Boyd W. Arthurs
Middle School

Curriculum Guide

2025-2026

Trenton Public Schools

Our Mission: Inspire Students Today for Their Success Tomorrow

STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW

It is the policy of Trenton Public Schools that no discriminatory practices based on sex, race, religion, color, national origin, disability, height, weight, or any other status covered by federal, state, or local law be allowed in providing instructional opportunities, programs, services, job placement assistance, employment, or in policies governing student conduct and attendance. Any person suspecting a discriminatory practice should contact: The Director of Curriculum/Assistant Superintendent, Trenton Public Schools, 2603 Charlton Road, Trenton, MI 48183 Phone: (734) 692-4516.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

The Director of Curriculum is appointed the Civil Rights Coordinator regarding complaints of disability/handicap discrimination involving educational services, programs and activities. The Director of Curriculum is also appointed the Civil Rights Coordinator regarding discrimination complaints made by students (grades Pre-K through 12) and/or their parent(s)/guardian(s), and involving sex, race, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, age, or marital status. The Superintendent is appointed the Civil Rights Coordinator regarding all other complaints of discrimination. In the event the complaint is against the Superintendent of Schools, the Vice-President of the Board of Education is appointed the Civil Rights Coordinator.

The Director of Curriculum Trenton Public Schools 2603 Charlton Road Trenton, Michigan 48183 Phone: (734) 692-4516	Superintendent of Schools Trenton Public Schools 2603 Charlton Road Trenton, Michigan 48183 Phone: (734) 692-451	The Vice-President of the Board of Education Trenton Public Schools 2603 Charlton Road Trenton, Michigan 48183 Phone: (734) 692-4510

The Civil Rights Coordinators, as specified herein, are designated to receive and resolve complaints from any person who believes that he/she may have been discriminated against in violation of this policy. Any person who believes he/she has been discriminated against in violation of this policy should file a written complaint with the Civil Rights Coordinator within ten (10) calendar days of the alleged violation. The Civil Rights Coordinator will take the following action: First, cause an investigation of the complaint to be commenced. Second, arrange for a meeting to occur with the complainant, which may include School District staff who are knowledgeable of the facts and circumstances of the particular complaint or who have particular expertise that will assist in resolving the complaint. Third, complete the investigation of the complaint and provide, in writing, a reply to the complainant. If the Civil Rights Coordinator determines that a violation has occurred, he/she shall propose a fair resolution of the complaint and deliver the determination to the complainant and the Superintendent. In the event the complaint is against the Superintendent, a copy of the determination shall be delivered to the President of the Board of Education. The complainant may appeal the Civil Rights Coordinator's determination to the Superintendent, or, in the case of a complaint against the Superintendent, to the President of the Board, by so notifying the Superintendent or Board President in writing within the (10) calendar days of the Civil Rights Coordinator's determination. The Superintendent or Board President may conduct additional investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding the complaint.

The Board Vice-President or President may elect to secure the services of an outside party to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding any complaint against the Superintendent.

The Superintendent, or Board President in the case of a complaint against the Superintendent, shall affirm or reverse the Civil Rights Coordinator's decision and, if warranted, implement the Civil Rights Coordinator's proposed resolution or a modification thereof. The Superintendent or Board President's decision shall be final.

At any time a complainant has the right to file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, US Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20201. The complainant should first be directed to the following address:
Office for Civil Rights
600 Superior Avenue, Suite 750
Cleveland, OH 44114
(216) 522-4970 phone
(216) 522-2573 fax

Arthurs Middle School Program
Grade 6

Core Courses – Required For ALL Students

- ✓ Language Arts
- ✓ Math
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Social Studies

BAND STUDENTS

Focus Course

- ✓ Band

Exploratory Courses Required

- ✓ Educational Technology 6 #
- ✓ Physical Education
- ✓ Exploratory Art 1
- ✓ Language and Beyond

NON-BAND STUDENTS

Focus Courses

- ✓ Physical Education
- ✓ Exploratory Art I
- ✓ World Language Exploration
- ✓ Educational Tech. 6 #
- ✓ Core Skills 6
- ✓ Read 180 (Teacher Recommendation)

Exploratory Courses Required

- ✓ Language and Beyond

TEACHER RECOMMENDED AND REQUIRED ELECTIVES

- ✓ Guided Academics
- ✓ Jazz Band
- ✓ Leap Into Language 6
- ✓ Math Power 6

Arthurs Middle School Program
Grade 6

Elective Courses – Available To ALL 6th Grade Students

- ✓ Adventure Based Physical Education
- ✓ Animation and Game Design w/Scratch #
- ✓ Art From Many Hands
- ✓ Book Club
- ✓ Brain Games
- ✓ Bridge Building #
- ✓ Calligraphy
- ✓ Children's Books
- ✓ Clue Crew
- ✓ Community Service And Leadership
- ✓ Computer Graphic Design
- ✓ Countries Around The World
- ✓ Creative Expressions
- ✓ Current Events
- ✓ Family History
- ✓ Forensic Science #
- ✓ Get Into The Green Scene #
- ✓ Get Into the Groove
- ✓ Greek and Norse Mythology
- ✓ History Detectives
- ✓ I Hate To Read Club
- ✓ Independent Study
- ✓ Jazz Improvisation
- ✓ Jeopardy Jammers
- ✓ Life In A Jar & Other Balancing Acts#
- ✓ Math-terpieces #
- ✓ Mathematical Adventures #
- ✓ Mind, Body, And Spirit
- ✓ Music Time
- ✓ Outdoor Backyard Games
- ✓ Poetry And Songwriting
- ✓ Public Speaking
- ✓ Reel To Real
- ✓ Score! #
- ✓ Scrapbooking
- ✓ Sketch It Out
- ✓ Sports History
- ✓ Stories From My Life
- ✓ String Theory
- ✓ The Compassion Club
- ✓ The Hunger Games and Roman Influence
- ✓ Theatre Arts
- ✓ World Music Drumming
- ✓ Yearboo

Please review course descriptions for possible teacher recommendations, requirements, and/or other criteria.

