# Williamston Middle School

# Curriculum and Course Guide

# 2025-2026


Williamston Middle School
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

# 6th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6** ***(Required, 2 Semesters)***

The Williamston Middle School English Language Arts program is based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), which emphasize the types of literacy needed for college and/or career readiness. With these standards, middle school grades are no longer separated by genre studies. The learning strands across grades 6-8 are much the same, but the depth to which students are expected to apply various skills grows each year. Students will read an assortment of narrative and expository texts and apply comprehension and fluency strategies. Through a variety of writing experiences, students will expand their knowledge of writing for different purposes, with appropriate elaboration and logical organization. In addition, students will strengthen their use of language, vocabulary, and conventions. Students will also have ongoing opportunities to demonstrate their listening and speaking skills. The incorporation of technology into all strands will also be emphasized.

**LITERACY LAB 6: FLUENCY, COMPREHENSION, and WRITING (Tier 2)**

Students meet daily for one class period. It is provided in addition to the student's core ELA class and has its distinct curriculum from the core ELA class. It takes the place of an elective class. All literacy labs are taught by highly qualified ELA teachers on the middle school staff. This class is designed to support students with fluency building, comprehension, and writing skills through explicit instruction in effective reading and writing strategies. Students' progress is monitored to measure skills and academic growth.

**MATH 6** ***(Required, 2 Semesters)***

This course is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for 6th Grade and is designed to prepare students for Math 7. Topics of study include Ratios and Proportions, Number Systems, Expressions and Equations, Geometry, and Statistics & Probability. Scientific calculators (TI-30 XIIS or higher) are strongly recommended.

**MATH LAB 6 (Tier 2)**

Students meet daily for one class period. It is provided in addition to the student's core math class. It takes the place of an elective class. All math labs are taught by highly qualified math teachers. Students are provided with extended time and support with core math instruction. The structure of the lab includes pre-teaching, explicit instruction, guided practice with corrective feedback, frequent review, math fluency practice daily, and ongoing progress monitoring.

**SCIENCE 6** ***(Required, 2 Semesters)***

6th grade science is strongly aligned with the Michigan Science Standards (MSS). The curriculum is based on the very latest research on how students learn science. Students will read about scientific concepts, and engage in hands-on activities in class, in which they are handling scientific materials and are experiencing phenomena first-hand. In every lesson, they will be reading, writing, talking, and doing SCIENCE! Discussion, modeling, and writing claims substantiated by evidence are central to this type of learning. Students will work individually, in pairs, in teams, and as a whole class to "make sense" of how and why things happen in the world around them.

**SOCIAL STUDIES 6: ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS *(Required, 2 Semesters)***
This course provides an introductory look at ancient history with a focus on early civilizations. Students will investigate cultures located in different regions of the world and study how these cultures helped lead to the development of modern civilization. The social studies curriculum is aligned with state standards which are outlined in the Michigan Department of Education's, K-8 Social Studies Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE).

**AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS 1 (Semester)**
Design, Build, and Program a Robot! In this course, students will be introduced to the engineering design process, an engineering notebook, and VEX Robotics® programming software to invent and innovate. Learn how creative thinking and problem-solving can change your world! This course will introduce students to basic engineering and coding concepts that can be applied in subsequent STEM Labs. VEX IQ STEM Labs are fun STEM engagements that align with educational standards. STEM Lab Units are centered around competition games, where students will apply their learning, use the Engineering process, and collaborate with teammates to compete in classroom competitions.

**ART 6: AN INTRODUCTION (Semester)**
This engaging Art class is created to accommodate all skill and interest levels while building confidence and understanding of the Visual Arts. Students will produce two-dimensional (drawings and paintings in tempera/ watercolor) and three-dimensional works (sculpture or ceramics) while exploring the Elements of Design (Line, Shape, Form, Value, Color, Space, and Texture). Class discussions will give students a chance to think critically and write about and discuss works of Art from different time periods and cultures from all around the globe. Get ready to explore, have fun, and get a little messy in Art 6!

**BAND 6 *(2 semesters)***
At the beginning of the year, students work on the fundamentals of playing an instrument. As the year progresses, the emphasis shifts to the performance of full band music with the entire ensemble. Performances consist of one parade (Memorial Day), four concerts, and a voluntary recital night. 6th grade students are assigned to classes based on their instrument choices. *Instruments can be rented for an approximate cost of $24-45 per month or there is an option to purchase. Instruments can be provided for families with financial need.*

**CHOIR 6 (Semester)**
At the beginning of the semester, students will work on singing together in unison to develop a strong choral tone. Over the course of the semester, students will sing music in two and three part harmony as they develop ear-training skills and work on the foundations of music literacy. Students will sing music from different genres, time periods, and cultures at their concerts, of which they will have two per semester. Students learn teamwork and cooperation by working together toward common goals through music.

