

OWEN J. ROBERTS MIDDLE SCHOOL



Course Selection Guide

**2025-2026
School Year**

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A STATEMENT OF CORE BELIEFS & VISION

The Owen J. Roberts Middle School, in partnership with the community, is committed to serving the unique needs of emerging adolescents by promoting a culture which balances academic excellence, social and emotional development, active life-long learning, and responsible global citizenship. Our school strives to foster a culture of pride – in both self and school. This concept of **PRIDE** serves as a beacon for the core beliefs which we teach and reinforce throughout our middle level program.

~PRIDE~

Promoting a caring environment

*I will treat others as I wish to be treated.
I will be nonjudgmental of others' opinions and differences.
I will stand up for what is right.*

Responsible for our learning

*I will always put forth my best effort.
I will contribute to a classroom environment that supports everyone's learning.
I will ask for help when I need it.*

Interacting collaboratively

*I will contribute positively toward a common goal.
I will value the input of my peers.
I will support the members of my team.*

Devoted to challenging our minds

*I will persevere when my learning activities are difficult.
I will work to my highest potential and not take the easy way out.
I will welcome new challenges and stretch my thinking.*

Excellence in all that we do

*I will set high and attainable goals for myself.
I will strive to produce quality work of which I can be proud.
I will work to make everyday a great day.*

7th GRADE PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION

CORE AREA REQUIRED COURSES – FULL YEAR

English Language Arts (ELA)	6 periods per cycle
Mathematics	6 periods per cycle
Science	6 periods per cycle
Social Studies	6 periods per cycle

SPECIAL AREA ROTATION

Health & Physical Education	3 periods per cycle – Full Year
-2 marking periods of swim, 1 Health/Fitness, and 1 Physical Education	
Exploring Technology	3 periods per cycle – Half Year
Family & Consumer Sciences	3 periods per cycle – Half Year

ELECTIVE COURSES

Elective courses offer students an opportunity to explore new areas of interest or to study a particular area in depth. Electives may also provide avenues to meet a child's specific needs. In the elective portion of the curriculum, courses are offered in the following areas: world language, music, English language arts, art, and physical education.

World Language	6 periods per cycle – Full Year
Creative Writing 7	3 periods per cycle – Half Year
Art Elective I	3 periods per cycle – Half Year
Art Elective II	3 periods per cycle – Half Year (possible to have 2 Art electives)
PE Elective	3 periods per cycle – Half Year
Swim Elective	3 periods per cycle – Half Year
STEAM Elective	3 periods per cycle – Half Year
Drama Elective	3 periods per cycle - Half Year
Band	3 periods per cycle – Full Year
Chorus	3 periods per cycle – Full Year
Orchestra	3 periods per cycle – Full Year
General Music	3 periods per cycle – Half Year

Note: Students are required to enroll in one music elective during their middle level experience – either 7th or 8th grade.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Course Code: 0171

English Language Arts 7

This rigorous course meets six periods in a six-day cycle and develops the seventh grade student as a reader, writer, speaker, and listener. The curriculum is aligned with PA State Standards for English Language Arts (ELA). Students explore how to improve both reading and writing through analysis of the styles and elements of a variety of texts, including fiction and nonfiction books, articles, poetry, drama, and primary source documents. Students work to expand vocabulary usage and comprehension through a variety of activities. Additionally, they build writing skills through the study of grammar and the exploration of a variety of writing genres, including literary analysis, essays, and creative writing.

Course Code: 0175 (15 periods/cycle)

Direct Instruction English Language Arts 7 & Reading

This course is designed to teach the seventh grade English Language Arts curriculum with modifications based upon a student's Individualized Educational Program (IEP). The student's IEP team determines entrance into this class. This course is supplemented by a scientifically research-based program to support students in the areas of reading and writing.

Course Code: 0173

English as a Second Language

ESL is a pull-out program based on each student's individual need for instruction in the English language. Support classes also allow students to receive additional help in their regular subjects.

Additional English Language Arts Learning Opportunities:

Course Code: 0970 (3 days/cycle)

ELA Intervention 7

This course, taught by a reading specialist, is an intervention program that explicitly teaches reading skills and strategies in order to improve fluency and comprehension of below-grade-level readers. Reading Support supplements the core-area program of Language Arts 7. The course focuses on effective strategies such as: finding central idea, summarizing, identifying text structure and various reading strategies that improve fluency and comprehension of both fiction and non-fiction text. Reading Support is intended for students who have previously had reading/literacy support in grades 5-6, and continue to struggle with comprehension of grade-level text. In addition, students who have not yet met proficiency levels on the English Language Arts standards may also be placed in this course.

