SPRING LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

COURSE SELECTION GUIDE
2025-2026

SPRING LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL
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SPRING LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education

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School Psychologist	Kevin Baker
Administrative Assistant	Lisa Lowe

Athletics

Athletic Director	JT Hogan
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Mission Statement

It is the mission of Spring Lake Public School that we educate, empower and inspire students to achieve their highest potential.

Vision Goals

We believe that the most promising strategy for achieving the mission of our school is to develop our capacity to function as a professional learning community. We envision a school in which staff:

1. Cohesive PLC Team: Establish a collaborative team environment with shared goals, practices, and continuous improvement.
2. Engagement & Empowerment: Cultivate a culture where students actively participate in their education and feel empowered to excel.
3. Leadership Development: Build leadership capacity among staff and students to drive positive change and support school growth.

Collective Commitments Goals:

In order to achieve the shared vision of our school, Spring Lake Middle School staff have made the following collective commitments.

1. Timeliness & Accountability: Commit to being on time and following through with responsibilities and actions.
2. Collaboration: Foster a spirit of teamwork, sharing resources, ideas, and feedback to support collective success.
3. Continuous Improvement: Embrace professional growth, flexibility, and adaptability to meet the evolving needs of students.
4. Student-Focused Conversations: Prioritize student success in all discussions and decision-making processes.
5. Open Communication & Dialogue: Maintain transparent, open channels of communication to ensure everyone's voice is heard and valued.

Schoolwide Goals:

1. Shared Workload: Distribute tasks equitably among team members to maximize efficiency and collaboration.
2. Improved Alignment: Ensure curriculum, assessments, and instruction are aligned across grade levels and departments.
3. Data Utilization: Use shared data (e.g., student assessments, iReady) to guide instruction and identify areas for growth.
4. Student Growth: Focus on continuous improvement in student performance on state assessments and iReady.
5. Engagement & Achievement: Develop strategies to increase student engagement, achievement, and success across all academic areas.
6. Positive School Climate: Create a supportive, inclusive environment that promotes well-being and positive relationships.
7. Common Lesson Plans & Assessments: Standardize lesson plans and assessments to ensure consistency and equity in student learning outcomes.

Middle School Course Offerings

This booklet is designed to familiarize parents and students with Spring Lake's Middle School program. Questions about the program may be directed to the middle school counselor.

The school year is divided into three 12 week trimesters. Seventh and eighth grade students take a full year of English, math, social studies and science. In addition, all students take two trimesters of Physical Education/Health per year and seventh graders are required to take a one trimester computer class. The rest of a student's schedule consists of elective classes.

Overview

7TH Grade Required Courses

English, Math, Science, Social Studies,
Physical Education/Health, Computers

Elective Courses (FULL YEAR)

7th Band, Choir, Guided Instruction*****

Elective Courses (1 Trimester)

7th Advanced PE, Art 1, Art 2, Business, Ceramics, Computer Science Discoveries, Creative Writing, Graphic Design, Introduction to World Language, Multimedia, 7th Study Skills, Technical Education-Architecture, Technical Education-Design, Tri Choir, Wild Reads

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8TH Grade Required Courses

English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education/Health

Elective Courses (FULL YEAR)

8th Band, Choir, 8th French, Guided Instruction*****, 8th Spanish

Elective Courses (1 TRIMESTER)

8th Advanced PE, Art 1, Art 2, Business, Ceramics, Computer Science Discoveries, Creative Writing, Graphic Design, Introduction to World Language, Multimedia, 8th Study Skills, Technical Education-Architecture, Technical Education-Design, Tri Choir, Wild Reads, Yearbook/Photography

Availability of elective course offerings will ultimately be determined by interest. If numbers do not warrant offering a class, it will be removed from the master schedule and students will be enrolled in a different class.

SEVENTH GRADE REQUIREMENTS

English 7

This class will strengthen students' skills in the areas of writing, reading, speaking, and listening. During the year, students will write in various genres, including narratives, arguments, and informational writings. Grammar will be taught within the context of student writing. Students will read as a class and independently. All students are expected to read independently for 20 minutes each night.

Language Arts (RR)

(RR) courses are only offered to students who qualify under a current Special Education IEP.

The 7th grade Resource Room English class is a three trimester course designed to parallel the general education English course. The teacher will help guide students to become independent readers and writers. During the year, students will write in various genres, including narratives, arguments, and informational writings. Grammar will be taught within the context of student writing. Students will read as a class and independently. All students are expected to read independently for 20 minutes each night.Resource Room courses designated by (RR) are only offered to students who qualify under a current Special Education IEP.