**COMPUTER SCIENCE DISCOVERIES (Semester)**
Technology is a cornerstone of our daily lives. In this course, students will learn about the ever expanding world of computers while becoming 21st century learners and creators. Computer Science Discoveries students learn from experience about how computers work, starting with the basic everyday applications and expanding to various coding languages such as binary code, website design, and even programming games and animations. Students apply practical problem-solving and design skills and learn about computer science careers. If you're interested in the wide world of computers, the internet, and its connecting technology, sign up for Computer Science Discoveries today!

**DESIGN & MODELING (Semester)**
This course is focused on the design process engineers use in daily activities and its connection to art, math, and science. Students will research how technology and engineering have changed over time and the direction it is headed toward in the future. Students will learn basic engineering sketching techniques that they will apply to basic hand-drawn designs. Students will then, for the majority of the course, apply the sketching techniques and design process to complete 3-dimensional models of different designs, working their way towards finally designing a fully functional circus-like arcade game and participating in a school-wide Williamston Middle School Hornet Arcade.

**DRAMA (Semester)**
In this class, students will be introduced to the basics of acting, script reading and writing, and many other beginning aspects of DRAMA! Along with learning about the "how to's" students will also learn about famous dramatic writers and actors from history, learning about how they helped shape the modern dramatic arts as they are today. Students will end up gaining experience in presenting, describing, and continuing themes and ideas surrounding drama, and even work their way to writing, acting, filming, and editing their own short films.

**INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH AND CULTURES (Semester)**
Students will take part in project-based learning to discover and participate in the Spanish-speaking world. Throughout the semester, we will focus on the geography and history of Spanish-speaking areas in the world; popular cultures such as sports, television, films, and celebrities, artists and traditional art styles, food, music, and dance and even more! Students will also acquire beginning language skills through music, videos, readings, and class discussions that will turn them into intercultural participants of the world!

**MEDICAL DETECTIVES (Semester)**
Medical Detectives (MD) explore the biomedical sciences through hands-on projects and labs that require students to solve a variety of medical mysteries. Students investigate medical careers, vital signs, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, as well as human body systems, such as the nervous system. DNA crime scene analysis puts the students in the place of real-life medical detectives. Other facets of forensic science may also be used to enrich student learning.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH (Semester)**
Physical education classes will provide knowledge and skills that will encourage students to be active and enable them to lead healthy lifestyles. Combining motor skills, fitness, cognitive concepts, and personal-social character traits with physical activity can help lead students to a lifetime of physical activity and fitness. Health class will provide knowledge to students in the following areas: Physical Activity and Nutrition, Personal Health Awareness, Mental and Emotional Health, Growth and Development, Drug Use Prevention, Diseases and Disorders, Reproductive Health (Parent/Guardian permission required to participate), Injury Prevention and Environmental Health.

**PROBLEM SOLVING (Semester)**
This course introduces students to problem solving techniques and helps them apply the tools of critical reading and writing, analytical thinking, mathematics, art, science, and engineering to help solve problems in practical applications. Student evaluation will be based on participation and completion of class assignments. Students will be given participation points each day, which will be used as the evaluation tool. Students will have in-class assignments and projects for this course.

# 7th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7** ***(Required, 2 Semesters)***
The Williamston Middle School English Language Arts program is based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), which emphasize critical-thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills that are required for success in college, career, and life. With these standards, the learning strands spanning grades 6-8 are much the same, but the depth to which students are expected to apply various skills grows each year. Students read an assortment of narrative and expository texts and apply comprehension and fluency strategies. Through a variety of writing experiences, students will expand their knowledge of writing for different purposes, with appropriate elaboration and logical organization. In addition, students will strengthen their use of language, vocabulary, and conventions. Students engage in ongoing opportunities to demonstrate listening and speaking skills, and the incorporation of technology into all strands is emphasized.

**LITERACY LAB 7: FLUENCY, COMPREHENSION, and WRITING (Tier 2)**
Students meet daily for one class period. It is provided in addition to the student's core ELA class and has its own distinct curriculum from the core ELA class. It takes the place of an elective class. All literacy labs are taught by highly qualified ELA teachers on the middle school staff. This class is designed to support students with fluency building, comprehension, and writing skills through explicit instruction in effective reading and writing strategies. Students are progress monitored to measure skills and academic growth.

**MATH 7** ***(Required, 2 Semesters)***
This course is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for 7th Grade and is designed to prepare students for Math 8. The students will continue developing their skills in the following areas: the use of variables to solve equations, probability and statistics, ratios and proportions, geometric concepts, and the further study of general math concepts. Scientific calculators (TI-30 XIIS or higher) are required.