STEM course offerings are noted with a '#' above.
"STEM" is the acronym of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

STEM education is an interdisciplinary approach to learning where academic concepts are coupled with real-world lessons as students apply science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in contexts that make connections between school, community, work, and the global enterprise. (National Science Teachers Association)

Arthurs Middle School Program
Grade 7

Core Courses – Required For ALL Students

- ✓ Language Arts
- ✓ Math or Algebra I
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Social Studies

BAND or SPANISH STUDENTS

Focus Course

- ✓ Band
- ✓ Spanish 1A &1B

Exploratory Courses Required

- ✓ Core Skills 7
- ✓ Physical Education

NON-BAND/NON-SPANISH STUDENTS

Focus Courses

- ✓ Core Skills 7 #
- ✓ Exploratory Art II
- ✓ Educational Technology 7 #
- ✓ Physical Education
- ✓ Read 180 (Teacher Recommendation)

Exploratory Courses Required

- ✓ No Classes Required

TEACHER RECOMMENDED AND REQUIRED ELECTIVES

- ✓ ELA Enrichment
- ✓ Guided Academics
- ✓ Jazz Band
- ✓ Leap Into Language 7
- ✓ Math Power 7
- ✓ Peer 2 Peer
- ✓ Science Project Based Learning (Enrichment)

Arthurs Middle School Program
Grade 7

Elective Courses – Available To ALL 7th Grade Students

- ✓ Advanced Art Studio
- ✓ Advanced Team Sports
- ✓ Animation and Game Design w/Scratch #
- ✓ App Inventor #
- ✓ Art From Many Hands
- ✓ Book Club
- ✓ Brain Games
- ✓ Bridge Building #
- ✓ Calligraphy
- ✓ Children's Books
- ✓ Clue Crew
- ✓ Community Service And Leadership
- ✓ Computer Graphic Design
- ✓ Countries Around The World
- ✓ Creative Expressions
- ✓ CSI: Numb3rs #
- ✓ Current Events
- ✓ Family History
- ✓ Financial Fitness For Life #
- ✓ Forensic Science #
- ✓ Get Into the Green Scene #
- ✓ Get Into the Groove
- ✓ Great Books
- ✓ Greek and Norse Mythology
- ✓ History Detectives
- ✓ I Hate To Read Club
- ✓ Independent Study
- ✓ Jazz Improvisation
- ✓ Jeopardy Jammers
- ✓ Life In A Jar & Other Balancing Acts #
- ✓ Mad Money #
- ✓ Math-terpieces #
- ✓ Mind, Body, And Spirit
- ✓ Music Time
- ✓ Outdoor Backyard Games
- ✓ Paper Roller Coasters #.
- ✓ Poetry And Songwriting
- ✓ Public Speaking
- ✓ Score! #
- ✓ Scrapbooking
- ✓ Sketch It Out
- ✓ Sports History
- ✓ Stories From My Life
- ✓ String Theory
- ✓ Theatre Arts
- ✓ The Compassion Club
- ✓ The Hunger Games and Roman Influence
- ✓ World Music Drumming
- ✓ Yearbook

Please review course descriptions for possible teacher recommendations, requirements, and/or other criteria.

STEM course offerings are noted with a '#' above.
"STEM" is the acronym of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

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Arthurs Middle School Program
Grade 8

Core Courses – Required For ALL Students

- ✓ Language Arts
- ✓ Math or Algebra I or Geometry
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Social Studies

BAND or SPANISH STUDENTS

Focus Course

- ✓ Band
- ✓ Spanish 1A & 1B

Exploratory Courses Required

- ✓ Physical Education

NON-BAND/NON-SPANISH STUDENTS

Focus Courses

- ✓ Educational Technology 8 #
- ✓ Exploratory Art III
- ✓ Physical Education
- ✓ Core Skills 8
- ✓ Read 180 (Teacher Recommendation)

TEACHER RECOMMENDED AND REQUIRED ELECTIVES

- ✓ ELA Enrichment
- ✓ Guided Academics
- ✓ Jazz Band
- ✓ Leap Into Language 8
- ✓ Math Power 8
- ✓ Peer 2 Peer
- ✓ Science Project Based Learning (Enrichment)

Arthurs Middle School Program
Grade 8

Elective Courses – Available To ALL 8th Grade Students

- ✓ Advanced Art Studio
- ✓ Advanced Team Sports
- ✓ Animation and Game Design w/Scratch#
- ✓ App Inventor #
- ✓ Art From Many Hands
- ✓ Book Club
- ✓ Brain Games
- ✓ Bridge Building #
- ✓ Calligraphy
- ✓ Children's Books
- ✓ Clue Crew
- ✓ Community Service And Leadership
- ✓ Countries Around The World
- ✓ Creative Expressions
- ✓ CSI: Numb3rs #
- ✓ Current Events
- ✓ Family History
- ✓ Financial Fitness For Life #
- ✓ Forensic Science #
- ✓ Get Into the Green Scene #
- ✓ Get Into the Groove
- ✓ Great Books
- ✓ Greek and Norse Mythology
- ✓ History Detectives
- ✓ I Hate To Read Club
- ✓ Independent Study
- ✓ Jazz Improvisation
- ✓ Jeopardy Jammers
- ✓ Life In A Jar & Other Balancing Acts #
- ✓ Mad Money #
- ✓ Math-terpieces #
- ✓ Mind, Body, And Spirit
- ✓ Music Time
- ✓ Outdoor Backyard Games
- ✓ Paper Roller Coasters #
- ✓ Poetry And Songwriting
- ✓ Public Speaking
- ✓ Reel To Real: Take 2
- ✓ Remember The Holocaust
- ✓ Score! #
- ✓ Scrapbooking
- ✓ Sketch It Out
- ✓ Spanish 1A
- ✓ Spanish 2A
- ✓ Sports History
- ✓ Stories From My Life
- ✓ String Theory
- ✓ Theatre Arts
- ✓ The Compassion Club
- ✓ WEB
- ✓ World Music Drumming
- ✓ Yearbook

Please review course descriptions for possible teacher recommendations, requirements, and/or other criteria.

STEM course offerings are noted with a '#' above.
"STEM" is the acronym of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

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Special Education Courses

All Grade Levels

*****Based on Student IEP Team Meeting**

- ✓ Language Arts
- ✓ Math
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Social Studies
- ✓ Guided Academics
- ✓ Co-Taught
- ✓ See Elective Courses that are available to your Grade Level

Grade 6
Core Courses
(Required For All Students)

Language Arts 6 **Full year**

Our Sixth Grade Language Arts units provide students with a critical foundation in reading and writing narratives, informational, and argument texts. Through analysis and production of texts in these three modes, students become more adept readers, thinkers, and writers. Across the year, they come to understand the distinctions between narrative, informational, and argument texts by studying fiction and nonfiction in a variety of formats and developing a more thorough understanding of audience and purpose when both reading and writing.

Science 6 **Full year**

As with all middle school science courses the 6th grade program is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The middle school performance expectations blend the core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge to explain real world phenomena in the physical, biological, and earth and space sciences. Performance expectations at the middle school level focus on students developing understanding of several scientific practices. These include developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, and constructing explanation; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas. Students are also expected to demonstrate understanding of several of engineering practices including design and evaluation.

Grade 6
Core Courses
(Required For All Students)

Social Studies 6 **Full year**

Sixth Grade Social Studies explores foundations of World Geography. Throughout the year, the Five Themes of Geography will be integrated into discussion of various aspects of the world in spatial terms, population and migration, culture, world trade, government, and global politics. The framework for all students to become emerging global citizens will be established by engagement in hands-on experience through project-based learning that incorporates content specific vocabulary.