Math 7

Math 7 is the second in a three-course series for 6th through 8th grade students. This series is based on the Common Core State Standards for 7th grade. At the completion of this course, students will take Math 8.

Accelerated Math 7

Accelerated Math is an advanced math class for 7th grade students. This class covers all of the seventh grade, as well as part of the eighth grade, Common Core State Standards. The pace of this class is accelerated - students should be prepared to work at this pace. At the completion of this course, students will be placed either in Algebra 8 or in Math 8 in 8th grade. In order to be advanced into Algebra 8, students must maintain a minimum average of 80% and receive a recommendation from the teacher.

Mathematics 7 (RR)

(RR) courses are only offered to students who qualify under a current Special Education IEP. 7th Grade Resource Room Math is a year-long program that is designed to parallel the general education curriculum. This course utilizes whole group, small group, and individualized instruction to support Individualized Education Programs as well as exposure to grade-level math content. This class exposes students to highly motivating and relevant problems that offer depth and rigor. It opens doors to abstract thought, reasoning, and inquiry as students persevere to answer the essential questions that drive instruction based on the Common Core State Standards. Resource Room courses designated by (RR) are only offered to students who qualify under a current Special Education IEP.

7th GRADE SCIENCE

7th grade science is a yearlong course in which students build on a foundation of science skills. Students will use an inquiry-based curriculum in order to explore chemical properties and chemical changes as well as cells, cell processes, and organ systems. Furthermore, students will investigate the properties of genetics and genetic diversity. Application and evaluation are an ongoing theme in this course.

Science 7 (RR)
Resource Room Science in the middle school will be offered on an as needed basis and is a year long program in general science that is designed to roughly parallel the regular education curriculum. Seventh grade students will be exposed to the scientific process and the classification of living things. They will learn about cells, bacteria, genetics, weather, waves, and energy Reading and writing skills are emphasized in this class. Resource Room courses designated by (RR) are only offered to students who qualify under a current Special Education IEP.

Social Studies, World Cultures 7
The seventh grade social studies program deals mainly with cultures and geographic locations in the Eastern Hemisphere. The themes discussed are cultures, geography, religions, governments, economics, and conflicts. The students study current news issues weekly and relate these to the themes and locations covered in class. The goal is for each student to identify with many places in the world, understand basic geographic terms, and learn about the diversity of cultures outside of the United States.

Computers (1 TRIMESTER)
This is a required class taken during an elective period. The 7th grade computer class is designed to enhance the student's computer skills in the areas of keyboarding, Microsoft Office, multimedia, Internet skills, safety awareness, programming/coding, and Web 2.0 skills. An emphasis will be placed on using software and skills that will benefit them throughout their curriculum. The class follows the Michigan Educational Technology Standards (METS-S).

Physical Education/Health 7 (2 TRIMESTERS)
Seventh grade physical education and health is a combined course, in which a student will be enrolled for two of the three trimesters. This class will be divided into two sections, 7A and 7B. 7A will be a combination of physical education and personal health. 7B will be a combination of personal health, reproductive health and physical education.

The physical education portion will include instruction in: physical fitness, soccer, volleyball, softball, floor hockey, basketball, tennis and flag football.

The personal health portion will be based in part on the curriculum of the Michigan Health Model. Included will be units on self-esteem, diet, nutrition and exercise, personal hygiene, bullying in addition to tobacco and drug and alcohol education. Lastly, five weeks will be used to address reproductive health. Lessons will center around puberty, the male reproductive system, the female reproductive system, pregnancy and childbirth and STD's, HIV and AIDS. The reproductive health curriculum has been written and approved by our community PA 226 Committee.

The following are dress and participation requirements for physical education:

- Clothing worn to school may not be worn for class participation. All students must change daily for class unless stated otherwise by the teacher. Students must participate in order to pass this course.
- Indoor dress will consist of shorts or sweats, T-shirt or sweatshirt, athletic socks, and athletic shoes with soles that will not mark the gym floor.

- Outdoor dress will consist of shorts, sweats or warm-up pants, a T-shirt or sweatshirt, athletic socks, and shoes with no cleats, jacket or warm-up top, and as weather gets cooler, hat and gloves.
- Daily showers are an option. Students must supply their own towel.
- To be excused from any of these requirements, a written note from parents/guardian must be presented at the beginning of the class period.
- Without an excuse from participation, the student's daily grade will be a zero. Each zero received during a marking period will lower the student's grade.
- The No Dress is always unexcused. Any student who is in attendance is expected to be dressed for class
- Students are asked to bring their own deodorant, antiperspirant or body spray to be used after class each day.

