

The background features a stylized sun with rays on the left and a mountain range on the right, both rendered in white and light gray tones against a light gray background.

**VALLEY  
VIEW  
MIDDLE  
SCHOOL**

**GRADES 6-8**

**Course  
Descriptions  
2025-2026**

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# 6TH GRADE CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## ENGLISH

### **6th Grade English Language Arts**

This course will cover the Ohio English Language Arts Standards. Instruction will focus on continuing the development of reading skills, writing skills and strategies to become a critical reader and thinker. Class novels, short stories, poetry and informational articles will be used as the source for text analysis. Vocabulary acquisition will incorporate words from our text as well as academic-related vocabulary. Writing instruction will include writing for varied purposes and lengths of time and incorporate narrative, expository, argumentative essays. Students will focus on core grammar skills throughout the year-long course.

## MATH

**6th Grade Math** This course is designed to incorporate and build upon students' previous understanding of rational numbers. Students are introduced to integers as well as foundational algebra concepts such as writing, interpreting, evaluating, and simplifying expressions and equations. In addition, this course provides students with the opportunity to connect their previous understanding of multiplication and division to proportional relationships such as ratios, rates, and percentages. Finally, in this course, students will extend their understanding of geometric concepts and develop an understanding of statistical processes to represent data. All students will be provided with the rigorous practice they need to be college and career ready.

## SCIENCE

**6th Grade Science** This science course features an integrated science curriculum that offers the student learning experiences in three major areas of study: Earth Science, Life Science, and Physical Science. Each area of study provides opportunities for gaining an understanding of standards based concepts through a variety of classroom activities and lab experiences. Students are given the opportunity to solve problems and extend their critical thinking skills, as well as to work cooperatively with their fellow students, in an inquiry and application setting.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

**6th Grade World History** In grade six, students study the Eastern Hemisphere (Africa, Asia, Australia and Europe), its geographic features, early history, cultural development and economic change. Students learn about the development of river civilizations in Africa and Asia, including their governments, cultures and economic systems. The geographic focus includes the study of contemporary regional characteristics, the movement of people, products and ideas, and cultural diversity. Students develop their understanding of the role of consumers and the interaction of markets, resources and competition.

# 7TH GRADE CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## ENGLISH

### **7th Grade English Language Arts**

This course will cover the Ohio English Language Arts Standards. Instruction will focus on continuing the development of reading skills and strategies to become critical readers and thinkers. Class novels, short stories, poetry and informational articles will be used as the sources for text analysis. Vocabulary acquisition will incorporate words from our texts as well as academic-related vocabulary which will be the basis of 8th and 9th grade vocabulary. Writing instruction will include writing for varied purposes and lengths of time and incorporate narrative, expository, argumentative and expository essays. Students will also focus on core grammar skills throughout the year long course.

**7th Grade Advanced English Language Arts** This course will cover the same learning standards as Grade 7 Language Arts, which are centered around the Ohio English Language Arts Standards. The main components of the Grade 7 Language Arts course description applies here as well, however, this course is differentiated through pace, depth, and complexity. The curriculum provides academically talented students an enhanced and enriched learning experience by placing additional emphasis on independence of learning, critical thinking, and higher level texts. Students in this course will be encouraged to cultivate habits of independent thinking, creativity, collaboration, and advanced intellectual skills.

## MATH

**7th Grade Pre-Algebra** This course bridges the gap between elementary school and high school mathematics. The focus of this course is on higher mathematical thinking and problem solving skills, with an emphasis on algebra. Topics of study include ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, geometry, area and volume, expressions and equations, probability, and statistics. Students are expected to be proficient in basic arithmetic skills (fraction and decimal operations) before entering seventh grade.

**7th Grade Math** This course is designed to incorporate and build on previous math skills including integers, fractions, decimals, and percentages. Students will receive introduction to algebra, geometry and probability through real-life situations, applying their understanding, and becoming more comfortable with problem solving skills. This course is developed around coherent progressions from 6th grade and gives students the rigorous practice they need to be college and career ready.