Course Code: 0273 (3 days a cycle)

Achievement Lab

This course is a regular education course designed to assist students with the study skills needed to be successful in middle school. This course will teach students learning strategies in the areas of time management, planning and prioritizing, organization, and other necessary executive functioning skills to learn behaviors to be successful in middle school and beyond.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Course Code: 0271

World Cultures

With an emphasis on world cultures and geography, this regional studies course includes four major units: Ancient Greece and Rome, the Middle East, the Indian Subcontinent, and China. Within each unit of study, students will experience the culture, geography, history, religions, economics, and government of the indicated region. Extensions may also be made to include significant historical figures, current events, and problems in different areas of study. Student assessments include, but are not limited to projects, map work, essays, reports, and presentations. Technology is used to conduct independent and group research and problem-based learning. In order for students to be considered for Accelerated American History in 8th grade they **must** meet all prerequisites as outlined in the course description for the aforementioned course.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics at Owen J. Roberts School District follows a progression of courses that carefully build upon one another. Movement from one course to the next in the sequence requires mastery of the applicable concepts and Pennsylvania Standards.

Typical Course Sequence:

Grade 7	Grade 8
Algebra I	Geometry
7th Grade PreAlgebra	8th Grade Algebraic Concepts or Algebra I
Direct Instruction PreAlgebra	Direct Instruction Algebraic Concepts

Course Code: 0370

7th Grade Algebra I

Algebra I builds the foundation for all higher-level mathematics classes. Students use tables, graphs, rules, and variables to describe linear, quadratic, and exponential functions. Graphing calculators and Desmos will be used to explore functions. 7th Grade Algebra I is an Accelerated Course (not honors) where students are expected to master 7th, 8th, and Algebra I skills in one year. Students will take the Algebra I Keystone Exam at the end of this course. Students in this course should have strong math skills and have performed advanced on standardized and district assessments. Algebra I students are expected to maintain a minimum course grade of 83%. Course data and benchmark assessments will be reviewed at the midpoint of the school year. Students not meeting grade level expectations may be required to move from Algebra I to PreAlgebra for the remainder of the school year and complete Algebra I in Grade 8.

Prerequisites for Algebra I:

1. Advanced performance on district diagnostic assessment(s).
2. Final average of 94% or higher in mathematics during 6th grade year.
3. High probability of success on Grade 7 State Assessments (PVAAS).
4. The recommendation of the 6th grade mathematics teacher.

The [Math Placement Matrix](#) is used to guide 7th grade math placements.

Course Code: 0371

7th Grade PreAlgebra

This course covers the first portion of a traditional Algebra I course and 7th grade eligible content. In order to be successful, students must have a firm understanding of PreAlgebra concepts, as well as a strong work ethic. Topics studied will include tools of algebra (order of operations and basic properties with variables), solving multiple step equations and inequalities, proportions and rate of change, functions with tables and graphs, linear equations, and writing the equations of lines in different forms.

Course Code: 0372

Math Intervention 7

This course, which meets three times per six-day cycle, is a regular-education class designed for students who could benefit from additional mathematics instruction in order to perform at grade level. Math Intervention supplements the core-area program in 7th Grade PreAlgebra.. The class is designed to strengthen students' mathematics skills through additional time working individually and in small groups with a mathematics instructor on the core-area curriculum. Students not yet on grade level for mathematics, based on their grades, PSSA and benchmark assessment scores, may be placed in this course to further develop their math skills

Course Code: 0375

Direct Instruction PreAlgebra

This course is designed for students who need more intensive instruction in mathematics as determined by the IEP team. The pace of the class will be determined by individual student needs.

SCIENCE

Course Code: 0470

7th Grade Science (Advanced)

This advanced course provides an in-depth, interdisciplinary approach to life, physical, and earth sciences, emphasizing inquiry-based learning and real-world applications. Students will explore key scientific concepts such as cellular biology, atomic structure, energy transformations, and Earth's dynamic systems. Hands-on experiments, engineering challenges, and data analysis will foster critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Integration of technology, mathematics, and scientific modeling will enhance understanding, preparing students for higher-level science coursework.