SEVENTH GRADE ELECTIVES

All classes are one trimester unless otherwise noted.

Advanced Physical Education 7
This class is designed to be an extension of the required physical education class. It is designed for the student who is looking to go above and beyond the required physical education and enjoys being active. An emphasis is placed on speed and agility, fitness endurance and weight training.

Art 1
This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of different media types as well as different approaches to making art. The projects will range from drawing and painting to sculpture and graphic design. This is an introductory course and as such is designed to help students to gain an appreciation for art and art making at all levels. Each lesson will correspond with an element of art history or contemporary art trends. A sketchbook is required for this course (9x12" preferred).

Art 2
This class is for students who have been successful in Art 1 and would like to further their exploration of Fine art. The class will start where you left off in Art and build on prior knowledge. This class will take place simultaneously along with Art 1 students but the expectation is that you will work independently of those students on a more advanced project. Students will design their own projects based on a set of criteria and will begin to learn how to develop creative skills and problem solving strategies. This class will be preparatory for taking art at the high school and the lessons will be designed to help you continue to fill your artistic portfolio with quality work. A sketchbook is required for this course (9x12" preferred).

Band 7 (FULL YEAR)
The Seventh Grade Band is an ensemble that provides students with learning and performance opportunities on wind and percussion instruments. The primary focus is on the development, continuation, and expansion of basic skills begun the previous years that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble contests, honor bands, and private lessons. Topics/skills covered include: embouchure and tone development, counting, timing, and rhythmic development, reading and notation skills (including sight reading), scales, simple music theory, development of an extensive vocabulary of musical terms and symbols, ear training and listening skills, equipment care and maintenance, effective

practice habits and basic marching skills. Students in the Seventh Grade Band perform in at least three concerts a year, the Memorial Day parade and District Band Festival. A concert schedule is passed out at the beginning of the year and attendance is mandatory. The full calendar and other information can always be found at: www.springlakebands.org

Business

This elective will introduce students to fundamental terminology and practical applications of economics, personal finance, and entrepreneurship. Students will participate online in simulated day trading at the stock market, as well as modules designed to improve their understanding of their own finances The course will build off one concept into the next, which will all culminate in a Shark Tank inspired final project in the last few weeks that tasks business groups to create a product or service and present to the class (the "sharks").

Choir (FULL YEAR)

Choir is a full year performing arts ensemble open to all 7th and 8th grade students who enjoy singing and music making, alone or with others. Through choir, students gain access to auditions for the MSVMA State Honors Choir program, as well as participation in Choral Festival and Solo & Ensemble Festivals. Choir members also have access to all Choir Cultural Outings (CCOs) appropriate to the middle school level. CCOs have included attending musicals, ballets, symphony concerts, operas and films. Students in middle school choir gain music literacy (reading music skills), vocal training for choral or solo tone, stage presence, confidence, camaraderie, cooperative achievement and cultural enrichment. Throughout the school year, the choir participates in several concerts. Choir members are required to attend these performances to the best of their ability. The performance calendar is created over the summer and is available the first full day of school in August. For an example of the middle school choir event calendar, please visit the SLPS website and click on Vocal Music.

Ceramics

During the course of this class we will learn basic clay building techniques including: hand built (pinch, coil, slab) as well as an introduction to wheel thrown pottery. We will also explore clay as a sculptural material, creating both functional and non-functional pieces. While we will work primarily in clay, the class will also include drawing, painting and a variety of other decorative techniques. Each project will connect to a particular artist or culture in order to widen the students' understanding of pottery and clay throughout the world. There is a $10 materials fee associated with this class. A sketchbook is required for this class (9x12").

Computer Science Discoveries

This class will serve as an introductory computer science course, which will help students prepare to live and participate in our increasingly digital society, economy, and culture. Students will engage in hands-on activities and projects that will allow them to learn through discovery and inquiry. Topics covered in this course may include: problem-solving, building a website, designing a game, and coding. Through this course, students will be empowered to create authentic projects and engage with computer science as a means for creativity, communication, problem solving, and entertainment.