## SCIENCE

**7th Grade Science** This course features an integrated science curriculum where students will have exposure to physical, earth, and life sciences. Topics include the arrangements of atoms on the Periodic Table of Elements, conservation of mass and energy, transformation and transfer of energy, Earth's hydrologic cycle, patterns that exist in atmospheric and oceanic currents, the relative position and movement of the Earth, sun and moon, and the impact of matter and energy transfer within the biotic component of ecosystems. Students will gain an understanding of basic concepts through a variety of classroom activities, demonstrations, and laboratories. Students are given the opportunity to solve problems and extend their critical thinking skills, as well as to work cooperatively with their fellow students.

**7th Grade Advanced Science** This course features an integrated science curriculum where students will have exposure to physical, earth, and life sciences. Topics include the arrangements of atoms on the Periodic Table of Elements, conservation of mass and energy, transformation and transfer of energy, Earth's hydrologic cycle, patterns that exist in atmospheric and oceanic currents, the relative position and movement of the Earth, sun and moon, and the impact of matter and energy transfer within the biotic component of ecosystems. Students will gain an understanding of basic concepts through a variety of classroom activities, demonstrations, and laboratories. Students are given the opportunity to solve problems and extend their critical thinking skills, as well as to work cooperatively with their fellow students. There will be projects and other assignments that will be expected along the way to deepen the understanding of topics.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

**7th Grade World History** This is an integrated study of world history, beginning with ancient Greece and continuing through the Scientific Revolution. All four social studies strands are used to illustrate how historic events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic and political factors. Key topics include Greece, Rome, Medieval Times, Islam, West Africa, China, Japan, Renaissance, Reformation, Exploration, and the Scientific Revolution. Students will develop their understanding of how ideas and events from the past have shaped their culture and the world today.

# 8TH GRADE CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## ENGLISH

**8th Grade English Language Arts** This course will cover the Ohio English Language Arts Standards. Instruction will focus on continuing the development of reading skills and strategies to become critical readers and thinkers. Class novels, student choice novels, short stories, and informational articles will be used as the sources for text analysis. Vocabulary acquisition will incorporate words from our texts as well as academic-related vocabulary. Students will also write evidence-based informative and argumentative essays. There will be exposure to grammar conventions that will help them develop strong and accurately written sentences.

**8th Grade Advanced Language Arts** This course will cover the same learning standards as Grade 8 Language Arts, which are centered around the Ohio English Language Arts Standards. The main components of the Grade 8 Language Arts course description applies here as well, however, this course is differentiated through pace, depth, and complexity. The curriculum provides academically talented students an enhanced and enriched learning experience by placing additional emphasis on independence of learning, critical thinking, and higher level texts. Students in this course will be encouraged to cultivate habits of independent thinking, creativity, collaboration, and advanced intellectual skills.

### **English 9 Honors HS Credit: 1.0**

**Prerequisite: Student Qualifies for Subject Acceleration** The English 9 Honors course is a course for students who have demonstrated advanced understanding of English and who want a more intense preparation for college. This English course is based on Ohio's Academic Standards for English Language Arts in Grade 9 and the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. English 9 is a study of language, literature, composition, and oral communication with a focus on exploring a wide-variety of genres and their elements. Students use literary interpretation, analysis, comparisons, and evaluation to read and respond to representative works of historical or cultural significance appropriate for Grade 9 in classic and contemporary literature balanced with nonfiction. Students write short stories, responses to literature, expository and argumentative compositions, research reports, and business letters. Students deliver grade-appropriate oral presentations and access, analyze, and evaluate online information. Students who are accepted into the Honors course must complete a summer reading assignment. Credit received for this class will be included on the high school transcript.

## MATH

**8th Grade Math/Pre-Algebra** This course prepares students for the year-long Algebra I course in high school by giving students a foundation for exploring and understanding algebra and geometry. This course will concentrate on basic operations and properties of real numbers, measurement on a plane and in space, data analysis, linear equations, graphing, problem solving, functions, and deductive reasoning. This relates to the following common core domains: 8.NS The Number System, 8.EE Expressions and Equations, 8.F Functions, 8.G Geometry Principles (as applied to Algebra), 8.SP Introduction to Bivariate Statistics.