Prerequisites: This course is tailored for higher achieving students who have demonstrated not only an interest in science but have performed above average in reading comprehension and mathematics skills as assessed by performance data collected by the district. (LinkIt!, PVAAS, and Orleans Hanna)

Course Code: 0471
7th Grade Science

This course introduces students to fundamental concepts in life, physical, and earth sciences through hands-on investigations and real-world connections. Topics include cell processes, atomic structure, energy, and Earth's changing systems. Students will develop scientific thinking skills through experiments, data collection, and analysis. Emphasis is placed on inquiry-based learning, collaboration, and applying science to everyday life, preparing students for future science courses.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Eligible students may begin the formal study of a World Language in the 7th grade. Students will complete the introductory level course in the designated language in two parts – Part I in grade 7 and Part II in grade 8. Students beginning a world language in the 7th grade are making a **two-year commitment** to that language. *These courses do not earn credit for high school requirements.* Students who are not yet ready to begin a world language in the 7th grade will have the opportunity to do so at the 8th grade level or high school level.

Course Code: 0671
French I – Part I

In the first half of this two-year French course, students will begin to focus on developing the linguistic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Emphasis is placed upon basic grammatical structures and vocabulary development. Cultural aspects of the contemporary Francophone world are also featured.

Course Code: 0672
Latin I – Part I

In the first half of this two-year Latin course, students will begin to explore the development of basic Latin vocabulary, comprehension, and grammatical structure. Students will also discuss mythology, culture, and the history and geography of Greece and Rome.

Course Code: 0673
Spanish I – Part I

In the first half of this two-year Spanish course, students will begin to focus on developing the linguistic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Emphasis is placed upon basic grammatical structures and vocabulary development. Cultural aspects of the contemporary Hispanic world are also featured.

Course Code: 0674**German I – Part I**

In the first half of this two-year German course, students will begin to focus on developing the linguistic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Emphasis is placed upon basic grammatical structures and vocabulary development. Cultural aspects of the contemporary German world are also featured.

ELECTIVES

All elective classes meet three times per cycle. Some elective courses run the full year, while other courses run for half of the year. Elective courses that are available to both grade levels may be scheduled cross-grade as necessary.

Course Code: 0917 (3 days/cycle)**Band 7 – Full Year**

Students enrolled in Band 7 meet in small groups during regularly scheduled class periods, and also participate in full band sectionals as scheduled by the instructor. Each school year begins with Marching Band in the summer and fall. Students in Band 7 are required to participate in various concert events throughout the school year. Winter concert music begins in October and spring concert music begins in January. Students are assessed through performance, practice logs, and seating auditions.

Course Code: 0930 (3 days/cycle)**Chorus – Full Year**

Chorus is a non-auditioned group that meets during regularly scheduled class periods. Students also participate in sectionals as scheduled by the instructor. Students in Chorus learn to read music and how to sing using correct breath support and tone quality. Students in Chorus are required to participate in various concert events throughout the school year.

Course Code: 0948 (3 days/cycle)**Orchestra – Full Year**

Students enrolled in Orchestra meet in small groups during regularly scheduled class periods, and also participate in sectionals as scheduled by the instructor. Students in Orchestra are required to participate in various concert events throughout the school year. Students are assessed through performance, practice logs, and seating auditions.

Please Note – Students who wish to enroll in multiple performance groups (i.e. Band 7 and Chorus 7) may do so during a single block of three periods. Students who utilize this option will share time between the programs as arranged by the instructors.

Course Code: 0786 (3 days/cycle)

General Music – Half Year

This course introduces students to the history of music through thoughtful discussion, playing instruments, and discovery. Students will be provided with an opportunity to develop skills utilizing the piano keyboards. Students will work on appropriate music that is self-paced and no prior instrumental experience is necessary.

Course Code: 0883 – Half Year (3 days/cycle)

STEAM Applications

Introduction to STEAM Applications is an experience for students to utilize creativity and inventive thinking through a focus on various **Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics** topics. Students will be introduced to scientific thinking through various character building activities, decision-making simulations, and skills applications in real-life scenarios. Students will strive to develop the technical foundation, vocabulary, and skills needed to become successful in the 21st century workforce. This is a computer-based course. The four major units of study are; Introduction to Engineering, Hockey Scholar, Graphic Design and Problem Based Exploration.