Math 6 **Full year**

Sixth Grade Math provides students with the opportunity to enhance their problem-solving skills. Students will increase their knowledge of whole numbers and fractions. The course will introduce students to integers, rational numbers, exponents, and percentages. These topics lay a foundation for the exploration of algebraic concepts, which include variables, writing simple equations and expressions, and graphing linear relationships. In geometry, students continue to expand their repertoire of knowledge about shapes and their properties.

Grade 6
Focus Course
(Band Students)

Band 6 **Full year**

Sixth Grade Concert Band is a yearlong, graded course of study that offers instruction on flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, baritone, French horn, trombone, tuba, and percussion. Generally made up of 2nd year band students, but new students are welcome to join! Sixth graders will perform at the Winter Concert and Spring Concert. Sixth graders are encouraged to audition for Jazz Band in the fall.

Grade 6
Exploratory Courses
(Required For Band Students)

Educational Technology 6 **10 weeks**

Problem Solving and Computing is a highly interactive and collaborative introduction to the field of computer science. Students will practice using a problem solving process to address a series of puzzles, challenges, and real world scenarios. Next, students learn how computers input, output, store, and process information to help humans solve problems. Students will learn how to create and share content on web pages. Students will learn how to structure and style pages using HTML and CSS. Students will also practice valuable programming skills such as debugging and commenting. By the end of the course, students will have published a website.

Exploratory Art I **10 weeks**

In Exploratory Art I, students will expand their knowledge of art technique and media. To better understand the arts, students will learn to analyze art using the Elements of Art vocabulary. Students will express individual ideas while increasing skills in many areas. They will use a variety of materials such as clay, markers, watercolors, tempera paints, and color pencils to construct, draw, and paint original artwork.

Physical Education 6 **10 weeks**

Students will experience a variety of aquatic, recreational, sport, and fitness activities. Students will learn the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to enjoy an active lifestyle. Attention will be paid to the components of physical fitness and the development of students' knowledge and skill in this area.

Grade 6
Exploratory Courses
(Required For Band Students)

Language and Beyond **10 weeks**

The course is required for all 6th graders. Language and Beyond will enhance the 6th Grade Language Arts curriculum by offering further instruction on reading comprehension strategies and writing skills. In addition, the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support program will be introduced through direct instruction. The instruction will focus on behaviors that are appropriate in different places throughout the school.

Grade 6
Focus Courses
(Non-Band Students)

Core Skills 6 **5 weeks**

6th Grade Skills is a Language Arts enrichment class. Students will explore bullying and empathy through discussions, writing, reading, and blog interaction using the books Wonder and Crash. Students will explore creative writing styles as they are exposed to the colorful characters of Wonder and Crash.

Exploratory Art I **5 weeks**

In Exploratory Art I, students will expand their knowledge of art technique and media. To better understand the arts, students will learn to analyze art using the Elements of Art vocabulary. Students will express individual ideas while increasing skills in many areas. They will use a variety of materials such as clay, markers, watercolors, tempera paints, and color pencils to construct, draw, and paint original artwork.

World Language Exploration **5 weeks**

World Language Exploration is a passport to exploring the language and culture of various world regions and making connections and comparisons with the English-speaking world. Students will experience several languages to better decide which language to study in order to meet the high school graduation requirements.

Educational Technology 6 **5 weeks**

Problem Solving and Computing is a highly interactive and collaborative introduction to the field of computer science. Students will practice using a problem solving process to address a series of puzzles, challenges, and real world scenarios. Next, students learn how computers input, output, store, and process information to help humans solve problems. Students will learn how to create and share content on web pages. Students will learn how to structure and style pages using HTML and CSS. Students will also practice valuable programming skills such as debugging and commenting. By the end of the course, students will have published a website.

Grade 6
Focus Courses
(Non-Band Students)

Physical Education 6 **20 weeks**

Students will experience a variety of aquatic, recreational, sport, and fitness activities. Students will learn the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to enjoy an active lifestyle. Attention will be paid to the components of physical fitness and the development of students' knowledge and skill in this area.

Read 180 **10 + weeks**
Staff Assigned Only

Read 180 is an intensive reading intervention program designed to meet the needs of students whose reading achievement is below proficient level. Data is utilized to assess student performance and needs, enabling informed decisions for placing students in the class. The program directly addresses individual needs through adaptive and instructional software, high-interest literature, and direct instruction in reading.

Grade 6
Exploratory Courses
(Required For Non-Band Students)

Language and Beyond **10 weeks**

The course is required for all 6th graders. Language and Beyond will enhance the 6th Grade Language Arts curriculum by offering further instruction on reading comprehension strategies and writing skills. In addition, the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support program will be introduced through direct instruction. The instruction will focus on behaviors that are appropriate in different locations throughout the school.

Grade 6
Elective Courses
(Teacher Recommended or Required)

Jazz Band **20 weeks**
Audition Required

The Arthurs Jazz Band is open to 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade students who are currently enrolled in a concert band class. All members of the Arthurs Jazz Band are selected by audition. Arthurs Jazz Band gives various performances throughout the year. Students must be able to commit to before and after school rehearsals approximately twice a week. The Arthurs Jazz Band is inclusive with regard to instrumentation. Generally, Jazz Band is comprised of saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, electric bass, drum set, and guitar, but we also include flute, clarinet, baritone horn, French horn, violin, oboe, and vocalist. Jazz improvisation is a featured aspect of our performances and all members of the Jazz Band are instructed and encouraged to improvise. A detailed approach to jazz music interpretation will be emphasized as well as focusing on individual and group performance.

Leap Into Language 6 **10 weeks**
Staff Assigned Only

Students having difficulty achieving grade level expectations for Reading, Writing, Spelling, and Grammar may be required to take this class. Formal and informal assessments will be used to place students in this class. Students will be given additional help so they may attempt to attain grade level expectations by filling in the gaps and work completion.

Math Power 6 **10 weeks**
Staff Assigned Only

Math Power is designed to help and encourage students to improve core math skills. The focus of this course will be to fill gaps in learning based on students' standardized test results. This course will center on games, manipulative activities, drills, and extra practice. The teacher will also assist students with math homework. The goal is to help students gain the required skills necessary to be successful in mathematics and to encourage them to enjoy math in a relaxed setting.

Guided Academics **10 weeks**
Staff Assigned Only

A teacher will guide a small group of students to promote student success. This course will focus on work completion, organization, and academic skill building.

Grade 6
Elective Courses
(Available to All Students)

Adventure Based Physical Education **10 weeks**
Only Offered in 6th Grade
Curriculum Focus: Physical Education

Students will engage in a variety of activities designed to challenge students' cooperation, critical thinking, communication, and teamwork skills. Students will utilize these skills and behaviors to successfully complete activities.