### **Algebra I HS Credit: 1.0**

**Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra/Teacher Recommendation** This course develops the reasoning tools that students need to understand the abstract concepts of algebra. Students solve interesting problems that have many forms and formats. Lessons promote experimenting, conjecturing, discovering, and writing about mathematics. Geometry, data analysis, and number theory are woven into the algebra content. The mathematics in these courses are applicable to real world situations and studies beyond high school. Students will learn to use variables, solve equations, explore properties, and be introduced to functions and graphs by working in the real number system. Students receiving a grade of C or lower are strongly recommended to retake the course at the high school level. Credit received for this class will be included on their high school transcript.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

**8th Grade Early American History** This course will provide students with a comprehensive study of America's history from Discovery through Reconstruction. It will focus on the historical, political, geographic, and economic growth of our nation. The students will be engaged in various activities and research projects. The students will be expected to relate past events and political decisions to current national affairs.

### **Pre-AP World History and Geography**

#### **1 period, year-long course, High School Credit, Teacher/Admin Recommendation**

The Pre-AP World History and Geography areas of focus prioritize the skills fundamental to the study of history and geography in high school, AP, and beyond. This gives students multiple opportunities to think and work like historians and geographers as they develop and strengthen these disciplinary reasoning skills throughout their education in history and the social sciences. Students will be evaluating evidence, explaining historical and geographical relationships and incorporating evidence.

## **SCIENCE**

**8th Grade Science** This science course features an integrated science curriculum that offers the student learning experiences in three major areas of study: earth science, life science, and physical science. Each area of study provides opportunities for gaining an understanding of standards based concepts through a variety of classroom activities and lab experiences. Students are given the opportunity to solve problems and extend their critical thinking skills, as well as to work cooperatively with their fellow students, in an inquiry and application setting.

### **Principles of Science for High School Credit**

**Grade 8**

**Length: year**

**Credit: 1.0**

**Prerequisite: teacher recommendation/approval**

This course is designed to present and work with the fundamental concepts of earth and space science, chemistry and physics. Scientific investigation and problem solving will also be emphasized. This is a rigorous course intended to prepare four-year college-bound students for biology, chemistry, physics and other upper level science courses.



# ELECTIVES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

All Elective Courses are one semester (½ year) with the exception of Band and Choir

## Art I (Grade 7)

This course is designed for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students interested in a variety of media and tools. Students will explore art that connects to their community and self expression through drawing, painting, and ceramics. Emphasis is placed on techniques in the production of art, learning vocabulary, art criticism, and history. Students will build on vocabulary with the creation of sketchbooks and explore the Elements and Principles of Art through drawing. In this course, students will be given the opportunity to explore basic ceramics (clay) as a medium for art expression. Ceramics will focus on learning multiple hand-built construction techniques, vocabulary, art history, and criticism. Students will explore ceramics as a fundamental form and work with glaze and kiln firing. This course is a prerequisite for Art II.

## Art II (Grade 8)

This course is designed for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who have previously completed Art I. This course is geared around students who are interested in a variety of media and tools. Students will explore art that connects to self expression through drawing and painting. Emphasis is placed on techniques in the production of art, learning vocabulary, art criticism, and history. Students will continue to build on vocabulary and drawing techniques. Students will explore the Elements and Principles of Art through drawing with more individual choice. In this course, students will be given the opportunity to explore basic ceramics (clay) as a medium for art expression. Ceramics will focus on learning multiple hand-built construction techniques, vocabulary, art history, and criticism. Students will explore ceramics as a fundamental form and work with glaze and kiln firing. Prerequisite: Art I.

## Band (Grade 6/7/8)

This is a performance course composed of students who have had at least one year of instruction and have attained an average or above level of proficiency on their instrument. These students have developed a good background in rhythms, music reading, and playing fundamentals necessary for performing more advanced material. Class work will include reviewing, reinforcing, and expanding music fundamentals and techniques through concert literature and the class text. Students are required to purchase the band method book. Written assignments and tests, as well as performance tests, will be administered throughout the year. Practice outside of the classroom is expected. All bands will perform at least two concerts during the school year. A portion of the students' grades will be derived from performances. Therefore, each student is expected to participate in all concerts. *Special concert attire may be requested by the director.*

## Chamber Choir (Grades 7/8)

The seventh and eighth grade Chamber Choir, is a select auditioned ensemble for 7th and 8th grade students. This is a year-long performance-based ensemble, working to develop vocal fundamentals while working on literature that spans music history. Such literature includes both sacred and secular repertoire in many languages. As it is a performance-based ensemble, all participants are required to attend all after school performances, including both school and community concerts.