**ACCELERATED MATH 7/8** **(*2 Semesters)***
This course is designed to cover the Common Core State Standards for 7th & 8th grade in one year. This is a fast paced rigorous course! The math department will use multiple sources of math data to determine eligibility. Such data sources include classroom math assessments, standardized tests (e.g. NWEA Math, M-STEP), work habits, and practice work completion. Scientific calculators (TI-30 XIIS or higher) are required.

**MATH LAB 7 (Tier 2)**
Students meet daily for one class period. It is provided in addition to the student's core math class. It takes the place of an elective class. All math labs are taught by highly qualified math teachers. Students are provided with extended time and support with core math instruction. The structure of the lab includes pre-teaching, explicit instruction, guided practice with corrective feedback, frequent review, math fluency practice daily, and ongoing progress monitoring.

**SCIENCE 7** ***(Required, 2 Semesters)***
7th grade science is strongly aligned with the Michigan Science Standards (MSS). The curriculum is based on the very latest research on how students learn science. Students will read about scientific concepts, and engage in hands-on activities in class, in which they are handling scientific materials and are experiencing phenomena first-hand. In every lesson, they will be reading, writing, talking, and doing SCIENCE! Discussion, modeling, and writing claims substantiated by evidence are central to this type of learning. Students will work individually, in pairs, in teams, and as a whole class to "make sense" of how and why things happen in the world around them.

**SOCIAL STUDIES 7: WORLD GEOGRAPHY** ***(Required, 2 Semesters)***
This course will introduce students to geographic skills and content established within the Social Studies Grade Level Content Expectations for Seventh Grade. The basic design includes the application and evaluation of the five themes of geography and the investigation of essential physical geographic principles taught with connection to contemporary global issues. Students will be assessed on their ability to apply these skills to increasingly challenging case studies of world geography, history, civics, and economics. Current events will also be followed and integrated, when appropriate, into the curriculum. The goal of the course is to familiarize students with the fascinating, yet complex aspects of the world in which they live.

**BAND 7** ***(2 Semesters)***
Students focus on the fundamentals of playing an instrument and combine these skills and build teamwork as an ensemble. The students perform in five concerts, including a district festival performance and one parade (Memorial Day). Individuals have the opportunity to participate in solo and ensemble festival and honors bands, during the year. *Instruments can be rented at an approximate cost of $24-45 per month or there is an option to purchase. Instruments can be provided for families with financial need.*

**CHOIR 7/8** ***(2 Semesters)***
In this course, students will learn the fundamentals of singing techniques, with an emphasis on basic musical literacy and ear-training skills. The students present four regular concerts per year and participate MSVMA District Choral Festival. This choir performs a wide spectrum of music including classical repertoire, folk songs, spirituals, and popular music. Students learn teamwork and cooperation by working together toward common goals through music.

**ANIMAL AND PLANT SCIENCE (Semester)**
Students will explore the importance of animals and plants in our lives and the science involved in caring for them. They will apply the principles of biological, physical, and social sciences to the problems associated with livestock and plant production and management.

**ART (Semester)**
In this project-based class students will further explore the world of art, its connection to their everyday lives, and what it has to offer! Students will learn about various forms of art, artists and their historical significance, and much more in this class. Projects will cover a wide range of topics and media, like painting, drawing, printmaking, clay, paper mache, and more. Along with that, students will build up their skill and knowledge base in working with these media as well as discussing and describing their ideas. So get ready to get a little messy and make some amazing projects!

**AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS 1 (Semester)**
Design, Build, and Program a Robot! In this course, students will be introduced to the engineering design process, an engineering notebook, and VEX Robotics® programming software to invent and innovate. Learn how creative thinking and problem-solving can change your world! This course will introduce students to basic engineering and coding concepts that can be applied in subsequent STEM Labs. VEX IQ STEM Labs are fun STEM engagements that align with educational standards. STEM Lab Units are centered around competition games, where students will apply their learning, use the Engineering process, and collaborate with teammates to compete in a classroom competition.

**AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS 2 (Semester)**
**Prerequisite: Automation and Robotics 1**
This course builds upon the concepts of Robotics 1. The VEX IQ STEM labs are again centered around competitive games that require students to collaborate with teammates to Engineer and Code robots for the competitions. Robotics 2 STEM Labs will require more advanced coding and engineering skills that can prepare students for high school VEX EXP robotics courses.

**COMPUTER SCIENCE DISCOVERIES (Semester)**
Technology is a cornerstone of our daily lives. In this course, students will learn about the ever expanding world of computers while becoming 21st century learners and creators. Computer Science Discoveries students learn from experience about how computers work, starting with the basic everyday applications and expanding to various coding languages such as binary code, website design, and even programming games and animations. Students apply practical problem-solving and design skills and learn about computer science careers. If you're interested in the wide world of computers, the internet, and its connecting technology, sign up for Computer Science Discoveries today!

