies
Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description This class is individualized for students who have not passed the MCAs. Students will focus on improving reading and writing skills specific to reading fluency, decoding skills, and reading comprehension, based on IEP goals. This course can be taken multiple times for credit per IEP team decision.
Course # M941181-M941182	Course Name: Math Strategies
Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description This class is individualized for students who have not passed the MCAs. Students will focus on improving skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and percents. Applied problems, measurements, ratios, proportion, circles, cylinders, probability, statistics, and graphing will also be studied based on IEP goals. This course can be taken multiple times for credit per IEP team decision.
Course # M941261-M941262	Course Name: Life Skills
Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description :In this class, special attention is given to developing student skills in daily living and life skills, vocational skill building, transition planning, and implementation. All areas of study are based on student IEP goals and objectives. Services are delivered through hands-on activities and community based learning. Students develop independent living and personal social skills necessary to manage a home, family and finances. Further, students will develop appropriate levels of independence, self-confidence, and socially acceptable behaviors. Through classroom instruction, hands-on activities and community outings, students study areas of: health, safety, nutrition, meal planning, preparation and clean up, consumer skills, home management skills, personal finances, and community living. Students will also receive career skills and training through curriculum and on-the-job experiences in the school and community.
Course # M941251-M41252	Course Name: Self Advocacy
Semester Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description This class offers students with emotional and/or behavior disorders opportunities to work as a part of a small group in activities related to attitudes and behaviors which will result in the ability to function successfully in school. A willingness to participate in discussion by using appropriate listening and speaking skills and by doing in-class reading and writing activities is required. This course also includes individual conferences regarding progress in all classes and individualized tutoring to assist in the completion of mainstream requirements. It is also designed to extend the skills of students who have been diagnosed as disabled in reading, writing, listening skills, oral expression, or study skills. Its purpose is to assist them in completing and earning required mainstream course credits. Students will be instructed in learning strategies for studying, test taking, and task completion. They will also receive instruction in organizational strategies to increase the probability of success. This course can be taken multiple times for credit per IEP team decision.

Courses for English Language Development

Courses in this section are only for students who receive support from ELD staff.

Course # M252000	Course Name: English Language Development 1 & 2
YearLong Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Students in this introductory level course will begin to develop English language usage through listening and speaking activities. Reading and writing will be introduced as proficiency allows. The focus of this course is communication skills essential for success in higher level ELD and/or subject area courses. Emphasis of instruction varies based on student language proficiency. Orientation to customs and cultures of diverse populations in the United States may be included

Course # M253000	Course Name: English Language Development Intermediate
YearLong Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Students in this course will receive support needed to develop proficiency in language arts skills. Students will read a variety of fiction and nonfiction selections, write a variety of compositions, and continue to develop listening and speaking skills. Emphasis of instruction varies based on student language proficiency and may include preparing students for reading and writing proficiency assessments.

Course # M254000	Course Name: English Language Development Academic Language & Content
Year Long Meets on BOTH A and B days	Course Description Students in this course will receive instruction to support their success in mainstream classes such as math, science, and social studies. They may also receive support for continued development of language skills.



Middle School FAQ

What is available for Clubs, Activities, and Athletics?

- Middle School Activities can include clubs, activities, and athletics. Watch for information in your school's announcements and newsletters!
- Clubs vary by site, staffing, participation, etc. but have included things like Student Council, Yearbook, History Day Club, etc.
- Middle School Athletics are based on staffing and participation but typically include Volleyball 7 & 8, Cross Country 6-8, Swimming 6-8, Track 6-8, and Basketball 7 & 8
 - Space is limited and given on a first-registered, first-in basis.
 - Grades and behavior may impact eligibility.
 - Middle School Activity Coordinators are at each site.
 - OEMS: Angela Pioro
 - LPMS: Bill Benson
- An Activity Bus is provided to students who participate in athletics or other activities that meet after school three days per week. They leave OEMS at 4:15 and LPMS at 4:25. Your school will provide details.
- Occasionally Middle School students may be included in high school athletics. Contact the HS AD offices for more information:
 - East: Shawn Roed, shawn.roed@isd709.org ext 2151
 - Denfeld: Tom Pearson, thomas.pearson@isd709.org, ext 1948
- There are many community organizations that offer opportunities for students to participate on athletic teams, audition for plays, etc. They are not connected to the schools but we may share information through announcements on their behalf when provided.



How should we report attendance?

- Consistent attendance is CRITICAL to school success! Please make every effort to make sure your student misses less than 7 days per year when possible.
- If you're having trouble getting your student to school, contact the school counselor for support.
- Missing school impacts grades and can snowball into trouble quickly. Students who miss school frequently may find themselves in Truancy Court. We would like to help long before it gets that serious.
- Contact the school attendance offices to report excused absences within 48 hours!

Middle School FAQ, continued

What is Canvas?

- Canvas is our Learning Management System. Most assignments and lots of resources can be found there.
- Parents/Guardians can monitor their student work by setting themselves up as “Observers”
 - Instructions to do this can be found on our district website at <https://www.isd709.org/academics/digital-innovation>. Scroll down and click on “Canvas FAQ”

How do we get homework if our student misses school?

- Learn how to check in Canvas, our Learning Management System. Your student should be able to see most assignments there.
- If they have questions, help them email their teacher. This is a great skill for them to learn in middle school!
- Parent Square should also have information for you.



Lockers are new, what should we know?

- DON'T PURCHASE LOCKS! We provide them all.
- Students will be assigned a hallway locker where their bags, lunches, cell phones, and coats should be kept all day. Their locker code will be printed with their schedule in the fall.
- Staff are in the hallways ready to help with locker combinations for the first few days!
- Gym/Swim lockers are provided, we also assign locks there.

What should we know or do about Band or Orchestra instruments our student may need?

- 6th grade Band and Orchestra students will not be assigned an instrument for the first few weeks so DON'T PURCHASE OR RENT ANYTHING.
- We will be ready to support your student in acquiring the instrument they are assigned to. There are rental options, you may find some available used or new to purchase on your own (we recommend waiting until they've been at it for awhile before your purchase), and some may be supplied by the school.