Course Code: 0892 (3 days/cycle) and 0894 (3 days/cycle)

Art Elective I – Half Year

Art Elective II - Half Year

The **Art I** and **Art II** electives are courses that engage middle school students in critical thinking skills through creative problem-solving and hands-on experiences. The elements and principles of art are presented through a variety of tools, processes, and materials that include **2D, 3D, crafts/fibers, and digital** art experiences. Full participation is expected, as these courses may serve as the foundation for students who wish to transition into the High School art courses. Students gain confidence in their artistic abilities and foster a lifelong connection to visual expression.

*****Each of the Art I and Art II Electives*** feature a separate range of projects, themes, tools, experiences, and materials providing students the opportunities to develop new skills and techniques.**

- **2D Design:** Drawing, Painting, Collage, Printmaking, Graphic Design, etc.
- **3D Design:** Relief Sculpture, Mixed Media, Sculpture-in-the-round, Wire, Mixed Media, Paper Sculptures, etc.
- **Crafts/Fibers:** Needlepoint, Sewing, Weaving, Needle Felting, Puppets, etc.
- **Digital:** Process Portfolio, Photo Editing and Collage, Painting, GIFs, Augmented Reality, etc.

Course Code: 0571 (3 days/cycle)

PE Elective – Half Year

This course will provide students with an opportunity to be involved in a variety of collaborative experiences throughout the school year. Activities will vary with the season and may include handball, volleyball, basketball, floor hockey, badminton, soccer, and various lifelong fitness activities. Students may enroll in this course in both the 7th and 8th grades

Course Code: 0572 (3 days/cycle)

PE Swim Elective – Half Year

Swim elective students will utilize swimming skills to perform a variety of activities including (but not limited to), water polo, volleyball, basketball, water games, relay races, Triathlons and water aerobics.

Course Code: 0891 (3 days/cycle)

Creative Writing – Half Year

Creative Writing is an elective class that provides enrichment opportunities for writers. Students who would enjoy the opportunity to explore the art of creative writing may elect this course. Creative Writing meets three days in the six-day cycle for one semester (approximately 45 class periods). This course is a supplement to the core English Language Arts class. The Creative Writing elective is designed to encourage students to develop a personal writing portfolio that explores a variety of writing genres, including poetry, short stories, memoirs, and novels. Students are encouraged to develop authentic audiences for their writing through publication and writing-contest participation. Students may elect this course once in seventh grade and once in eighth grade if they choose. Students electing this class should be grade-level, proficient writers with a desire to develop their own creative writing ability.

Course Code: 0890 (3 days/cycle)

Public Speaking – Half Year

The OJRMS Public Speaking elective outlines and specifies lessons/activities that will empower students to communicate effectively, confidently, and persuasively in front of an audience. Activities are diverse and rigorous designed to teach the art of crafting compelling speeches, conquering stage fright, and engaging an audience. At the conclusion of the semester-long elective course, students will discover their inner voice and unleash their potential as confident and influential communicators!

Course Code: 0888 (3 days/cycle)

Drama – Half Year

The OJRMS Drama Scope and Sequence for Grades 7 and 8 outlines and specifies lessons/activities designed to introduce students to theater arts. Activities are diverse, rigorous, and designed to teach students about performance and production. Topics include the foundations of theater, improvisation, scripted performance, and production.

8th GRADE PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION

CORE AREA REQUIRED COURSES – FULL YEAR

English Language Arts 8 (ELA)	6 periods per cycle
Mathematics	6 periods per cycle
Science	6 periods per cycle
American History	6 periods per cycle

SPECIAL AREA ROTATION

Health & Physical Education -1 Health, 1 Fitness, and 2 Physical Education	3 periods per cycle – Full Year
Applied Technology	3 periods per cycle – Half Year
Art	3 periods per cycle – Half Year

ELECTIVE COURSES

Elective courses offer students an opportunity to explore new areas of interest or to study a particular area in depth. Electives may also provide avenues to meet a child's specific needs. In the elective portion of the curriculum, courses are offered in the following areas: world language, music, language arts, art, and physical education.