Creative Writing

This class will explore writing as a creative outlet. This class will provide students with the opportunity to write from numerous sources of inspiration including; fine art, film, music, personal experience, nature and much more. Students who love to express themselves through writing will have the opportunity to do so daily using a myriad of writing styles and formats. Students are expected to demonstrate and develop writing stamina, writing for long periods of time,

and writing fluency, writing many words in one sitting. Revising and sharing work with peers will be an integral part of this class.

Graphic Design
This is an art class designed to help you to think creatively and to solve design challenges both independently and as a group. We will be making art primarily on our Chromebooks with touch style tablets. The class will cover some basic graphic design skills like layout, the Principles and Elements of Design as well as more advanced topics such as designing ad campaigns for virtual clients and product proposals for certain industries. The goal of the class will be to prepare you for a career in graphic design and to get you ready for the more advanced classes at the high school. Expect to be challenged in this class and to work hard towards learning this very necessary and unique form of art.

Guided Instruction (FULL YEAR)* *Students may not voluntarily opt to take this class.
This class will be used as an opportunity to receive help on homework, finish tests/quizzes and to study, review or read ahead for their classes. Student progress will be monitored in all classes weekly. Organization, use of time, use of a planner, and other study skills will be reinforced in this class. In most instances, preference will be given to students with an IEP or 504 Plan.

Introduction to World Language
This twelve week introductory course is designed to give middle school students beginning exposure to the study of both the French and Spanish languages as well as the cultures in which they are spoken. Students will learn the language using the TPRS method, Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling. Students will attend six weeks of each language in this course.

Multimedia
This tech elective will introduce students to the world of moviemaking through multiple units and mini-projects centered on the following: shot composition; cuts and transitions; screenplay writing; and storyboard drafting. This is a hands-on elective that requires creativity and prowess with current technology (e.g phones, tablets, computers) to help piece together images and videos together. The course will build off one concept into the next, which will all culminate in a "Film Festival" to end the trimester, where groups of students will work on a multiple minute long movie that will then be displayed for all in the class.

Study Skills 7
Study Skills is a class that teaches organization, communication, and study related skills. Students have time to work on assignments and prepare for assessments. Study Skills may be recommended or required for an individual student's program. Task completion, asking good questions, using graphs and charts, memorizing strategies, how to take different types of tests, and other school related issues will be discussed. Students will be required to correctly use their student planners to maximize organization and time management in addition to bringing a book or other homework to class each day.

Technical Education - Architecture
This tech course will include highly interactive group activities based on the NASA Engineering Design Process focusing on the world of engineering & architecture. Projects will focus on basic engineering principles including drafting and architecture. Students will research existing products and create their own designs, students will practice many of the skills needed for 21st century careers. Projects may include architectural drafting, load-bearing towers, Alternative Energy sources, and Carbon Dioxide Powered Dragsters. Students may take twice in one year, moving on to more advanced coursework the second trimester.

Technical Education - Design
This tech course will include highly interactive group activities based on the NASA Engineering Design Process focusing on the world of engineering & design. Each activity is designed to emphasize collaborative learning, critical and analytical thinking, creative thinking, problem solving and experimental design. Through participation in this course's activities, students will practice many of the skills needed for 21st Century careers. Projects may include rockets, basic engineering principles, basic drafting skills, coding & computer programming, mousetrap cars, and egg crash vehicles. Students may take twice in one year, moving on to more advanced coursework the second trimester.

Tri Choir
Tri Choir (TC) is a course open to all 7th and 8th students who want have FUN singing and making music with others. This single trimester course has been designed to give musically interested students an opportunity to sing while they explore other elective offerings. In TC, students will vocally explore different cultures and languages from around the world while also enjoying our rich and uniquely American music, past and present. Students will gain music literacy (music reading skills), vocal tone quality, singing skills, confidence, stage presence, cooperation and camaraderie. At the end of the trimester, a concert will be presented to showcase the learnings and skills acquired. Students are required to participate in this performance. After TC, students may have the option to join the more advanced middle school choir, a traditional yearlong choir which participates in Choral Festival, Solo & Ensemble Festival and the Choir Cultural Outings (CCOs) appropriate for the middle school level.

Wild Reads
This class will provide students an opportunity to engage with a variety of texts that push their ability to read and interpret literature. Students will have a chance to explore the genres of graphic novel, poetry, realistic fiction, and historical fiction. Alongside these novels, students will gain valuable skills that are needed to become strong, successful readers. Students will have an opportunity to read within this class, and will learn to fall in love with reading.

