

CIRCLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR
CIRCLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
Curriculum Guide



 316.541.2277

 USD375.ORG

 901 Main Street, Towanda, KS 67144

2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR
Middle School Administration



Tony Holguin
Principal
tholguin@usd375.org

John Bumm
Assistant Principal
Athletic Director
jbumm@usd375.org

Molly Marshall
Counselor
mmarshall@usd375.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Middle School Courses

- 5 - English Language Arts
- 6 - Science
- 5 - Math
- 6 - Social Sciences
- 7 - Physical Education
- 7 - Health
- 7 - Technology
- 8 - Business
- # - Music
- # - Art
- # - Electives

GPA

Grade	Range	Points



REQUIRED COURSES

7th Grade Courses

FALL

7th Grade Math
7th Grade ELA
7th Grade Science
Geography & Kansas History
Physical Education
Computer Applications
Elective
Elective

SPRING

7th Grade Math
7th Grade ELA
7th Grade Science
Geography & Kansas History
Physical Education
PLTW Design & Modeling
Elective
Elective

8th Grade Courses

FALL

8th Grade Math
8th Grade ELA
8th Grade Science
Civics & American History
Health **OR** PLTW Flight & Space
Intro to Technology
Elective
Elective

SPRING

8th Grade Math
8th Grade ELA
8th Grade Science
Civics & American History
Health **OR** PLTW Flight & Space
Business Essentials
Elective
Elective



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

7TH GRADE ELA

2 Semester Course

Prerequisite: None

Required

Amplify ELA is a digital curriculum that helps kids in grades 6–8 read and understand complex texts that encourage them to grapple with interesting ideas and find relevance for themselves. Students using Amplify ELA read text passages closely, interpret what they find, discuss their thinking with peers, and develop their ideas in writing. We cover five units ranging from narrative writing, the memoir *The Red Scarf Girl*, the play *A Raisin in the Sun*, a non-fiction brain science unit, and a poetry and Poe unit.

8TH GRADE ELA

2 Semester Course

Prerequisite: None

Required

Amplify ELA is a digital curriculum that helps kids in grades 6–8 read and understand complex texts that encourage them to grapple with interesting ideas and find relevance for themselves. Students using Amplify ELA read text passages closely, interpret what they find, discuss their thinking with peers, and develop their ideas in writing. We cover five units ranging from several non-fiction narratives, the graphic novel version of *Frankenstein*, an introduction to Shakespeare, and a Holocaust unit.

MATH

7TH GRADE MATH

2 Semester Course

Prerequisite: None

Required

This course is intended to teach students the math concepts set forth by the Kansas State Math Standards for 7th grade. Instruction will be focused on developing an understanding of the curriculum that has been designated for 7th graders. Topics will include but are not limited to integers, rational numbers, graphing, ratios, expressions, functions, equations, and statistics.

8TH GRADE PRE-ALGEBRA

2 Semester Course

Prerequisite: None

Not Required

This course is intended to teach students the math concepts set forth by the Kansas State Math Standards for 8th grade. Instruction will be focused on developing an understanding of the curriculum that has been designated for 8th graders. Topics will include but are not limited to integers, rational numbers, graphing, ratios, expressions, functions, equations, and statistics.

ALGEBRA I

2 Semester Course

Prerequisite: None

Required

This course is intended to teach students the math concepts set forth by the Kansas State Math Standards for Algebra I. This course provides a comprehensive teaching of the fundamental aspects of problem solving. Major topics of study include: evaluation of algebraic equations, exponent rules, exponential functions and manipulation, polynomials, solving and graphing linear equations, solving and graphing two variable inequalities, solving systems of equations, radicals, word problems, solving and graphing quadratic equations, and factoring.



SCIENCE

7TH GRADE SCIENCE

2 Semester Course

Prerequisite: None

Required

In 7th-grade science, students will explore key concepts in Earth and Space Science and Physics. These topics include Newton's Laws, waves, energy, seasons, stars, eclipses, etc. through hands-on investigations, real-world examples, and engaging activities. The course is designed to help students understand the natural world and the laws that govern it.

8TH GRADE SCIENCE

2 Semester Course

Prerequisite: None

Required

This course wraps up Middle School sciences. Students will explore topics in Chemistry including the structure and function of Atoms and the differences between Chemical & Physical Changes. Students will also explore the structure and function of Cells, Cell Reproduction and Genetics. Students will develop a better understanding of these topics through labs and lab write ups.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

GEOGRAPHY & KANSAS HISTORY

1 Semester Course

7th Grade

Required

Geography: The purpose of this course is to develop knowledge of the world around us. The geography components of this course revolve around the five fundamental themes of geography. Students will apply their knowledge of the five themes to everyday life and how their choices affect the world around them.