Animation & Game Design with Scratch **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Technology

Unleash your creativity and dive into the world of animation and game development with Scratch, a user-friendly visual programming language developed by MIT. This course introduces students to the fundamentals of coding through hands-on projects that bring ideas to life.

Designed for beginners, the course covers essential programming concepts such as loops, conditionals, variables, and event handling in a playful, engaging environment. Students will create interactive animations, design fun games, and learn how to incorporate sound, motion, and visual effects to enhance their projects.

Art From Many Hands **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts

This class is for art students who want to gain confidence in their own abilities while expanding their knowledge of art from many cultures. Just like today, people of ancient times were using every conceivable material to bring beauty and interest into their lives. Students will try a variety of their techniques to solve design problems. This will increase the students' technical skills as well as help them value the skills of artisans from around the world.

Book Club **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

Students will participate in a novel study and participate in a student-led Book Club regarding the novel(s) available to the class. Novels can include but are not limited to: Counting By Sevens, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, The Breadwinner, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Freak the Mighty, Making Bombs for Hitler, and Hatchet.

Brain Games **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Life Skills

This course allows students to play games while improving their mathematical and critical thinking skills. Students learn gaming strategies in a fun, competitive, and friendly environment. Games include chess, Blokus, Rush Hour, Sequence, Sudoko puzzles, Othello, and a chance to solve the Rubic's cube. No prior experience is necessary. All grade levels are welcome.

Bridge Building **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies

Bridge Building introduces the students to different types of bridges around the world and the history of bridge development. We explore architectural strengths and geometric features that are found in bridges. Students practice building different types of bridges before finally forming a construction company and creating one final challenging bridge creation.

Calligraphy **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts

Calligraphy will give students an introduction to types of cursive writing and the history of handwriting. Students will learn the formation of letters in cursive and use of a calligraphy pen. Students will translate calligraphy to print and print to calligraphy. A culminating activity will be a formal calligraphy letter that is sent to a person. This class would also be a great assistance for students who want to improve their handwriting and fine motor skills.

Children's Books **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

Do you enjoy reading children's books? In this course, you will create your very own children's book. You will learn how to make a book, write, and illustrate a picture book.

Clue Crew **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts

Love a good mystery? Interested in figuring out how or why something happened? Clue Crew sets students on a course to solve short mysteries through a series of matrix puzzles and short stories. Students will look for clues and use deductive reasoning to draw conclusion and find answers. Students will even have the opportunity to create their own mystery.

Community Service and Leadership (CSL) **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Leadership, Social Studies

Interested in making a difference and gaining leadership skills? Then take this class! Students will be asked to plan and participate in special activities such as athletic pre-game activities, spirit week activities, and school and community service projects. **Students will be required to perform 10 hours of community service outside the regular school day.**

Computer Graphic Design **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Technology

In this course, students are introduced to the basics of computer graphic design. They will study the history of graphics and computer graphics. Students develop their understanding of computer graphic design by using the software package Canvas™. They learn a variety of tools in Canvas to create their own graphics using different shapes, textures, and styles. As a final project, they can transfer their computer graphics onto a T-shirt. They also examine career opportunities in the area of computer graphic design.

Countries Around the World **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Social Studies

Students will learn continents and countries of the world. Geography skills will be highlighted. Map game tournaments will be conducted. Countries in the news will be highlighted.

Creative Expressions **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

Creative Expressions allows future authors a chance to practice the art of storytelling using their creative writing skills. This class studies different genres so that students can practice different forms of writing such as poetry, plays, comic strips, myths and more!

Current Events **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts

In this class, students will explore the current news events around the world. We will discuss news topics that include world news, science, history, sports, and entertainment among other topics.

Family History **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts

Students will examine their family history, create a family tree, and explore possible lineage based on surnames in their family. Students will discuss traditions and important events, or talk about significant people within their family through presentations and other class activities. They will also have an opportunity to study their probable country of origin and share in the heritage of different countries presented by classmates. This is a great class where students can learn more about themselves and the world!

Forensic Science **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Science

Students will be introduced to Forensic Science, which is a branch of science that focuses on criminal investigation to provide physical evidence to solve criminal cases. Students will learn a brief history of the subject, discuss the many occupations related to this study, practice the system of identifying criminals, and experience the exactness of fingerprinting.

Get Into the Green Scene **10 Weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Science

Get ready to hug a tree and play in the dirt! "Get into the Green Scene" is an environmental science class that will introduce students to a variety of issues and topics. Students will study topics of plants and trees, sustainable development, recycling, hybrid cars, water/wetlands, pollution, climate change, and Earth Day.

Get Into the Groove **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Physical Education

Dance-based class featuring Zumba, line dances, movement to music, and Just Dance with Wii. Students will be given the opportunity to create dances and learn the latest dance moves by searching the internet.

Greek and Norse Mythology **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

Explore the fascinating myths and legends of ancient Greece and Norse cultures! Students will learn about iconic gods, heroes, monsters, and epic adventures while discovering how these stories shaped ancient civilizations and influence modern pop culture.

Through creative projects, storytelling, and discussions, students will meet figures like Zeus, Athena, Thor, and Loki and explore themes like bravery, loyalty, and betrayal. By the end, they'll gain a deeper appreciation for these timeless tales and their lasting impact on today's world.

History Detectives **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts

Who killed JFK? Was King Tut murdered? Who invented the Alphabet? What happened to Roanoke's lost colony? Who really discovered the Americas? Were there witches in Salem? History Detectives examines some of World History's most intriguing and thought provoking unsolved mysteries. Students will be engaged in higher order thinking through independent and group projects while exploring primary source materials, diary entries, newspaper articles, and photographs in an attempt to solve some of History's greatest mysteries.

I Hate to Read Club **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

This course is for the student who claims they hate to read. This class is guaranteed to change their mind. Students will be introduced to fun, high interest books in a teacher led, relaxed environment. Students will read *The Loser List* and *Freak the Mighty*.

Independent Study **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Life Skills

Independent Study is an elective course designed to give middle school students extra time to complete assignments, homework and assessments. Students may also use this time to pursue other academic interests.

Jazz Improvisation **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts

Want to learn how to be the star soloist in the band? Use this opportunity to learn the tools for improvising on your instrument. During this class students will study classic jazz, rock and blues solos. Students will learn how to read chord symbols, create melodies from scales and improvise in all types of styles. With these tools students will be able to play anything!

Jeopardy Jammers **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies

Can't remember what you ate for breakfast this morning, but somehow remember every word to the hit song of 2009? Do you LOVE trivia questions – right or wrong – and learning the answers? Then sign up for Jeopardy Jammers! Watch famous trivia shows and participate in classroom based trivia games such as Kahoot, Quizzizz, Internet Jeopardy, Live Jeopardy, Pictionary and more!