**Note:** *Attendance at all concerts, performances, and rehearsals is mandatory unless the absence is excused by the school attendance policy or a music director. Unexcused absences from ANY concerts, performances, or practices will result in lower grades, possible course failure, and possible removal from the group.*

## Computer Technology I (Grade 6)

In today's world, information increases at a high rate. Students are expected to develop and use decision-making and critical-thinking skills. Digital tools enhance middle school students' emerging abilities to synthesize, analyze, and evaluate information. The integration of technology systems expands and raises their ability to use information and to collaborate and communicate with diverse individuals. This class is designed for students that have an interest in enhancing their knowledge of computer based technology. Students will continue to improve and demonstrate their ability to use technology for research, critical thinking, decision making, communication, collaboration, creativity, and innovation while increasing their knowledge of internet safety, acceptable use, copyright, and plagiarism rules. This class also allows for identifying and assessing the capabilities and limitations of emerging technologies. In addition, students work with various multimedia and presentation tools including Docs, Sheets, Tables, Slides, Painting, Drawing Tools, etc. All assignments are project based that relate to real world situations.

## **Computer Technology II (Grade 7)**

This class builds upon Computer Technology I and is for those that want to continue to increase their knowledge of computer based technology with more emphasis on advanced multimedia and presentation tools. Students will work with basic web design skills including HTML, layout design, and computer hardware and software that can be used in the web site creation process, and coding with JavaScript. In addition, students will apply strategies for identifying and solving routine hardware and software problems that occur during everyday use, demonstrate knowledge of current changes in information technologies and the effect those changes have on the workplace and society, exhibit legal and ethical behaviors when using information and technology, and discuss consequences of misuse. Students will also use content-specific tools, software, and simulations to support learning and research. They will apply productivity/multimedia tools and peripherals to support personal productivity, group collaboration, and learning throughout the curriculum. In addition, they will design, develop, publish, and present products (ex. web pages, video: Kizoa, Animoto, Powtoon, etc.) using technology resources that demonstrate and communicate concepts to audiences inside and outside the classroom. Additionally, students will collaborate with peers, experts, and others using telecommunications and collaborative tools to investigate curriculum-related problems, issues, and information, and develop solutions or products for audiences inside and outside the classroom. Google Suite is also addressed and used throughout the semester. As with Computer Technology I, all assignments are project based that relate to real world situations.

## **Cultural Explorations (Grades 7/8)**

Students will enjoy taking a virtual trip around the USA. They will use critical thinking skills to decode clues about each location they will visit. Students will make choices about transportation, accommodations, meals, and sight seeing that fit into their budget. Along the way students will learn about different cultures, social issues, geography, food, and practice life skills. Students will create an electronic travel journal including various writing assignments, pictures, and memorabilia. They will analyze written reviews to determine bias and validity, develop creative writing skills, and present work to classmates. Students will also learn basic Spanish vocabulary and phrases.

## **Health (Grade 8) HS Credit: 0.5**

Health will cover such topics as empathy, stopping violence, conflict resolution, mental health, stress management, nutrition basics, disease prevention and control, drugs, alcohol and tobacco prevention, sex education, dating violence, dangerous decisions, and organ donation. With the successful completion of this course, students will meet the 0.5 credit of Health required for graduation. Credit received for this class will be included on the high school transcript.

### **Physical Education (Grades 6/7/8)**

This course stresses development of skills in a wide variety of individual, dual, and group activities. Students will learn and practice responsible social behaviors in a physical activity setting. At the end of this course, students will be able to find ways to enjoy physical activity throughout their lifetime. Physical Education is an integral part of our total school curriculum. Participating in physical activities aids in the development of cognitive skills, gross motor and fine motor skills, solving problems peacefully, teamwork as well as self-confidence, social skills, and an appreciation of individual differences. Getting on B.A.S.E (Behavior, Attitude, Sportsmanship and Effort) are vital to a student's success in PE. Having good behavior, a good attitude, understanding sportsmanship, and putting forth your best effort are the characteristics that are needed to succeed in PE as well as everyday life. Through exercise we stimulate and develop the use of mental and physical skills, physical fitness, participation in various games and sports, plus knowledge of the rules. These skills show students the importance of mental and physical skills throughout one's lifetime.