Kansas History: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to early native inhabitants, European explorers, Bleeding Kansas, the creation of the state of Kansas, to Kansas' involvement in the Civil War.

CIVICS & AMERICAN HISTORY

2 Semester Course

8th Grade

Required

In Civics and American History, students will evaluate the historical time periods in American history from 1787 to 1900. Key concepts will include government, political leaders, key events, and conflict and resolution.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

7TH GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

2 Semester Course

7th Grade

Required

The purpose of the class is to encourage healthy lifestyles and promote lifelong health and fitness. Students will receive the knowledge and skills necessary to be active and lifelong movers. *Course activities include:* Orientation, Football, Fitness games, Basketball, Volleyball, Team Handball, Pickleball, Badminton, and others.

Welcome to PLTW Design & Modeling. The purpose of this course is to introduce students into the basics of engineering. You will discuss the connections of STEM and learn about the design process. Along the way you perform some hands-on activities/projects and possibly get the opportunity to 3D print a design of yours.

INTRO TO TECHNOLOGY

1 Semester Course

8th Grade

Required

Welcome to Intro to Industrial Technology. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the industrial arts and basic information for the industrial arts classes at the high school level. You will work on your measurement skills and learn about drafting techniques along with tool safety. Throughout the course you will use a variety of technology to create, design, and build.

HEALTH

HEALTH & FITNESS

1 Semester Course

8th Grade

Required

The purpose of the class is to encourage and promote lifelong health and fitness. Students will comprehend concepts related to health and fitness, be able to analyze various influences on health behaviors, have the ability to access valid information, use interpersonal communication, decision making and goal setting skills to enhance health and reduce risks as well as demonstrate the ability to advocate in their schools and their communities for health. Students will also engage in various physical fitness activities.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

1 Semester Course

7th Grade

Required

This course is designed to provide a basic overview of current business and information systems and trends and to introduce students to the basic skills and foundations required for today's business environments. We will be working with Google Applications and online keyboarding. Emphasis is placed on developing proficiency with touch keyboarding, fundamental computer applications, and Internet basics so that they may be used as communication tools for enhancing personal and workplace proficiency in an information-based society.

PLTW FLIGHT & SPACE

1 Semester Course

8th Grade

Required

Welcome to PLTW Flight and Space. Get ready to design, prototype, and test models to learn about the science of flight and what it takes to travel and live in space. You will solve real-world aviation and space challenges and plan a mission to Mars!



BUSINESS

BUSINESS ESSENTIALS

1 Semester Course

8th Grade

Required

Business Essentials introduces students to the world of business and helps prepare them for the economic roles of consumer, worker, and citizen in an ever changing world through effective oral and written communication, agility and adaptability, collaboration and leading by influence. This course serves as background for accessing and analyzing information about business courses students may take in high school and in higher education. Business Essentials will promote curiosity and imagination, assisting students with consumer decision making, prepare them for future employment, and help them effectively perform their responsibilities as a citizen.



8TH GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

1 Semester Course
8th Grade
Elective

The purpose of the class is to encourage healthy lifestyles and promote lifelong health and fitness. Students will receive the knowledge and skills necessary to be active and lifelong movers. Course activities include: Orientation, Football, Fitness games, Basketball, Volleyball, Team Handball, Pickleball, Badminton, and others.

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

1 Semester Course
Elective

This class is designed to teach the fundamentals of strength and conditioning. The main focus of this class is to teach students how to safely move their bodies to prevent injuries and for maximum efficiency: to promote the greatest amount of speed, strength, and power. We will incorporate a variety of exercises designed to increase mobility and flexibility. Students will understand the importance of core strength and range of motion and how these affect power and speed.

MAKER SPACE

1 Semester Course
7th or 8th Grade
Elective

Welcome to Maker Space. The purpose of this course is to give the self-motivated student an opportunity to test their knowledge and skill to build or design anything they'd like to attempt within reason of our capabilities. Students will work on personal projects or projects for a faculty member in the building be it fixing furniture or designing vinyl cutouts for teacher's rooms.

PLTW ROBOTICS

1 Semester Course
Elective

Welcome to PLTW Automation and Robotics (AR). Students will explore robotics and automation as they take on the role of interns, and work in teams to create prototypes to meet the needs of clients. They build and analyze mechanical systems and automate them with programmed input and output devices.



BAND

2 Semester Course
Elective

Band is the place to be for music-making of the instrumental variety. In band, we will build on the work you've done with your previous music teacher and learn how to improve on our instruments as individuals and as a group. We perform one concert in the fall and one concert in the spring. We also send select students to Honor Band in the fall and participate in music contests where students have the opportunity to play solos and in small ensembles.