EIGHTH GRADE REQUIREMENTS

English 8
English 8 is a course that addresses the communication skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The course is designed to prepare eighth grade students for high school. Students will read extensively from a list of middle school novels. Utilizing the writing process, students will create many finished pieces of writing, including an entry in an essay contest. Many other opportunities for improving student writing will be used throughout the year. Grammar will be taught to supplement student writing. Students will also participate in a career unit.

English 8 (RR)
(RR) courses are only offered to students who qualify under a current Special Education IEP.
8th grade Resource Room English is a three trimester course with instruction that parallels the general education English curriculum. Students will be exposed to books from a list of middle school novels. Utilizing the writing process, students will create many finished pieces of writing, involving teacher and peer editing strategies. Many other opportunities for improving student writing will be used throughout the year. Grammar will be taught to supplement student writing. Students will also participate in a career unit, which involves research, professional writing, and formal presentations. The class utilizes individual, small group, and whole class instruction. Independent reading time is also provided.

Math 8

Math 8 is the final preparation for High School Algebra and Geometry. The instruction is based on the Common Core State Standards for 8th Grade and attempts to expose students to highly motivating and relevant problems that offer depth and rigor. It opens the doors to abstract thought, reasoning, and inquiry as students learn to persevere through problems dealing with Number Sense, Algebraic Expressions and Equations, Functions, Geometry and Data Displays.

ALGEBRA 8

This class is an advanced mathematics class designed for students with the goal of reaching a high level math course by their senior year of high school. This class continues the approach to expose students to highly motivating and relevant problems that offer depth and rigor needed to prepare students for Calculus and other college-level courses that they will study during high school. This class covers the High School Algebra 1 standards. With successful completion of this course, the student will have completed the high school graduation requirement for Algebra 1. The student will take the next math class in the high school math sequence or may re-take Algebra 1 as a freshman. In order to move on to the next class, a student must maintain a minimum grade of 80% and receive a recommendation from the teacher.

Mathematics 8 (RR)

(RR)Resource Room courses designated by (RR) are only offered to students who qualify under a current Special Education IEP. 8th Grade Resource Room Math is a year-long program that is designed to parallel the general education curriculum. This course utilizes whole group, small group, and individualized instruction to support Individualized Education Programs as well as exposure to grade-level math content. This class is the final preparation for High School Algebra and Geometry, where service delivery will likely occur in a resource room or co-taught setting. The instruction is based on the Common Core State Standards for 8th Grade and attempts to expose students to highly motivating and relevant problems that offer depth and rigor. It opens the doors to abstract thought, reasoning, and inquiry as students learn to persevere through problems dealing with Number Sense, Algebraic Expressions and Equations, Functions, Geometry and Data Displays.

Earth/Physical Science 8

Eighth grade science is a full year study of Earth and Physical Science. In Earth Science, students will investigate topics like astronomy, rocks and minerals, and a changing earth. Physical Science will include studies of forces, motion, gravity, and much more. Hands-on activities, cooperative learning, and student demonstrations will highlight this curriculum.

Science 8 (RR)

Resource Room courses designated by (RR) are only offered to students who qualify under a current Special Education IEP.Resource Room Science in the middle school will be offered on an as needed basis and is a full year program in general science that is designed to roughly parallel the regular education curriculum. Eighth grade students will study the solar system, the earth's chemistry, atmosphere, earth's surface, rocks and minerals and how the earth has changed. This class will also study physical science concepts such as light, motion, and matter.

Social Studies 8

This course introduces students to the history of the United States from the Articles of Confederation to the end of the 19th century. The units of study include: Foundations of a New Nation, Challenges to an Emerging Nation, Regional and Economic Growth, Antebellum Reform Movements, The Coming of the Civil War, The Civil War, Reconstruction, America in the Last Half of the 19th Century, Development of an Industrialized, Urban and Global United States and Citizen Involvement. Also students study current news issues and relate these to the themes covered in

class. The goal is for each student to identify with historical events and understand how it impacts our world today.

Physical Education/Health 8

Eighth grade physical education and health is a combined course, in which a student will be enrolled for two of the three trimesters. This class will be divided into two sections - 8A and 8B. Both courses will be a mix of physical education and health.

The physical education portion will consist of physical fitness, the weight room and a variety of non-traditional sports, both team and individual. Teamwork and responsibility are stressed as well as participation in all aspects of the sport.