**CREATIVE WRITING (Semester)**
This is a course for those who are interested in exploring various types of writing and improving their skills within a workshop setting. Students will be given opportunities to select topics and purposes for writing that connect with their personal interests and individual writing goals. It is designed for students who seek further challenges in writing.

**DESIGN & MODELING (Semester)**
This course is focused on the design process engineers use in daily activities and its connection to art, math, and science. Students will research how technology and engineering have changed over time and the direction it is headed toward in the future. Students will learn basic engineering sketching techniques that they will apply to their hand drawn designs. Students will then, for the majority of the course, apply the sketching techniques and design process to complete 3-Dimensional models of different designs, working their way towards finally designing a fully functional circus like arcade game and participating in a school-wide Williamston Middle School Hornet Arcade.

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**MEDICAL DETECTIVES (Semester)**

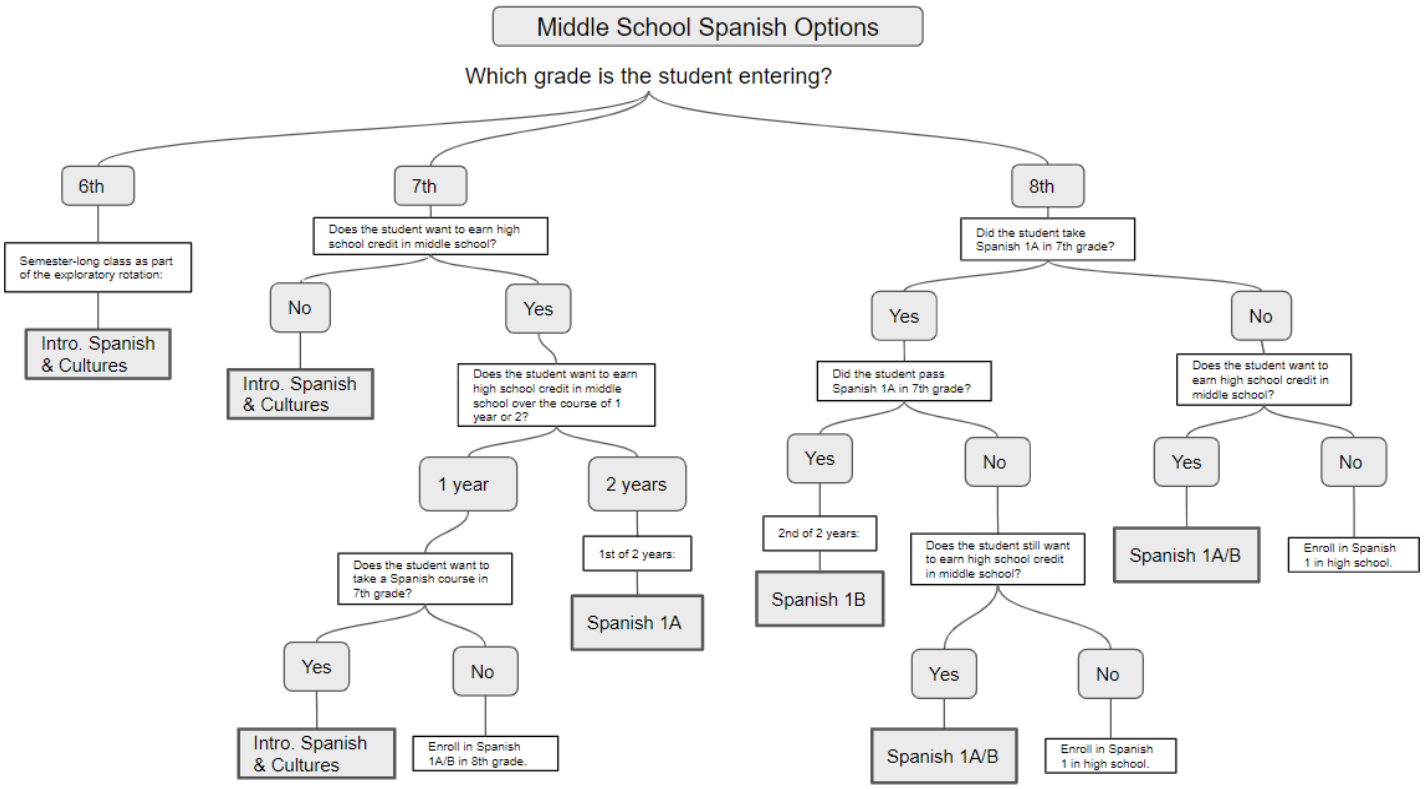
Medical Detectives (MD) explore the biomedical sciences through hands-on projects and labs that require students to solve a variety of medical mysteries. Students investigate medical careers, vital signs, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, as well as human body systems, such as the nervous system. DNA crime scene analysis puts the students in the place of real-life medical detectives. Other facets of forensic science may also be used to enrich student learning.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION/TEAM SPORTS (Semester)**

Students will learn the rules, scoring, and skills needed for participating in and understanding team sports. The class will also include general physical conditioning and body awareness through individual, light, moderate, and strenuous activity. The units include but are not limited to, football, soccer, handball, basketball, volleyball, physical conditioning, and floor hockey.