MUSIC APPRECIATION & EXPLORATION

1 Semester Course
Elective

Students will listen to student and teacher-provided music examples and study those examples. Students will learn how to run recording and music production technology as well as how it applies in theater. Students will create a short musical composition using composition software as well as learn how to create "beats" and "stems." The last unit will focus on how to perform and bring music to life. These four units would flow from one to the next so that the work students do in each unit builds upon each other toward the last unit of an in-class performance. Potentially, there would be a recording or parent opportunity to see the in-class recital.

JAZZ BAND

2 Semester Course

Elective

In Jazz Band, we will explore jazz music as an ensemble. Jazz band is open to all 8th grade band students. 7th grade students may join in the spring semester with director permission. We will improvise, write music, learn about blues/jazz scales and rhythms, and more. Our jazz band plays for special events at school, travels for festivals, and will play in the CHS Night of Jazz concert in May.

CHOIR

7TH GRADE CHOIR

2 Semester Course
Elective

7th grade choir is a place to explore music in a vocal format. We will learn how to sing melodies and harmonies, solfege, notes, rhythms, and a variety of music including choral, pop, jazz, etc.

With experience in choir, you will have the opportunity to attend contests with the CMS choirs, try out for Honor Choir, tour the elementary schools, and sing solos.

8TH GRADE CHOIR

2 Semester Course
Elective

8th grade choir is a place to explore music in a vocal format. We will learn how to sing melodies and harmonies, solfege, notes, rhythms, and a variety of music including choral, pop, jazz, etc. With experience in choir, you will have the opportunity to attend contests with the CMS choirs, audition for Honor Choir, tour the elementary schools, and sing solos.



ART

EXPLORATIONS IN ART

1 Semester Course

7th Grade & 8th Grade

Elective

Students learn about visual communication basics starting with Elements of Design and Principles of Organization. Students discover how patterns, colors, shapes, lines, variety, and textures can be a source of inspiration for design. Media includes watercolor, clay and glaze, tissue paper, ink, and tempera.

TWO-DIMENSIONAL ART

1 Semester Course

7th Grade & 8th Grade

Elective

Prerequisite: " D" or higher in Explorations in Art

Students build foundational artistic skills that foster creativity and studio habits. Students learn how to tell their stories through effective visual communication. Students discover how artists work through exploration of the creative process and the 8 studio habits. Media includes digital art, drawing, collage, painting, mixed media, printmaking, and animation. This course is self paced which allows students to engage with the media and concepts that interest them. Students learn to set artistic goals and reflect on their artistic journey monthly. Students update their digital art portfolio that follows them through their experience at CMS and showcases their growth.

THREE-DIMENSIONAL ART

1 Semester Course

7th Grade & 8th Grade

Elective

Prerequisite: " D" or higher in Explorations in Art

Students build foundational artistic skills that foster creativity and studio habits. Students learn how to tell their stories through effective visual communication. Students discover how artists work through exploration of the creative process and the 8 studio habits. Media includes digital art, drawing, ceramics, sculpture, fibers, wearable, animation, and performance. This course is self paced which allows students to engage with the media and concepts that interest them. Students learn to set artistic goals and reflect on their artistic journey monthly. Students update their digital art portfolio that follows them through their experience at CMS and showcases their growth.

INDEPENDENT ART

1 Semester Course

8th Grade

Elective

Prerequisite: " D" or higher in Two-Dimensional Art and Three-Dimensional Art

Students build foundational artistic skills that foster creativity and studio habits. Students learn how to tell their stories through effective visual communication. Students discover how artists work through exploration of the creative process and the 8 studio habits. Media includes digital art, drawing, collage, painting, mixed media, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, fibers, wearable, animation, and performance. This course is self paced which allows students to engage with the media and concepts that interest them. Students learn to set artistic goals and reflect on their artistic journey monthly. Students update their digital art portfolio that follows them through their experience at CMS and showcases their growth. Students at this level are guided to develop their own personal artistic style. Students also must display intentionality with their work.



LEADERSHIP

1 Semester Course
7th Grade & 8th Grade
Elective

Introduction to the nine common styles of leadership. This class discusses the advantages and disadvantages of different leadership styles and develops the student's leadership skills. Students discover what it takes to be a leader.

REAL WORLD

1 Semester Course
7th or 8th Grade
Elective

Students look at problems and challenges in their schools, local community, state, or country. They identify challenges we face and work to find solutions for those challenges. They have the opportunity to research, share ideas, and cooperate with others to improve our world.