The health portion will be based in part on the curriculum of the Michigan Health Model. Lessons will include education on health and wellness, mental health and QPR, nutrition, tobacco, alcohol and drugs as well as CPR/AED and boaters safety which includes certification. Peer pressure, harassment and the importance of self-esteem will also be discussed.

The following are dress and participation requirements for physical education:

- Clothing worn to school may not be worn for class participation. All students must change daily for class unless stated otherwise by the teacher. Students must participate in order to pass this course.
- Indoor dress will consist of shorts or sweats, T-shirt or sweatshirt, athletic socks and athletic shoes with soles that will not mark the gym floor.
- Outdoor dress will consist of shorts, sweats or warm-up pants, a T-shirt or sweatshirt, athletic socks, and shoes.
- To be excused from any of these requirements, a written note from parents/guardian must be presented at the beginning of the class period. After two consecutive parental excuses, a doctor's excuse will be required.
- Without an excuse from participation, the student's daily grade will be zero.
- Students with asthma are asked to bring their inhalers daily with them to class. Please let the teacher know of any past injuries or allergies.

EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVES

All classes are one trimester unless otherwise noted.

Advanced Physical Education 8

This class is designed to be an extension of the required physical education class. It is designed for the student who is looking to go above and beyond the required physical education and enjoys being active. An emphasis is placed on development of leadership, sportsmanship, teamwork, and character through fitness activities, weight training, and international sports.

Art 1

This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of different media types as well as different approaches to making art. The projects will range from drawing and painting to sculpture and graphic design. This is an introductory course and as such is designed to help students to gain an appreciation for art and art making at all levels. Each lesson will correspond with an element of art history or contemporary art trends. A sketchbook is required for this course (9x12" preferred).

Art 2

This class is for students who have been successful in Art 1 and would like to further their exploration of Fine art. The class will start where you left off in Art and build on prior knowledge. This class will take place simultaneously along with Art 1 students but the expectation is that you will work independently of those students on a more advanced

project. Students will design their own projects based on a set of criteria and will begin to learn how to develop creative skills and problem-solving strategies. This class will be preparatory for taking art at the high school and the lessons will be designed to help you continue to fill your artistic portfolio with quality work. A sketchbook is required for this course (9x12" preferred).

Band 8 (FULL YEAR)
The Eighth Grade Band is an ensemble that provides students with learning and performance opportunities on wind and percussion instruments. The primary focus is on the development, continuation, and expansion of basic skills begun the previous years that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble contests, honor bands, and private lessons. Topics/skills covered include:
• Embouchure and Tone Development
• Counting, timing, and rhythmic development
• Reading and notation skills, including sight reading
• Scales
• Simple Music Theory
• Development of an extensive vocabulary of musical terms and symbols
• Ear training and listening skills
• Equipment care and maintenance
• Effective practice habits
• Basic Marching Skills
Students in the Eighth Grade Band perform in at least three concerts a year, the Memorial Day parade and District Band Festival. A concert schedule is passed out at the beginning of the year and attendance is mandatory. The full calendar and other information can always be found at: www.springlakebands.org

Business
This elective will introduce students to fundamental terminology and practical applications of economics, personal finance, and entrepreneurship. Students will participate online in simulated day trading at the stock market, as well as modules designed to improve their understanding of their own finances The course will build off one concept into the next, which will all culminate in a Shark Tank inspired final project in the last few weeks that tasks business groups to create a product or service and present to the class (the "sharks").

Choir (FULL YEAR)
Choir is a full year performing arts ensemble open to all 7th and 8th grade students who enjoy singing and music making, alone or with others. Through choir, students gain access to auditions for the MSVMA State Honors Choir program, as well as participation in Choral Festival and Solo & Ensemble Festivals. Choir members also have access to all Choir Cultural Outings (CCOs) appropriate to the middle school level. CCOs have included attending musicals, ballets, symphony concerts, operas and films. Students in middle school choir gain music literacy (reading music skills), vocal training for choral or solo tone, stage presence, confidence, camaraderie, cooperative achievement and cultural enrichment. Throughout the school year, the choir participates in several concerts. Choir members are required to attend these performances to the best of their ability. The performance calendar is created over the summer and is available the first full day of school in August. For an example of the middle school choir event calendar, please visit the SLPS website and click on Vocal Music.