**PROBLEM SOLVING (Semester)**

This course introduces students to problem solving techniques and helps them apply the tools of critical reading and writing, analytical thinking, mathematics, art, science, and engineering to help solve problems in practical applications. Student evaluation will be based on participation and completion of class assignments. Students will be given participation points each day, which will be used as the evaluation tool. Students will have in-class assignments and projects for this course. The school grading scale will be used to determine student grades.



**INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH AND CULTURES (Semester)**

Students take part in project-based learning to discover and participate in the Spanish-speaking world. Throughout the semester, we will focus on the geography and history of Spanish-speaking areas in the world; popular cultures such as sports, television, films, and celebrities, artists and traditional art styles, food, music, and dance and even more! Students will also acquire beginning language skills through music, videos, readings, and class discussions that will turn them into intercultural participants of the world!

**SPANISH 1A - 7** ***(2 Semesters)***

During this course, students will have the opportunity to take a high-school credit course over the span of two school years. Students will work towards the same standards and skills as the Spanish 1A/B course with additional time and practice. Students will be able to speak, write, and interpret written and spoken language at the novice proficiency level in Spanish by the end of this course. Students will learn how to interpret and use Spanish to understand and communicate the world around them and develop a cultural awareness of the Spanish-speaking world that they compare with their own. This year-long course is taught at a high school level. Students will receive one high school credit upon completion of the 2-year track contingent upon maintaining above-passing average grades throughout both years.

**SPEED & STRENGTH TRAINING (Semester)**

This course will take place at Williamston High School and is designed for students who are preparing to excel as athletes. Students in this course will be highly trained in a complete Speed and Strength Training program. Students will be subjected to Speed and Strength arranged into a five-day schedule with each day having a different goal. All students will be highly trained to develop all the necessary components to develop into a total athlete. Max Velocity Sprinting, Deep Diaphragmatic breathing, Reflexive Performance Reset, Ankle Training, Dynamic and Max Strength along with Plyometrics and Jump Training. The goals of this course are to become a better athlete, develop lifelong and proficient performers, build balanced and efficient movers, establish a competitive and positive environment to grow while enhancing your identity, and approach each day with the highest level of Character and F.I.T. Each day you will be Challenged Physically, Mentally, Socially and Emotionally and Add Character & Culture to our program every day. High Intensity/Low Volume, Prioritizing Rest-Recovery-Growth, Record-Rank-Publish, Not overworking the student-athlete and Lighting a Fire not filling a pail are cornerstones of what we do! The deciding factor in your grade each day involves following expectations & rules, your effort & participation, focus and attitude on a daily basis. Equipment: Proper Physical Education Clothes and Shoes.

**YEARBOOK/JOURNALISM (Semester)**

This class will focus on preserving our school's history through words and pictures. Students will take pictures, write captions, and organize the pages of the yearbook. Students will use technology such as Google Docs, Google Slides, Google Forms, and Yearbook360. Also, as part of the class, students will be creating a monthly school newsletter that highlights Williamston Middle School.

# 8th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8** ***(Required, 2 Semesters)***
The Williamston Middle School English Language Arts program is based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), which emphasize the types of literacy needed for college and/or career readiness. With these new standards, middle school grades are no longer separated by genre studies. The learning strands across grades 6-8 are much the same, but the depth to which students are expected to apply various skills grows each year. Students will read an assortment of narrative and expository texts and apply comprehension and fluency strategies. Through a variety of writing experiences, students will expand their knowledge of writing for different purposes, with appropriate elaboration and logical organization. In addition, students will strengthen their use of language, vocabulary, and conventions. Students will also have ongoing opportunities to demonstrate their listening and speaking skills. The incorporation of technology into all strands will also be emphasized.

**LITERACY LAB 8: FLUENCY, COMPREHENSION, and WRITING (Tier 2)**
Students meet daily for one class period. It is provided in addition to the student's core ELA class and has its own distinct curriculum from the core ELA class. It takes the place of an elective class. All literacy labs are taught by highly qualified ELA teachers on the middle school staff. This class is designed to support students with fluency building, comprehension, and writing skills through explicit instruction in effective reading and writing strategies. Students are progress monitored to measure skills and academic growth.

**MATH 8** ***(Required, 2 Semesters)***
This course is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for 8th Grade and is designed to prepare students for the High School Geometry Course. The students will continue developing their skills in the following areas: The Number System, Expressions and Equations, Functions, Geometry, Statistics, and Probability. Scientific calculators (TI-30 XIIS or higher) are required.