### **Healthy Lifestyle (Grade 7)**

This semester-long course will provide comprehensive education on the key components of maintaining a balanced and well-rounded lifestyle, including nutrition, physical activity, stress management, sleep hygiene, and preventative health practices, empowering students to make informed choices to improve their overall health and well-being.

### **Music Technology (Grades 7/8)**

This course will use technology to explore, create, and perform music. Students will learn about digital audio recording, audio editing, music software (software instruments, editing, looping, mixing, and mastering), publishing, and scoring for video. The Internet, electronic musical instruments, and computer software/hardware provide students with the opportunity to study music in many ways including researching, practicing skills, composing, and arranging musical works. Students who have an interest or background in music are encouraged to take this class.

### **Music Exploration (Grade 6)**

Music Exploration will not only investigate musical instruments, composers, styles, and concepts, but also explore how it's used all around the world! Students will learn about how musical genres have developed throughout time and in different places, and you'll dig into how music is created, performed, and experienced.

## **Spanish I (Grades 8-12)**

**Length: year; Credit: 1.0; Prerequisite: none; Fee: none**

Spanish I introduce the student to the Hispanic culture, geography, and language. The course emphasizes contextual vocabulary and grammar study, which students practice by hearing, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish. Studying Spanish is excellent preparation for college and employment as it provides students with an enriched vocabulary background, sensitivity to diverse cultures, and a bilingual competence that is increasingly needed in our nation. It is recommended that students have at least a “C” average in this class to advance to the next level.

## **STEM I Grade (6)**

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) introduces students to the Engineering Design Process (EDP). Students will utilize problem solving, discovery, exploratory learning, and innovation with respect to combining science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. STEM will allow students to focus on higher-order thinking in order to work through projects connected to the real world. Students will be expected to relate key vocabulary in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to the projects they design and also to reevaluate and redesign through iteration to construct an improved end result. This course will advance problem solving skills by taking students through the steps that scientists and engineers use in everyday life while also making career connections. Throughout this course, students will grow in their curiosity and confidence about STEM with hands-on, project based, interactive design challenges.

## **STEM II Grade (7)**

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) incorporates the fundamentals of the Engineering Design Process (EDP) and offers inquiry-based approaches to address age-appropriate design challenges. The class is designed to offer students the opportunity to use their scientific knowledge by incorporating mathematics, and technology skills to solve real-world issues and by creating applications (including prototype modeling). Students will understand how engineers, scientists, and mathematicians all work together with technology to solve problems. Students will be exposed to and make career connections throughout the course. The students will work in collaborative groups and complete design challenges. Each project will be a design project that will be tested, evaluated, re-designed and tested again to reach the best possible solution to the design challenge given.

## **Career Exploration (Grade 8)**

Valley View Middle School's career exploration class is a course designed to introduce middle school students to various career paths, helping them discover their interests, strengths, and potential future career options by exploring different industries, job roles, and the necessary education or training required for each, while also developing foundational skills like critical thinking and self-awareness to make informed career choices later on. The Career Exploration class will be supported by the Miami Valley Career Technology Center.

## STUDENT FEES

Course	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Core Classes (Math, Science, History, English)	\$20 for all courses	\$20 for all courses	\$20 for all courses
Art (per class)	n/a	\$10	\$10
STEM	\$10	\$10	n/a
Technology	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Rent to Own (One to World Program)	n/a	\$55	\$55
Lease	\$30	\$30	\$30

### Schedule Changes

Students will have up to 5 days to make schedule changes at the beginning of first semester. For courses beginning second semester, students again have 5 days. After the five-day grace period, schedule changes may only be initiated by teachers, counselors, or an administrator. Courses dropped after the permitted time period may result in a failing grade (unless drop requested by the teacher).

### Students Taking Classes for High School Credit

Credit received for high school courses while enrolled in the Junior High will be included on the high school transcript but not included in the GPA.