Ceramics
During the course of this class we will learn basic clay building techniques including: hand built (pinch, coil, slab) as well as an introduction to wheel thrown pottery. We will also explore clay as

a sculptural material, creating both functional and non-functional pieces. While we will work primarily in clay, the class will also include drawing, painting and a variety of other decorative techniques. Each project will connect to a particular artist or culture in order to widen the students' understanding of pottery and clay throughout the world. There is a $10 materials fee associated with this class. A sketchbook is required for this class (9x12").

Computer Science Discoveries
This class will serve as an introductory computer science course, which will help students prepare to live and participate in our increasingly digital society, economy, and culture. Students will engage in hands-on activities and projects that will allow them to learn through discovery and inquiry. Topics covered in this course may include: problem-solving, building a website, designing a game, and coding. Through this course, students will be empowered to create authentic projects and engage with computer science as a means for creativity, communication, problem solving, and entertainment.

Creative Writing
This class will explore writing as a creative outlet. This class will provide students with the opportunity to write from numerous sources of inspiration including; fine art, film, music, personal experience, nature and much more. Students who love to express themselves through writing will have the opportunity to do so daily using a myriad of writing styles and formats. Students are expected to demonstrate and develop writing stamina, writing for long periods of time, and writing fluency, writing many words in one sitting. Revising and sharing work with peers will be an integral part of this class.

Graphic Design
This is an art class designed to help you to think creatively and to solve design challenges both independently and as a group. We will be making art primarily on our Chromebooks with touch style tablets. The class will cover some basic graphic design skills like layout, the Principles and Elements of Design as well as more advanced topics such as designing ad campaigns for virtual clients and product proposals for certain industries. The goal of the class will be to prepare you for a career in graphic design and to get you ready for the more advanced classes at the high school. Expect to be challenged in this class and to work hard towards learning this very necessary and unique form of art.

Guided Instruction (FULL YEAR)*
*Students may not voluntarily opt. to take this class. This class will be used as an opportunity to receive help on homework, finish tests/quizzes and to study, review or read ahead for their classes. Student progress will be monitored in all classes weekly. Organization, use of time, use of a planner, and other study skills will be reinforced in this class. In most instances, preference will be given to students with an IEP or 504 Plan.

Introduction to World Language
This twelve week introductory course is designed to give middle school students beginning exposure to the study of both the French and Spanish languages as well as the cultures in which they are spoken. Students will learn the language using the TPRS method, Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling. Students will attend six weeks of each language in this course.

Multimedia
This tech elective will introduce students to the world of moviemaking through multiple units and mini-projects centered on the following: shot composition; cuts and transitions; screenplay writing; and storyboard drafting. This is a hands-on elective that requires creativity and prowess with current technology (e.g phones, tablets, computers) to help piece together images and videos

together. The course will build off one concept into the next, which will all culminate in a "Film Festival" to end the trimester, where groups of students will work on a multiple minute long movie that will then be displayed for all in the class.

Spanish 8 (FULL YEAR)
8th Spanish is taught using a special method called "Teaching Proficiency Through Reading & Storytelling" which is a method of gestures and stories for comprehensible input in language. Students listen before speaking and learn vocabulary and grammar by example and usage. Students will acquire the Spanish language much as a child learns their first language. Gestures are used for vocabulary words, and then used in comprehensible stories that are easy to visualize, act out, and remember. Visualizing the stories in the Spanish language is a key component in the memory system. Student participation is a key ingredient to success in the course. Language and culture will be experienced through music, food, cultural experiences, and video clips. This course is equivalent to the high school Spanish 1 course. Students must have a passing grade in each trimester in order to advance to the following term. Passing Middle School Spanish 1 will allow students to move on to Spanish 2 in high school.

Study Skills 8
Study Skills is a class that teaches organization, communication, and study related skills. Students have time to work on assignments and prepare for assessments. Study Skills may be recommended or required for an individual student's program. Task completion, asking good questions, how points and grades work, and other school related issues will be discussed. Students are expected to bring work to class everyday and participate in classroom activities. They will need to demonstrate a successful organizational system for recording and completing daily assignments and maintaining materials. This class may be taken more than once unless there are schedule limitations.

Technical Education - Architecture
This tech course will include highly interactive group activities based on the NASA Engineering Design Process focusing on the world of engineering & architecture. Projects will focus on basic engineering principles including drafting and architecture. Students will research existing products and create their own designs, students will practice many of the skills needed for 21st century careers. Projects may include architectural drafting, load-bearing towers, Alternative Energy sources, and Carbon Dioxide Powered Dragsters. This course can be taken in both 7th and 8th grade. Students may also take twice in one year, moving on to more advanced coursework the second trimester.