**MATH LAB 8 (Tier 2)**
Students meet daily for one class period. It is provided in addition to the student's core math class. It takes the place of an elective class. All math labs are taught by highly qualified math teachers. Students are provided with extended time and support with core math instruction. The structure of the lab includes pre-teaching, explicit instruction, guided practice with corrective feedback, frequent review, math fluency practice daily, and ongoing progress monitoring.

**GEOMETRY 8 (*2 Semesters)***
This course is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Geometry. This upper level course is open only to students who meet the required prerequisite skills and are accepted into the program (see WMS Double Up Procedures). This course includes work in coordinate geometry, transformation, similarity and congruence, measurement, and concepts leading to trigonometric ratios. Students will be introduced to logic and formal proofs. Participation in Math Counts, WMS Math Challenge Problem of the Month, and WMS Math Challenge are highly encouraged. A scientific calculator (TI-30 XIIS or higher), compass, ruler, and protractor are strongly recommended.

**SCIENCE 8** ***(Required, 2 Semesters)***
8th grade science is strongly aligned with the Michigan Science Standards (MSS). The curriculum is based on the very latest research on how students learn science. Students will read about scientific concepts, and engage in hands-on activities in class, in which they are handling scientific materials and are experiencing phenomena first-hand. In every lesson, they will be reading, writing, talking, and doing SCIENCE! Discussion, modeling, and writing claims substantiated by evidence are central to this type of learning. Students will work individually, in pairs, in teams, and as a whole class to "make sense" of how and why things happen in the world around them.

**SOCIAL STUDIES 8: U.S. HISTORY (*Required, 2 Semesters)***
Eighth-grade students will study the history of the United States from the development of the Constitution through Reconstruction. Geographic, economics, as well as civics/government content is integrated within the historical context being studied. Students should understand the relevancy and connections of history and civics to their lives. Throughout the course, students will use content knowledge, research skills, and inquiry practices to analyze issues and communicate conclusions. The curriculum is aligned with the State of Michigan's Grade Level Content Expectations.

**ADVANCED SOCIAL STUDIES 8: U.S. HISTORY (Optional, *2 Semesters*)**
**Prerequisite: B- or higher in Social Studies 7 and ELA 7, and NWEA Achievement**
The course will take the place of Social Studies 8 and includes a rigorous social studies curriculum that will engage students in American History through Reconstruction. The course is designed to challenge motivated students to understand rigorous content. The coursework requires students to engage in independent and analytical assignments and may require students to complete work outside of class. This course will be taught at a faster pace than the Social Studies 8: U.S History course and will emphasize enhancing reading and writing skills.

**ANIMAL AND PLANT SCIENCE (Semester)**
Students will explore the importance of animals and plants in our lives and the science involved in caring for them. They will apply the principles of biological, physical, and social sciences to the problems associated with livestock and plant production and management.

**ART (Semester)**
In this class, students will further explore the world of art, its connection to their everyday lives, and what it has to offer. Students will learn about various forms of art, artists and their historical significance, and much more in this project-based class. Projects will cover a wide range of topics and mediums, like painting, drawing, printmaking, clay, papier mache, and more. Along with that, students will build up their skills and knowledge base in working with these mediums and describing their ideas. So get ready to get a little messy and make some amazing projects!