World Language	6 periods per cycle – Full Year
STEAM Applications	3 periods per cycle – Half Year
Public Speaking	3 periods per cycle - Half Year
Drama	3 periods per cycle - Half Year
Creative Writing 8	3 periods per cycle – Half Year
Art Elective I	3 periods per cycle – Half Year
Art Elective II	3 periods per cycle – Half Year (possible to have 2 Art electives)
PE Elective	3 periods per cycle – Half Year
Swim Elective	3 periods per cycle – Half Year
Band	3 periods per cycle – Full Year
Chorus	3 periods per cycle – Full Year
Orchestra	3 periods per cycle – Full Year
General Music	3 periods per cycle – Half Year

Note: Students are required to enroll in one music elective during their middle level experience – either 7th or 8th grade.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Course Code: 0180 (9 periods/cycle)

Honors English Language Arts 8

Students who are advanced-level readers and writers may consider the Honors English Language Arts 8 program. This rigorous course meets six times in the six-day cycle. While the content of this course is similar to that of the English Language Arts class, students in the Honors program are expected to master content at an accelerated and more independent pace. This acceleration in the core content allows Honors students to explore their love for English Language Arts with reading and writing enrichment opportunities. This course is designed to challenge students to be critical readers, creative thinkers, effective communicators, and well-organized, independent learners.

Prerequisites: Students wishing to participate in the Honors English Language Arts 8 program must have a final average of 95% or above in 7th grade Language Arts **and** a 92% or above average on writing benchmarks. Additionally, students must meet **one** of the following criteria: either advanced on ELA PSSAs or advanced on *both* the reading and writing CDTs. Additional data verifying that the student is an advanced-level reader and writer will be considered for placement in this course and require a teacher recommendation.

Course Code: 0181 (9 periods/cycle)

English Language Arts 8

This course meets six periods in a six-day cycle and develops the 8th grade student as a reader, writer, speaker, and listener. The curriculum is aligned with PA State Standards for English Language Arts (ELA). Students explore how to improve both reading and writing through analysis of the styles and elements of a variety of texts, including fiction and nonfiction books, articles, poetry, drama, and primary source documents. Students work to expand vocabulary usage and comprehension through a variety of activities. Additionally, they build writing skills through the study of grammar and the exploration of a variety of writing genres, including literary analysis, essays, and creative writing.

Course Code: 0185 (15 periods/cycle)

Direct Instruction Language Arts 8 & Reading

This course is designed to teach the eighth grade English Language Arts curriculum with modifications based upon a student's Individualized Educational Program. The student's IEP team determines entrance into this class. This course is supplemented by a scientifically research-based program to support students in the areas of reading and writing.

Course Code: 0183**English as a Second Language**

ESL is a pull-out program based on each student's individual need for instruction in the English Language. Support classes also allow students to receive additional help in their regular subjects.

Additional English Language Arts Learning Opportunities:**Course Code: 0980 (3 days/cycle)****ELA Intervention 8**

This course, taught by a reading specialist, is an intervention program that explicitly teaches reading skills and strategies in order to improve fluency and comprehension of below-grade level readers. Reading Support supplements the core-area program of Language Arts 8. The course focuses on effective strategies such as: finding central idea, summarizing, identifying text structure and various reading strategies that improve fluency and comprehension of both fiction and non-fiction text. Reading Support is intended for students who have previously had reading/literacy support in grades 5-7, and continue to struggle with comprehension of grade-level text. In addition, students who have not yet met proficiency levels on the English Language Arts standards may also be placed in this course.

Course Code: 0283 (3 days a cycle)**Achievement Lab**

This course is a regular education course designed to assist students with the study skills needed to be successful in middle school. This course will teach students learning strategies in the areas of time management, planning and prioritizing, organization, and other necessary executive functioning skills to learn behaviors to be successful in middle school and beyond.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Course Code: 0280**American History (Enrichment)**

Students in the accelerated section of 8th grade American History will experience a faster and more compacted delivery of the history content, with the addition of several enrichment opportunities and independent study projects throughout the year. Students in this section will be expected to master key skills at a faster pace in order to focus on the critical thinking skills that will be emphasized to a greater extent in this class. Students will be immersed in the most up-to-date technology available, and will be expected to become proficient and literate in the use of that technology. Students will be

expected to display a certain level of responsibility which will allow them to complete some work outside of class. This will be a highly challenging course.

Prerequisites: Students wishing to participate in the accelerated section of American History **must** have a final average of 95% or above in seventh grade World Cultures. Because the rigorous pace of the course and work expectation will require students to be organized, highly motivated, and strong readers, writers, and analytical thinkers, students will also be required to have a final average of at least 92% in Language Arts class.