HISTORY THROUGH THE MOVIES

1 Semester Course
7th Grade & 8th Grade
Elective

Students analyze movies that tell history from the Colonial Period up until Reconstruction (after the Civil War). Students interact with the movies for historical accuracy and how it is important in the history of the U.S. A few of the movies that will be used: Sons of Liberty, The Crossing Harriet, and Lincoln.

STUDENT AIDE

1 Semester Course or Full-Year
8th Grade
Elective

This is a selective program to benefit both students and teachers. Students can choose to be an Office or Library aide for one semester or full-year. Participation in this program is a privilege. Students must complete an application. Aides will be given regular daily duties, which may include creating bulletin boards, copying classroom materials, running errands, and filing and general office duties. Selection in the aide program requires the approval of the librarian, parents, principal, and counselor. Students are selected on the basis of grades, leadership, attendance, responsibility, and citizenship. This course is Pass/Fail.

MEDICAL DETECTIVES

1 Semester Course
7th or 8th Grade
Elective

Welcome to PLTW Medical Detectives. Get ready to play the role of a real-life medical detective as you collect and analyze medical data to diagnose and solve medical mysteries.



LEARNING SUPPORT

READING MTSS

As Needed

7th Grade & 8th Grade

Based on testing scores

MTSS Reading is a data intervention class that offers multi-tiered support and explicit instruction in phonological awareness, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. This course is designed to provide the missing foundational skills or scaffolds that students need to be successful students across curriculums. The students are placed based on screeners and diagnostic testing.

MTSS MATH

As Needed

7th Grade & 8th Grade

Based on testing scores

MTSS stands for Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports. Because math and math growth are important, your student was given a “Fastbridge Assessment” during the third week of school. Based on those results, students are placed into MTSS classes. Your child will continue to take “Fastbridge Assessments” throughout the school year. We look for them to reach the 40th percentile compared to other students nationwide in math growth. In this course we will be working on filling gaps in your child’s underlying math skills. We will also be focusing on specific math instruction in computation, math application, or both. This additional math instruction is not in place of their regular math classes but in addition to.

EXTRA SEMINAR

As Needed

7th Grade & 8th Grade

By placement only

The purpose of Extra Seminar is to assist students in a smaller group setting with homework completion, organizational skills, and executive functioning skills. This is a structured study hall where students receive more one-on-one assistance to help them be more successful in middle school.

RESOURCE

As Needed

7th Grade & 8th Grade

By placement only

This class is designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities as defined on their individualized educational plans. Classroom assignments will be given as necessary. Students will also explore careers and educational opportunities which meet their individual interests and abilities.



CMS AT CHS PROGRAM

Gifted students that take Algebra I in 7th grade are eligible to take Honors Geometry in 8th grade taught at Circle High School by a CHS teacher.

Important Information:

- Transportation to and from the high school will be provided.
- Honors Geometry will not be listed in the student's schedule in PowerSchool, but will be labeled as "Seminar HS" with their gifted teacher.
- Students that decide to take Honors Geometry will **lose two electives** each semester and will be placed in Study Skills.
- Circle Middle School's A/B day block schedule does not align with Circle High School's A/B day block schedule and their classes are a longer duration. As a result, students miss a core class or elective class at the middle school when taking Honors Geometry.
- In order for these students to not miss out on important class time at the middle school, they will be placed in Study Skills located in the library each time Honors Geometry is scheduled to meet, but on the opposite day.
- There will be times when it is a "B" day at CMS and an "A" day at CHS.
 - Students taking Honors Geometry will need to attend their "A" day Honors Geometry class and will miss the "B" day class scheduled for the same time at CMS.
- Study Skills will be a time for these students to work on their math homework or assignments for other classes.
 - Study Skills will **replace 1 elective for each high school class taken.**
 - This class is ungraded and is monitored by the CMS Librarian Aides.

SCHEDULE EXAMPLE

■ STUDENT IS AT CHS

■ STUDENT IS AT CMS

A DAY

Hour Class

1A	SEMINAR HS (HONORS GEOMETRY)	■
2A	SEMINAR HS (TRAVEL TIME)	
3A	ELA	■
4A	CIVICS	■
5A	SCIENCE	■
6A	ADVISORY/SEMINAR	■

B DAY

Hour Class

1B	STUDY SKILLS (LIBRARY)	■
2B	STUDY SKILLS (LIBRARY)	■
3B	ELA	■
4B	PLTW, FLIGHT & SPACE, OR HEALTH	■
5B	INTRO TO TECHNOLOGY	■
6A	ADVISORY/SEMINAR	■