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**AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS 2 (Semester)**
**Prerequisite: Automation and Robotics 1**
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**PROBLEM SOLVING (Semester)**
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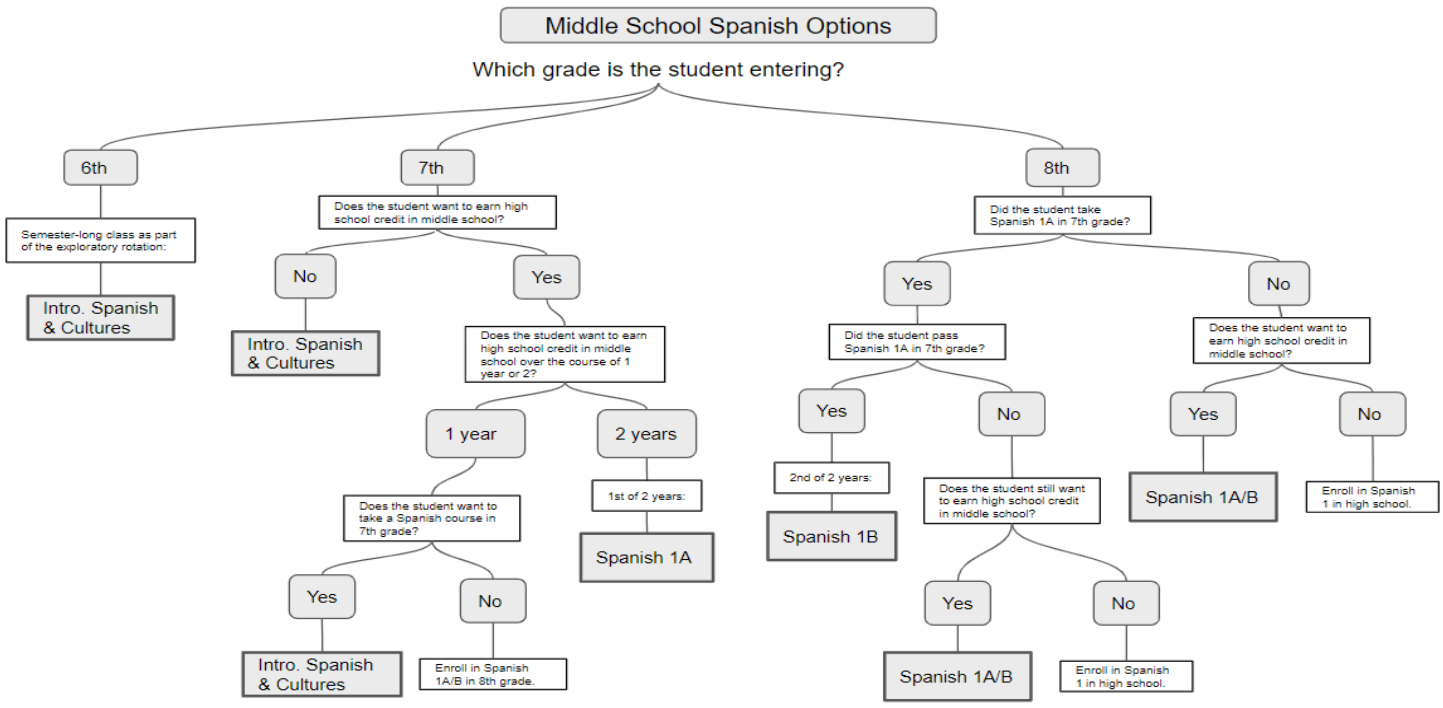

**SPANISH 1B - 8** ***(2 Semesters)***

**Prerequisite: Spanish 1 A, 2 semesters of above passing average grades**

This course is to be taken after the successful completion of Spanish 1A in 7th grade. Students will continue to advance through their knowledge and skills of the Spanish language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. The focus of this course is to continue developing speaking, writing, and interpreting Spanish skills with an emphasis on vocabulary, grammar, and communication. This year-long course is taught at a high school level. Students will receive one high school credit upon completion of the 2-year track contingent upon maintaining above-passing average grades throughout both years.

**SPANISH 1A/B - 8** ***(2 Semesters)***

This course is for students who are prepared for an academic challenge and accelerated pacing. Skills for the ideal student for this course include reading at or above grade level, self-discipline to plan, organize, and carry out tasks to completion, proficient oral and written communication, and being highly engaged and motivated in language and cultural studies. Students will be able to speak, write, and interpret written and spoken language at the novice proficiency level in Spanish by the end of this course. Students will learn how to interpret and use Spanish to understand and communicate the world around them and develop a cultural awareness of the Spanish-speaking world that they can compare with their own. This year-long course is taught at a high school level. Students will receive one high school credit upon completion of the course contingent upon maintaining an above-passing average grade throughout the school year. This course is open to 8th grade students ONLY.

**SPEED & STRENGTH TRAINING (Semester)**

This course will take place at Williamston High School and is designed for students who are preparing to excel as athletes. Students in this course will be highly trained in a complete Speed and Strength Training program. Students will be subjected to Speed and Strength arranged into a five-day schedule with each day having a different goal. All students will be highly trained to develop all the necessary components to develop into a total athlete. Max Velocity Sprinting, Deep Diaphragmatic breathing, Reflexive Performance Reset, Ankle Training, Dynamic and Max Strength along with Plyometrics and Jump Training. The goals of this course are to become a better athlete, develop lifelong and proficient performers, build balanced and efficient movers, establish a competitive and positive environment to grow while enhancing your identity, and approach each day with the highest level of Character and F.I.T. Each day you will be Challenged Physically, Mentally, Socially and Emotionally and Add Character & Culture to our program every day. High Intensity/Low Volume, Prioritizing Rest-Recovery-Growth, Record-Rank-Publish, Not overworking the student-athlete and Lighting a Fire not filling a pail are cornerstones of what we do! The deciding factor in your grade each day involves following expectations & rules, your effort & participation, focus and attitude on a daily basis. Equipment: Proper Physical Education Clothes and Shoes.

**YEARBOOK/JOURNALISM (Semester)**

This class will focus on preserving our school's history through words and pictures. Students will take pictures, write captions, and organize the pages of the yearbook. Students will use technology such as Google Docs, Google Slides, Google Forms, and Yearbook360. Also, as part of the class, students will be creating a monthly school newsletter that highlights Williamston Middle School.