Life in a Jar & Other Balancing Acts **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Science

Students will discover that the living and non-living parts of an ecosystem change until it becomes stable. One of the main projects is designing and conducting a scientific investigation. Students will set up a fresh water aquarium. Their goal is to set up a balanced ecosystem. The plants and animals in the container will be studied during the course. Students will be responsible for monitoring and maintaining their aquariums. Additional microscopic and hand lens activities will enhance this experience.

Math-terpieces **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Math

"Math"-terpieces is a class where math, art, and fun come together. This course will explore the many connections between mathematics and art. Students will explore polygons and other geometric shapes to create tessellations, string art, and more. Each student will walk away with "math"-terpieces of his or her own to take home.

Mathematical Adventures **10 weeks**
Only Offered in 6th Grade
Curriculum Focus: Math

Join in on the fun exploring math through scavenger hunts, a road trip, and other adventures. Put on your thinking caps and take math to a deeper level that moves beyond worksheets into projects, games, and hands-on activities.

Mind, Body, and Spirit **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Life Skills

Students will be able to manage stress through exercise, self reflection, journaling, and nutrition. Students will learn how stress can affect their bodies and will be given strategies to overcome stressful situations. Students will take part in yoga, meditation, stretching, de-stressing crafts, and nutrition lessons. Students will leave the classroom feeling healthy and refreshed!

Music Time **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts

Music Time is the opportunity for students to play musical instruments. If the student has never played an instrument before, this is their chance to start. If the student is already in band and wants to try something new, this is their chance to add another instrument to their skill set. If the student is in band and wants more time to practice and develop on their current instrument, this class is for taking skills to the next level. Whether the student is a complete beginner or has years of experience, students in Music Time will receive private lessons and group instruction in instrumental musicianship.

Outdoor Backyard Games **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Physical Education

This course is appropriate for students who want to expand their knowledge and skills of backyard sports/games. Students will be introduced to new and ongoing backyard sports/games. The focus of the class will be on developing and mastering different sport specific skills in relation to multiple outdoor sports/games. As always, sportsmanship, teamwork and fair play will be a top priority. Some of the sports/games involved will be cornhole, ladder golf, paddle ball, bottle smash, kan jam, spikeball, washers, bocce ball, and cross net.

Poetry & Songwriting **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts

Use rhythm and rhyme to create your own poems. Look at famous poetry and learn about poets. Be creative! Remember – You may be a poet and you just don't know it!

Public Speaking **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

Are you daring? Do you have what it takes to step up? Public speaking is the number one fear for many people. This course will help you give speeches and presentations with confidence. Have fun while getting over your fear to speak in front of the class.

Reel to Real **10 weeks**
Only Offered in 6th Grade
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

Enjoy getting "real" about the latest movie? This class is for interested students who enjoy watching movies. "Reel to Real" is designed to challenge students to become thoughtful, active viewers and provide them an opportunity to talk and write about films in new and exciting ways. Students will examine movies that portray real life stories that will inspire them to "Dream it, Believe it, Achieve it". The movies selected focus on young adult themes of families, belonging, moral dilemmas, and fulfilling dreams.

Score! **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Math

Love Sports? Interested in players' stats and each season's wins and losses? Take this class! Students will choose real-life football/basketball/baseball players, follow their statistics, calculate their team's total points, and compete with one another in class. Each week students will review and practice middle school math concepts with a heavy focus on fractions and decimals. Boys and girls are welcome!

Scrapbooking **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts

Scrapbooking will focus on self-discovery. The students will make a scrapbook of themselves at the end of this 10-week course. Students will make connections between personal experiences and books read in class. Students must be able to bring in several photographs from home for this class.

Sketch It Out **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts

For students who love to draw and oftentimes find themselves drawing or doodling throughout the day-- this class is for you! Students will explore Anime, portrait drawing, and additional sketch art forms in this 10-week course. In addition, students will support school-wide projects. At the end of the course, students will have created a portfolio of their best work.

Sports History **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts

This history course will examine the development of sports in the United States. The historical study will focus on helping students gain a better understanding of the inner relationship that sports have on social, economic, cultural, and political forces that are at work in the United States as well as the world. Students will explore the historical context as well as the significance of gender, race, ethnicity, and social class. The historical investigation will consist of readings, primary sources, and visual materials as well as class discussions.

Stories From My Life **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

This elective class will help the students write and appreciate stories of their life. The student will write about life events and create their own personal story. Possible topics could include: What I like Best About My Family, Traditions, A Time I Will Never Forget, The Best Vacation and What is Special to Me. Along with the personal stories, the student will use pictures to assist them with their storytelling. By the end of the course, students will create a "lifebook" to take home and appreciate throughout the years.

String Theory **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts

String Theory is the opportunity for students to learn to play guitar or bass. Students will start with the fundamentals – string names, tuning, strumming, picking and hand placement. This course will take the students as far as they can go in learning instrument technique through learning songs. The focus of this class will be acoustic guitar, electric guitar, acoustic bass and electric bass. Instrument is **NOT** provided.

The Compassion Club **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Life Skills

Kindness. We have learned about the foundation of kindness; however, as we grow older, the concept of being kind sometimes escapes our everyday routine. Now, more than ever, we need to take the time in our lives to stop, take a breath, and remember that kindness is a domino effect. The Compassion Club focuses on the awareness of others. Through service, The Compassion Club, will help students develop self-confidence and lifelong, healthy mental health. Students will participate in discussions about compassion, gratitude, courage, and kindness, as well as, encourage kindness throughout their school, home, and community.

The Hunger Games and Roman Influence **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

Students will read the novel “The Hunger Games”. Students will take notes on the study of the tributes and the country of Panem. As they read, students will be introduced to the allusions of Roman Culture and Mythology that are implemented by the author with the novel.

Theatre Arts **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts

Theatre Arts introduces the students to the art of physical and vocal expression through pantomime, acting, and improvisation. Students will explore character movement, voice, attitude, and motivation as they develop improvisational skills and learn the techniques of acting. Students will create, participate in, and reflect on small and large group performances. Class participation is a must.

World Music Drumming **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Social Studies

This class will focus on hand and stick rhythms of African and Afro-Cuban drumming. Basic drumming techniques will be taught in the various styles. Using various world percussion instruments, our drum circle will explore music of Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America. An assortment of instruments will be provided and students may also bring in their own instruments that are appropriate to the ensemble.

Yearbook **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts

Yearbook is a combination of journalism, photography, and graphic design. Student staff members are expected to have a high level of maturity and the ability to work independently, in pairs, and in groups. Students will assist in the production, design, and promotion of the school yearbook. Creating the yearbook is a fun process, and the end result of all the effort is a product of which the students can be proud!