Course Code: 0281

American History

Eighth grade American History is a skills-based curriculum that focuses on the early years of the United States. The course is divided into four main units, each approximately one marking period in length. The first unit is a summary review of the American Revolution, followed by an exploration and analysis of the writing of our Constitution and the conflicts and compromises that resulted in our early years. The second unit examines America's westward expansion, as we added territories that led us to eventually stretch across the continent from ocean to ocean. The third unit focuses on the growth of industry and big business in the United States, and the fourth unit examines the social reform movements and sectional differences between regions of the United States that culminated in the Civil War. Every unit of study focuses on developing a handful of key skill areas that will help students succeed in high school and the world beyond – information fluency, self-direction, creativity, collaboration, and communication. Students will be immersed in the most up-to-date technology available, and will be expected to become proficient and literate in the use of that technology. A high level of technology integration is used to help students become effective researchers as they explore different perspectives on both historical and relevant current topics.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics at Owen J. Roberts School District follows a progression of courses that carefully build upon one another. Movement from one course to the next course in the sequence requires mastery of the applicable concepts and Pennsylvania Standards.

Typical Course Sequence:

Grade 7	Grade 8
Algebra I	Geometry
7th Grade PreAlgebra	8th Grade Algebraic Concepts or Algebra I
Direct Instruction PreAlgebra	Direct Instruction Algebraic Concepts

Course Code: 0380

Geometry

This high school level course examines the nature of Euclidean Geometry with an emphasis on both inductive and deductive reasoning. Properties of geometric figures will be developed and proven. Additional topics of exploration include parallelism, congruence, similarity, surface area and volume, and coordinate geometry.

Prerequisites for Geometry in Grade 8:

1. Final average of 83% or higher in Algebra I
2. Advanced or proficient score on the Algebra I Keystone.
3. The recommendation of the 7th grade mathematics teacher.

Students who complete Algebra I, but do not meet the above stated criteria will enroll in 8th Grade Algebra I.

Course Code: 0381

Algebra 1

This course consists of the second half of a rigorous study of Algebra I and focuses on preparing a foundation for further study in mathematics. Students will study systems of linear equations, exponential functions, polynomials, and factoring. Quadratic, rational, and radical functions will also be explored and studied. Students will use graphing calculators to look more in depth at various functions. Students will be required to take the Keystone Examination in Algebra I upon the completion of this course. Students in this course should have strong math skills and have performed advanced on standardized and district assessments. Algebra I students are expected to maintain a minimum course grade of 83%. Course data and benchmark assessments will be reviewed at the midpoint of the school year. Students not meeting grade level expectations may be required to move from Algebra I to Algebraic Concepts for the remainder of the school year and complete Algebra I in Grade 9. *Being recommended for Honors Geometry in grade 9 will be based on performance on district benchmark assessments and state assessment scores.*

Prerequisites for Algebra I in Grade 8:

1. Advanced performance on district diagnostic assessment(s).
2. Final average of 83% or higher in mathematics during 7th grade year.
3. High probability of success on Grade 8 State Assessments (PVAAS).
4. The recommendation of the 7th grade mathematics teacher.

The [Math Placement Matrix](#) is used to guide 8th grade math placements.

Course Code: 0382**8th Grade Algebraic Concepts**

This course will be a continuation of concepts introduced in PreAlgebra. This course covers the first portion of a traditional Algebra I course. In order to be successful, students must have a firm understanding of PreAlgebra, as well as a strong work ethic. Topics studied will include tools of algebra (order of operations and basic properties with variables,) solving multi-step equations and inequalities, proportions and rate of change, functions with tables and graphs, linear equations, and writing the equations of lines in different forms. Algebra 1 is followed by Geometry, Algebra 2, and Pre-Calculus.

Course Code: 0384**Math Intervention 8**

This course, which meets three times per six-day cycle, is a regular-education class designed for students who could benefit from additional mathematics instruction in order to perform at grade level. Math Lab supplements the core-area program in 8th Grade Algebraic Concepts. The class is designed to strengthen students' mathematics skills through additional time working individually and in small groups with a mathematics instructor on the core-area curriculum. Students not yet on grade level for mathematics, based on their grades, PSSA and benchmark assessment scores, may be placed in this course to further develop their math skills

Course Code: 0385**Direct Instruction Algebraic Concepts**

This course is designed for students who need more intensive instruction in mathematics as determined by the IEP team. The curriculum is focused on algebraic concepts and skills. The pace of the class will be determined by individual student needs.