# SPECIAL EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**(Students must have a current IEP to access these courses)**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ACADEMIC RESOURCE (6-8 grades)**:
This class provides support for students with individualized educational plans (IEP) who may need more time and assistance to succeed in their core classes. Some of the areas supported are work completion, independence, advocacy, studying for or retaking tests, organizing materials, and using PowerSchool to monitor their progress. Individualized instruction is provided to help students reach the goals identified in their IEPs, but it is not an intensive intervention to build skills like in math or ELA support. This is a better fit for a student who is more independent and just needs extra time to complete work and stay organized.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ELA ENRICHMENT (6-8 grade students with literacy goals)**
An intensive literacy intervention offered to students who have reading and/or writing goals in an individualized education plan (IEP) and benefit from a significant level of support to complete work and meet grade level targets. This class is offered as a core ELA class, not an elective, and is taught by a special education teacher. It uses the core ELA curriculum as its foundation; however, accommodations such as extended time, adult support, reduced assignments, slower pacing, and re-teaching are provided in this class to meet student learning needs. Through a variety of supported reading and writing experiences, students will expand their knowledge of language, vocabulary, and conventions in writing. Students are progress monitored on one or more of their goals.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ELA SUPPORT (6-8 grade students with literacy goals)**
This class meets daily for one class period. It is provided in addition to the student's core ELA class, although it serves to support the core class. It takes the place of an elective class. This class is taught by a special education teacher and is offered to students who have reading and/or writing goals in an individualized education plan (IEP). In addition to supporting students' literacy needs in their core ELA class, this class is designed to build fluency, comprehension, and writing skills. Evidence-based intervention programs are utilized within the class to support students in these skills, and students are progress monitored on one or more of their goals.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION MATH SUPPORT (6-8 grade students with math goals)**
This class meets daily for one class period. It is provided in addition to the student's core math class. It takes the place of an elective class. This class is taught by a special education teacher. Students are provided with extended time and support with core math instruction. The structure of the lab includes pre-teaching, explicit instruction, guided practice with corrective feedback, frequent review, math fluency practice daily, and ongoing progress monitoring. In addition, the students will work on math related IEP goals.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION MATH ENRICHMENT (6-8 grade students with math goals)**

This class meets daily for one class period, and is offered to students who have a math goal in an individualized education plan (IEP) and benefit from a significant level of support to complete work and meet grade level targets. This class is offered as a core math class, not an elective, and is taught by a special education teacher. It uses the core math curriculum as its foundation; however, accommodations such as extended time, adult support, reduced or modified assignments, slower pacing, and re-teaching are provided in this class to meet student learning needs. It is taught by a special education teacher, and students will work on math related to IEP goals.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION Basic Classroom (6-8 grades)**

This class meets daily and is offered to students who have an individualized education plan (IEP) and benefit from a significant level of support in order to meet grade level targets in a variety of content areas. This class is offered as a core math and/or language arts class. This is not an elective class. The class aligns with common core content standards; however, accommodations such as extended time, adult support, reduced or modified assignments, slower pacing, and re-teaching are provided in this class to meet student learning needs. It is taught by a special education teacher, and students will work on skills related to IEP goals.

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER (ELL) COURSE DESCRIPTION

**(Students must meet the criteria to access this course)**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER COURSE: ELL (Tier 2)**

Students meet daily for one class period. It is provided in addition to the student's core ELA class and has its own distinct curriculum that supports English language learners. It takes the place of an elective class. The ELL course is taught by a highly qualified ELL teacher. This class is designed to support students with fluency building, comprehension, and writing skills through explicit instruction in effective reading and writing strategies. Students are progress monitored to measure skills and academic growth.

# ADDITIONAL COURSES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

**ACADEMIC YEAR PROGRAMS OFFERED THROUGH MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

Gifted students in grades 7 - 9 may apply for academic year programs through MSU including:

- ISHALL - English Language Arts
- CHAMPS - Mathematics
- ALL - Latin
- ACE - Chinese
- MANGA - Japanese

These programs offer students the opportunity to take 4 years of high school credit courses in two years. Students must apply and meet specific criteria in order to participate in these accelerated programs. Visit https://gifted.msu.edu/programs/academic-year-programs for more information.

**MICHIGAN VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY COURSES**

These programs are offered to students who want to take classes that we do not offer in our curriculum. Generally, students take language courses other than Spanish. Students must apply and meet specific criteria to participate in these online courses.

**ACADEMIC OVERTIME (AOT)**

AOT is a school-wide Tier 1 academic enrichment and support period of 30 minutes (between 5th and 6th hours) on Thursdays of most school weeks and twice a month on Tuesdays. AOT provides students with additional access to their teachers for extra academic assistance, to retake or make up missed work/tests, or to pursue academic enrichment opportunities. AOT is also a time for students to engage in social-emotional learning lessons and activities.