Grade 7
Core Courses
(Required For All Students)

Language Arts 7 **Full year**

This course provides Seventh Grade students with a critical foundation in reading and writing narrative, informational, and argument texts. Through analysis and production of texts in these three modes, students become more adept readers, thinkers, and writers. Across the year, they come to understand the distinctions between narrative, informational, and argument texts by studying fiction and nonfiction in a variety of formats and developing a more thorough understanding of audience and purpose when both reading and writing. The use of a reader or writer's notebook for each unit encourages students to be independent, engaged, and empowered learners who value close reading, idea generation, drafting, and revision.

Science 7 **Full year**

Seventh Grade students will develop their science problem-solving skills and explore scientific argumentation. Course content includes: Geology on Mars, Plate Motion, Rock Formations, Phase Changes, Chemical Reactions, Populations & Resources, and Matter & Energy in Ecosystems.

Social Studies 7 **Full year**

Seventh Grade World History is an introductory course to global human history from the origins of humankind to approximately the year 1450 CE. Throughout the year, students will become familiar with the development of and interactions between people, states, civilizations, and empires. Among the topics we will examine are the rise of cities, the evolution of technology and navigation, the development of communication methods, the importance of agriculture, the rise and fall of empires, the evolving conduct of warfare, and the emergence of intellectual thought and local and world religions.

Grade 7
Core Courses
(Required For All Students)

Math 7 **Full year**

In Math 7, students will enhance their number and operation skills including fractions and integers. These topics build a foundation for the study of the other concepts, such as ratio, proportion, statistics, measurement, and rational numbers. This sets the foundation for algebraic concepts including writing and solving equations, and graphing of linear relationships. In geometry, students will explore the properties of similar figures and perform basic geometric constructions.

Algebra I **Full year**
Staff Assigned Only

Students must qualify for this course. Eligibility is determined by grades, State Assessment proficiency, and percentile rank on the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test. Students enrolled in this course receive high school credit. Course topics include family of functions (linear, power, polynomial, exponential, and quadratic), expressions, equations, inequalities, and the study of bivariate data.

Grade 7
Focus Courses
(Band OR Spanish Students)

Band 7 **Full year**

Seventh Grade Concert Band is a year-long, graded course of study that offers instruction on flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, baritone, French horn, trombone, tuba, and percussion. Generally made up of 3rd year band students, new students are welcome to join! Seventh graders will perform at THS Marching Band Invitational, Trenton Christmas Parade, Winter Concert, Band & Orchestra Festival, and Spring Concert. Seventh graders have their first opportunity to perform at the MSBOA Solo & Ensemble Festival (strongly encouraged!).

-OR-

Spanish 1A & 1B (Pre-selection sheet required) **Full year**

Spanish 1A & 1B is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. Primary objectives of this course are to develop strong foundations in the area of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and culture. There is an emphasis on vocabulary building and the grammar necessary for language use in the classroom and through online resources.

Successful completion of this course will earn 1.0 high school credit. ***Seventh graders electing Spanish 1A & 1B will automatically be placed in year-long Spanish 2A in eighth grade. Spanish 2A will be offered during Electives and will equal four choices.***

Grade 7
Exploratory Courses
(Required For Band/Spanish Students)

Core Skills 7 **10 weeks**

Students will learn Document, Spreadsheet, and Presentation (Google versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) via relevant assignments pertaining to Language Arts, Math, and Science. With the computer skills under their belt, students will work on project-based assignments. They will incorporate skills from the computer portion of the class and skills from all core classes to explore and solve real-world scenarios (i.e. surveying a population, interpreting results, and creating a report or presentation based on the data collected).

Physical Education 7 **10 weeks**

Students will experience a variety of aquatic, recreational, sport, and fitness activities. Students will learn the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to enjoy an active lifestyle. Attention will be paid to the components of physical fitness and the development of students' knowledge and skill in this area.

Grade 7
Focus Courses
(Non-Band/Non-Spanish Students)

Core Skills 7 **6 2/3 weeks**

Students will learn Document, Spreadsheet, and Presentation (Google versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) via relevant assignments pertaining to Language Arts, Math, and Science. With the computer skills under their belt, students will work on project-based assignments. They will incorporate skills from the computer portion of the class and skills from all core classes to explore and solve real-world scenarios (i.e. surveying a population, interpreting results, and creating a report or presentation based on the data collected).

Educational Technology 7 **6 2/3 weeks**

Students will learn about computer science and coding as you program animations, interactive art, and games in Game Lab. Students will start with simple shapes and build up to more sophisticated sprite-based games using the programming concepts and design process computer scientists use daily. Students will work through a series of design challenges to better understand the needs of others while developing a solution to a problem.

Exploratory Art II **6 2/3 weeks**

In Exploratory Art II, students will refine perceptual and technical skills by creating and analyzing art. Students will explore and plan for better composition. They will incorporate a more sophisticated theory of the elements of art and principles of design while working on projects, which may include drawing, painting, cartooning, clay, and metal tools.

Physical Education 7 **20 weeks**

Students will experience a variety of aquatic, recreational, sport, and fitness activities. Students will learn the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to enjoy an active lifestyle. Attention will be paid to the components of physical fitness and the development of students' knowledge and skill in this area.

Read 180 **10 + weeks**
Staff Assigned Only

Read 180 is an intensive reading intervention program designed to meet the needs of students whose reading achievement is below proficient level. Data is utilized to assess student performance and needs, enabling informed decisions for placing students in the class. The program directly addresses individual needs through adaptive and instructional software, high-interest literature, and direct instruction in reading.

Grade 7
Exploratory Courses
(Required For Non-Band/Non-Spanish Students)

No Classes Required

Grade 7
Elective Courses
(Teacher Recommended or Required)

ELA Enrichment **10 weeks**
Staff Assigned Only

Are you often reading ahead in class? Do debate and creative writing both hold the same intrigue for you? ELA Enrichment offers a deep dive into novels, a platform for student-centered writing, and the ability to enhance grammatical skill sets. ELA Enrichment is a course available to students who have tested on or above grade level on the iReady assessment and have maintained a grade of B+ or higher in their ELA class.

Guided Academics **10 weeks**
Staff Assigned Only

A teacher will guide a small group of students to promote student success. This course will focus on work completion, organization, and academic skill building.

Jazz Band **20 weeks**
Audition Required

The Arthurs Jazz Band is open to 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade students who are currently enrolled in a concert band class. All members of the Arthurs Jazz Band are selected by audition. Arthurs Jazz Band gives various performances throughout the year. Students must be able to commit to before and after school rehearsals approximately twice a week. The Arthurs Jazz Band is inclusive with regard to instrumentation. Generally, Jazz Band is comprised of saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, electric bass, drum set, and guitar, but we also include flute, clarinet, baritone horn, French horn, violin, oboe, and vocalist. Jazz improvisation is a featured aspect of our performances and all members of the Jazz Band are instructed and encouraged to improvise. A detailed approach to jazz music interpretation will be emphasized as well as focusing on individual and group performance.