Technical Education - Design
This tech course will include highly interactive group activities based on the NASA Engineering Design Process focusing on the world of engineering & design. Each activity is designed to emphasize collaborative learning, critical and analytical thinking, creative thinking, problem solving and experimental design. Through participation in this course's activities, students will practice many of the skills needed for 21st Century careers. Projects may include rockets, basic engineering principles, basic drafting skills, coding & computer programming, mousetrap cars, and egg crash vehicles. This course can be taken in both 7th and 8th grade. Students may also take twice in one year, moving on to more advanced coursework the second trimester.

Tri Choir
Tri Choir (TC) is a course open to all 7th and 8th students who want have FUN singing and making music with others. This single trimester course has been designed to give musically interested students an opportunity to sing while they explore other elective offerings. In TC, students will vocally explore different cultures and languages from around the world while also

enjoying our rich and uniquely American music, past and present. Students will gain music literacy (music reading skills), vocal tone quality, singing skills, confidence, stage presence, cooperation and camaraderie. At the end of the trimester, a concert will be presented to showcase the learnings and skills acquired. Students are required to participate in this performance. After TC, students may have the option to join the more advanced middle school choir, a traditional yearlong choir which participates in Choral Festival, Solo & Ensemble Festival and the Choir Cultural Outings (CCOs) appropriate for the middle school level.

Wild Reads

This class will provide students an opportunity to engage with a variety of texts that push their ability to read and interpret literature. Students will have a chance to explore the genres of graphic novel, poetry, realistic fiction, and historical fiction. Alongside these novels, students will gain valuable skills that are needed to become strong, successful readers. Students will have an opportunity to read within this class, and will learn to fall in love with reading.

Yearbook/Photography

Students in this class will create the annual middle school yearbook. This will involve taking photos, interviewing students and representing a typical school year in a fun and unique way. The students in this class will be expected to do work outside of class and to meet certain strict deadlines set by the yearbook company. It's a unique opportunity to create something that will be an archive for your time in Middle School. In addition to creating the yearbook you will also be introduced to the basics of photography. You will learn how to use a DSLR camera and how to take photos using full manual controls. You will learn how to achieve a variety of 'effects' using the camera including shallow depth of field and more artistic shots. The class will give you a basic knowledge of photography including how to adjust exposure, f-stop, ISO and shutter speed. Our school has several digital cameras, however if you have your own DSLR camera or access to a camera, that would be a welcome addition to the class. In the end you will have a portfolio of photographs to continue to add to as well as having contributed to creating the yearbook. This class would be a good pre-cursor for anyone considering taking Digital Photography at the high school level.

Extracurricular Activities

Not all extracurricular activities are offered every year.

Chess Club/ Dances/Enrichment Day/Environmental Club/E-Sports/First Priority/Intramural Sports/Math Club/Model U.N./Kindness Club/Ping Pong/Recreation Commission Activities/School Sports/Spelling Bee/Student Council/Writing Contests.

Athletic Programs Grades 6-8

Sports (Boys)

Cross Country (co-ed)	Fall
Football (8th only)	Fall
Basketball	Winter 1
Swimming	Winter 2
Wrestling	Winter 2
Track (co-ed)	Spring

Sports (Girls)

Cross Country (co-ed)	Fall
Volleyball	Fall
Swimming	Winter 1
Competitive Cheer	Winter 1
Basketball	Winter 2
Track (co-ed)	Spring

Athletic Physicals

All students who plan to participate in a sport must have a current and signed MHSAA physical form on file in the Athletic Office before practice starts. The exam date must be performed on or after April 15th to be valid for the following school year.

MHSAA physical forms may be picked up in the middle school office, in the high school athletic office, in the Superintendent's office or are available online at mhsaa.com.

In order to obtain a physical you may:

- go to your own doctor with the MHSAA physical form.
- go to a walk-in clinic with the MHSAA physical form.

Many sports not listed above are available to middle school students through a club setting.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW

Spring Lake Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age, height, weight, marital or family status, religion, military status ancestry, genetic information or any other legally protected category (collectively, "Protected Classes"), in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

Auxiliary aids and services are available for hearing and visually impaired upon request. For assistance call the Michigan Relay Center at (800) 649-3777 *(voice and TDD).*

The following office has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Spring Lake Public Schools
Director of Curriculum
345 Hammond Street
Spring Lake, MI 49456
616-846-5500