SCIENCE

Course Code: 0480**8th Grade Science (Enrichment)**

Concepts of physical and chemical science will be integrated with mathematics as part of this honors-level course. Students will conduct independent reading and research on relevant topics. In addition to standard evaluative criteria, student assessment may include individual and group discussion, oral presentations, written laboratory reports and research, and an applied scientific research project utilizing technology.

Prerequisites: Must have final test averages of 92% in Honors Life Science and 95% in Life Science, recommendation by the seventh grade science teacher, and mastery of the following mathematics skills as documented by the recommendation of the seventh grade mathematics teacher:

- Use formulas to solve various problems
- Determine rates of change
- Determine relations, write functions, and create graphs
- Use ratios, proportions, and percentages to solve problems
- Determine probability of events (dependent and independent)
- Solve single, two-step, and multistep equations
- Use of dimensional analysis for unit conversions

Course Code: 0481

8th Grade Science

The course will explore physical and chemical science. Areas of study include energy, matter, and the laws governing motion. Units of instruction are tied together with an examination of the interactions between chemical and physical laws.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Eligible students who began the formal study of a World Language in the 7th grade will continue their study of that same language as 8th grade students in part two of the course. *These courses do not earn credit for high school requirements.*

Please note: Students wishing to switch the language that they are studying may do so in the ninth grade. Also, students who did not begin the study of a world language at the Middle School may do so at the High School.

Course Code: 0681

French I – Part II

In this second year of a two-year French I course, students will continue developing the linguistic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Emphasis is placed upon basic grammatical structures and vocabulary development. Cultural aspects of the contemporary Francophone world are also featured.

Course Code: 0682

Latin I – Part II

In this second year of a two-year Latin I course, students will continue exploring the development of Latin vocabulary, comprehension, and basic grammatical structure. Students will also discuss mythology, culture, and the history and geography of Greece and Rome.

Course Code: 0683

Spanish I – Part II

In this second year of a two-year Spanish I course, students will continue developing the linguistic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Emphasis is placed upon basic grammatical structures and vocabulary development. Cultural aspects of the contemporary Hispanic world are also featured.

Course Code: 0685

German I – Part II

In this second year of a two-year German I course, students will continue developing the linguistic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Emphasis is placed upon basic grammatical structures and vocabulary development. Cultural aspects of the contemporary German world are also featured.

ELECTIVES

All elective classes meet three times per cycle. Some elective courses run the full year, while other courses run for half of the year. Elective courses that are available to both grade levels may be scheduled cross-grade as necessary.

Course Code: 0918 (3 days/cycle)

Band 8 – Full Year

Students enrolled in Band 8 meet in small groups during regularly scheduled class periods, and also participate in full band sectionals as scheduled by the instructor. Each school year begins with Marching Band in the summer and fall. Students in Band 8 are required to participate in various concert events throughout the school year. Winter concert music begins in October and spring concert music begins in January. Students are assessed through performance, practice logs, and seating auditions.

Course Code: 0930 (3 days/cycle)

Chorus – Full Year

Chorus is a non-auditioned group that meets during regularly scheduled class periods. Students also participate in sectionals as scheduled by the instructor. Students in Chorus learn to read music and how to sing using correct breath support and tone quality. Students in Chorus are required to participate in various concert events throughout the school year.

Course Code: 0948 (3 days/cycle)

Orchestra – Full Year

Students enrolled in Orchestra meet in small groups during regularly scheduled class periods, and also participate in sectionals as scheduled by the instructor. Students in Orchestra are required to participate in various concert events throughout the school year. Students are assessed through performance, practice logs, and seating auditions.

Please Note – Students who wish to enroll in multiple performance groups (i.e. Band 8 and Chorus 8) may do so during a single block of three periods. Students who utilize this option will share time between the programs as arranged by the instructors.

Course Code: 0883 – Half Year (3 days/cycle)

STEAM Applications

Introduction to STEAM Applications is an experience for students to utilize creativity and inventive thinking through a focus on various **Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics** topics. Students will be introduced to scientific thinking through various character building activities, decision-making simulations, and skills applications in real-life scenarios. Students will strive to develop the technical foundation, vocabulary, and skills needed to become successful in the 21st century workforce. This is a computer-based course. The four major units of study are; Introduction to Engineering, Hockey Scholar, Graphic Design and Problem Based Exploration.