Leap Into Language 7 **10 weeks**
Staff Assigned Only

Students having difficulty achieving grade level expectations for Reading, Writing, Spelling, and Grammar may be required to take this class. Formal and informal assessments will be used to place students in this class. Students will be given additional help so they may attempt to attain grade level expectations by filling in the gaps and work completion.

Math Power 7 **10 weeks**
Staff Assigned Only

Math Power is designed to help and encourage students to improve core math skills. The focus of this course will be to fill gaps in learning based on students' standardized test results. This course will center on games, manipulative activities, drills, and extra practice. The teacher will also assist students with math homework. The goal is to help students gain the required skills necessary to be successful in mathematics and to encourage them to enjoy math in a relaxed setting.

Peer 2 Peer **10 weeks**
Staff Assigned Only

Peer 2 Peer is an elective course that provides students with the opportunity to support and model academic and social skills from one non-disabled peer to a peer with a disability. There is a focus on leadership skills, understanding and adapting to individual differences, modeling social experiences, and advocating for others in the school setting. Peers will have training in the classroom and join their linked peer during the elective. Peers and students will get to play games and other fun activities to show their linked peer how to interact with others. As a peer you will have a chance to make new friends, problem solve any issues with staff and have fun. Attendance, classroom participation with peers, and the final project are required. Time outside of the classroom may be required. **(Students must fill out an application form and if selected the applicant will go through a short interview process to determine an appropriate fit for a peer.**

Science Project Based Learning (Genius Hour) **10 weeks**
Staff Assigned Only

Science Project Based Learning will allow the higher achieving learners to self-select the science topics they would most like to learn. This class is offered to the students with advanced iReady scores and high grades in Science classes. Students will engage in a research project for the entire card-marking based on driving questions and a culminating product to present to the group at the end of the term.

Grade 7
Elective Courses
(Available to All Students)

Advanced Studio Art **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated With Permission of Instructor
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts

This elective art course is for students that have an interest in improving their art skills in painting, drawing, sculpture, and printmaking. Students will develop their own ideas to create projects using a variety of drawing materials, paint, ink, metal, plaster gauze, and clay. Students will learn how to analyze artwork and write self-critiques on each project to create an electronic portfolio of their work.

Advanced Team Sports **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Physical Education

This course is appropriate for students who want to take their knowledge and skills of team sports to the next level. Students will work on offensive/defensive strategies, advanced drills to accelerate skill levels, game situations, and tournament play. The importance of being a good team member will also be emphasized. Depending on the season, the following sports will be covered: Basketball, Volleyball, Football, Tennis, Soccer, Pickleball, Hockey, as well as non-traditional sports/activities.

Animation & Game Design with Scratch **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Technology

Unleash your creativity and dive into the world of animation and game development with Scratch, a user-friendly visual programming language developed by MIT. This course introduces students to the fundamentals of coding through hands-on projects that bring ideas to life.

Designed for beginners, the course covers essential programming concepts such as loops, conditionals, variables, and event handling in a playful, engaging environment. Students will create interactive animations, design fun games, and learn how to incorporate sound, motion, and visual effects to enhance their projects.

App Inventor **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Technology

Students will learn how to build mobile apps and test them using the web-based program *MIT APP Inventor*. Important programming concepts and terminology will be discussed. Apps created will be able to be tested on an Android device and iOS (Apple) devices. Students will have access to Kindle Fires as well as the Emulator on the computer to test their apps.

Art From Many Hands **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts

This class is for art students who want to gain confidence in their own abilities while expanding their knowledge of art from many cultures. Just like today, people of ancient times were using every conceivable material to bring beauty and interest into their lives. Students will try a variety of their techniques to solve design problems. This will increase the students' technical skills as well as help them value the skills of artisans from around the world.

Book Club **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

Students will participate in a novel study and participate in a student-led Book Club regarding the novel(s) available to the class. Novels can include but are not limited to: Counting By Sevens, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, The Breadwinner, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Freak the Mighty, Making Bombs for Hitler, and Hatchet.

Brain Games **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Life Skills

This course allows students to play games while improving their mathematical and critical thinking skills. Students learn gaming strategies in a fun, competitive, and friendly environment. Games include Chess, Blokus, Rush Hour, Sequence, Sudoko puzzles, Othello, and a chance to solve the Rubic's cube. No prior experience is necessary. All grade levels are welcome.

Bridge Building **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies

Bridge Building introduces the students to different types of bridges around the world and the history of bridge development. We explore architectural strengths and geometric features that are found in bridges. Students practice building different types of bridges before finally forming a construction company and creating one final challenging bridge creation.

Calligraphy **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts

Calligraphy will give students an introduction to types of cursive writing and the history of handwriting. Students will learn the formation of letters in cursive and use of a calligraphy pen. Students will translate calligraphy to print and print to calligraphy. A culminating activity will be a formal calligraphy letter that is sent to a person. This class would also be a great assistance for students who want to improve their handwriting and fine motor skills.

Children's Books **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

Do you enjoy reading children's books? In this course, you will create your very own children's book. You will learn how to make a book, write, and illustrate a picture book.

Clue Crew **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts

Love a good mystery? Interested in figuring out how or why something happened? Clue Crew sets students on a course to solve short mysteries through a series of matrix puzzles and short stories. Students will look for clues and use deductive reasoning to draw conclusion and find answers. Students will even have the opportunity to create their own mystery.

Community Service and Leadership (CSL) **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Leadership, Social Studies

Interested in making a difference and gaining leadership skills? Then take this class! Students will be asked to plan and participate in special activities such as athletic pre-game activities, spirit week activities, and school and community service projects. **Students will be required to perform 10 hours of community service outside the regular school day.**

Computer Graphic Design **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Technology

In this course, students are introduced to the basics of computer graphic design. They will study the history of graphics and computer graphics. Students develop their understanding of computer graphic design by using the software package Canvas™. They learn a variety of tools in Canvas to create their own graphics using different shapes, textures, and styles. As a final project, they can transfer their computer graphics onto a T-shirt. They also examine career opportunities in the area of computer graphic design.

Countries Around the World **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Social Studies

Students will learn continents and countries of the world. Geography skills will be highlighted. Map Game tournaments will be conducted. Countries in the news will be highlighted.

Creative Expressions **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

Creative Expressions allows future authors a chance to practice the art of storytelling using their creative writing skills. This class studies different genres so that students can practice different forms of writing such as poetry, plays, comic strips, myths and more!

C.S.I.: "Numb3rs" **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Math, Technology

Students will be learning how to solve crimes using mathematics integrated with technology. This course offers students an opportunity to explore career paths in crime investigation as well as learn how math and math theory plays a critical role. The program is based on the popular television series titled, "Numb3rs". Students will watch episodes as they relate to math to solving crimes. Students will be involved in collecting and analyzing data, graphing, and predicting trends.