Course Code: 0786 (3 days/cycle)

General Music – Half Year

This course introduces students to the history of music through thoughtful discussion, playing instruments, and discovery. Students will be provided with an opportunity to develop skills utilizing the piano keyboards. Students will work on appropriate music that is self-paced and no prior instrumental experience is necessary.

Course Code: 0892 (3 days/cycle) and 0894 (3 days/cycle)

Art Elective I – Half Year

Art Elective II - Half Year

The **Art I** and **Art II** electives are courses that engage middle school students in critical thinking skills through creative problem-solving and hands-on experiences. The elements and principles of art are presented through a variety of tools, processes, and materials that include **2D, 3D, crafts/fibers, and digital** art experiences. Full participation is expected, as these courses may serve as the foundation for students who wish to transition into the High School art courses. Students gain confidence in their artistic abilities and foster a lifelong connection to visual expression.

*****Each of the Art I and Art II Electives*** feature a separate range of projects, themes, tools, experiences, and materials providing students the opportunities to develop new skills and techniques.**

- **2D Design:**Drawing, Painting, Collage, Printmaking, Graphic Design, etc.
- **3D Design:**Relief Sculpture, Mixed Media, Sculpture-in-the-round, Wire, Mixed Media, Paper Sculptures, etc.
- **Crafts/Fibers:**Needlepoint, Sewing, Weaving, Needle Felting,Puppets, etc.
- **Digital:**Process Portfolio, Photo Editing and Collage, Painting, GIFs, Augmented Reality, etc.

Course Code: 0571 (3 days/cycle)

PE Elective – Half Year

This course will provide students with an opportunity to be involved in a variety of collaborative experiences throughout the school year. Activities will vary with the season and may include handball, volleyball, basketball, floor hockey, badminton, soccer, and various lifelong fitness activities. Students may enroll in this course in both the 7th and 8th grades.

Course Code: 0572 (3 days/cycle)

PE Swim Elective – Half Year

Swim elective students will utilize swimming skills to perform a variety of activities including (but not limited to), water polo, volleyball, basketball, water games, relay races, Triathlons and water aerobics.

Course Code: 0891 (3 days/cycle)

Creative Writing – Half Year

Creative Writing is an elective class that provides enrichment opportunities for writers. Students who would enjoy the opportunity to explore the art of creative writing may elect this course. Creative Writing meets three days in the six-day cycle for one semester (approximately 45 class periods). This course is a supplement to the core English Language Arts class. The Creative Writing elective is designed to encourage students to develop a personal writing portfolio that explores a variety of writing genres, including poetry, short stories, memoirs, and novels. Students are encouraged to develop authentic audiences for their writing through publication and writing-contest participation. Students may elect this course once in seventh grade and once in eighth grade if they choose. Students electing this class should be proficient, grade-level writers with a desire to develop their own creative writing ability.

Course Code: 0890 (3 days/cycle)

Public Speaking – Half Year

The OJRMS Public Speaking elective outlines and specifies lessons/activities that will empower students to communicate effectively, confidently, and persuasively in front of an audience. Activities are diverse and rigorous designed to teach the art of crafting compelling speeches, conquering stage fright, and engaging an audience. At the conclusion of the semester-long elective course, students will discover their inner voice and unleash their potential as confident and influential communicators!

Course Code: 0888 (3 days/cycle)

Drama – Half Year

The OJRMS Drama Scope and Sequence for Grades 7 and 8 outlines and specifies lessons/activities designed to introduce students to theater arts. Activities are diverse, rigorous, and designed to teach students about performance and production. Topics include the foundations of theater, improvisation, scripted performance, and production.

GIFTED SUPPORT

Students receiving Gifted Support services via a GIEP (Gifted Individualized Education Plan) will be supported in their regular classrooms to ensure specially designed instruction is relevant to their current learning and to provide those students with levels of challenge that are appropriate for their continued growth. Supports include adapted assignments/rubrics and enrichment that provide differentiated instruction but not “extra work.” The Gifted Support teacher consults with the regular education teachers, as well as students, to craft activities suited to individual needs and interests. Feedback for these activities is provided by the classroom teachers. Students will also have an opportunity to meet with the Gifted Support teacher and to collaborate with peers during scheduled Gifted Seminar sessions.

GIEP meetings are held annually in order to review and refine the program for each student who is receiving gifted support. Parents of 7th grade students will be contacted at the start of the school year to arrange a time for the GIEP meeting and to review the gifted support program.