Current Events **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts, Technology

In this class, students will explore the current news events around the world. We will discuss news topics that include world news, science, history, sports, and entertainment among other topics.

Family History **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts

Students will examine their family history, create a family tree, and explore possible lineage based on surnames in their family. Students will discuss traditions and important events, or talk about significant people within their family through presentations and other class activities. They will also have an opportunity to study their probable country of origin and share in the heritage of different countries presented by classmates. This is a great class where students can learn more about themselves and the world!

Financial Fitness for Life **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Math, Social Studies

Financial Fitness for Life will introduce students to the consumer world. Students will be involved in a real life simulation where they apply the basic principles of economics, will create a budget, "open" a checking account, and will explore saving, spending, and credit.

Forensic Science **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Science

Students will be introduced to Forensic Science, which is a branch of science that focuses on criminal investigation to provide physical evidence to solve criminal cases. Students will learn a brief history of the subject, discuss the many occupations related to this study, practice the system of identifying criminals, and experience the exactness of fingerprinting.

Get Into the Green Scene **10 Weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Science

Get ready to hug a tree and play in the dirt! "Get into the Green Scene" is an environmental science class that will introduce students to a variety of issues and topics. Students will study topics of plants and trees, sustainable development, recycling, hybrid cars, water/wetlands, pollution, climate change, and Earth Day.

Get Into the Groove **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Physical Education

Dance-based class featuring Zumba, line dances, movement to music, and Just Dance with Wii. Students will be given the opportunity to create dances and learn the latest dance moves by searching the internet.

Great Books **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts (Advanced)

This course is for the student who loves to read and is looking for exciting and challenging book choices. Class members will also have some voice in book selections. Discussions and book talks will be student led. Students should expect daily reading in and out of class time.

Greek and Norse Mythology **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

Explore the fascinating myths and legends of ancient Greece and Norse cultures! Students will learn about iconic gods, heroes, monsters, and epic adventures while discovering how these stories shaped ancient civilizations and influence modern pop culture.

Through creative projects, storytelling, and discussions, students will meet figures like Zeus, Athena, Thor, and Loki and explore themes like bravery, loyalty, and betrayal. By the end, they'll gain a deeper appreciation for these timeless tales and their lasting impact on today's world.

History Detectives **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts

Who killed JFK? Was King Tut murdered? Who invented the Alphabet? What happened to Roanoke's lost colony? Who really discovered the Americas? Were there witches in Salem? History Detectives examines some of World History's most intriguing and thought provoking unsolved mysteries. Students will be engaged in higher order thinking through independent and group projects while exploring primary source materials, diary entries, newspaper articles, and photographs in an attempt to solve some of History's greatest mysteries.

I Hate to Read Club **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

This course is for the student who claims they hate to read. This class is guaranteed to change their mind. Students will be introduced to fun, high interest books in a teacher led, relaxed environment. Students will read *The Loser List* and *Freak the Mighty*.

Independent Study **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Life Skills

Independent Study is an elective course designed to give middle school students extra time to complete assignments, homework and assessments. Students may also use this time to pursue other academic interests.

Jazz Improvisation **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts

Want to learn how to be the star soloist in the band? Use this opportunity to learn the tools for improvising on your instrument. During this class students will study classic jazz, rock and blues solos. Students will learn how to read chord symbols, create melodies from scales and improvise in all types of styles. With these tools students will be able to play anything!

Jeopardy Jammers **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science

Can't remember what you ate for breakfast this morning, but somehow remember every word to the hit song of 2009? Do you LOVE trivia questions – right or wrong – and learning the answers? Then sign up for Jeopardy Jammers! Watch famous trivia shows and participate in classroom based trivia games such as Kahoot, Quizzizz, Internet Jeopardy, Live Jeopardy, Pictionary and more!

Life in a Jar & Other Balancing Acts **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Science

Students will discover that the living and non-living parts of an ecosystem change until it becomes stable. One of the main projects is designing and conducting a scientific investigation. Students will set up a fresh water aquarium. Their goal is to set up a balanced ecosystem. The plants and animals in the container will be studied during the course. Students will be responsible for monitoring and maintaining their aquariums. Additional microscopic and hand lens activities will enhance this experience.

Mad Money **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Math, Social Studies

Mad Money introduces students to the investment power of the Stock Market. Students will develop an understanding of market history, how to research companies, select and follow stocks of interest, and assess team portfolios. The students will utilize online resources, including the national Stock Market Game.

Math-terpieces **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Math

"Math"-terpieces is a class where math, art, and fun come together. This course will explore the many connections between mathematics and art. Students will explore polygons and other geometric shapes to create tessellations, string art, and more. Each student will walk away with "math"-terpieces of his or her own to take home.

Mind, Body, and Spirit **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Life Skills

Students will be able to manage stress through exercise, self reflection, journaling, and nutrition. Students will learn how stress can affect their bodies and will be given strategies to overcome stressful situations. Students will take part in yoga, meditation, stretching, de-stressing crafts, and nutrition lessons. Students will leave the classroom feeling healthy and refreshed!

Music Time **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts

Music Time is the opportunity for students to play musical instruments. If the student has never played an instrument before, this is their chance to start. If the student is already in band and wants to try something new, this is their chance to add another instrument to their skill set. If the student is in band and wants more time to practice and develop on their current instrument, this class is for taking skills to the next level. Whether the student is a complete beginner or has years of experience, students in Music Time will receive private lessons and group instruction in instrumental musicianship.

Outdoor Backyard Games **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Physical Education

This course is appropriate for students who want to expand their knowledge and skills of backyard sports/games. Students will be introduced to new and ongoing backyard sports/games. The focus of the class will be on developing and mastering different sport specific skills in relation to multiple outdoor sports/games. As always, sportsmanship, teamwork and fair play will be a top priority. Some of the sports/games involved will be cornhole, ladder golf, paddle ball, bottle smash, kan jam, spikeball, washers, bocce ball, and cross net.

Paper Roller Coasters **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Science, Math

Paper Roller Coasters is a course where collaborative group work is the foundation of designing and constructing a paper roller coaster. A couple of mini-labs allow students to get to know one another and set the criteria/rules for designing, collecting data, and building a paper roller coaster. Be prepared to work every day with your peers to construct a coaster that is 100% an original design by you!

Poetry & Songwriting **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts

Use rhythm and rhyme to create your own poems. Look at famous poetry and learn about poets. Be creative! Remember – You may be a poet and you just don't know it!

Public Speaking **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

Are you daring? Do you have what it takes to step up? Public speaking is the number one fear for many people. This course will help students give speeches and presentations with confidence. Have fun while getting over your fear to speak in front of the class.

Score! **10 weeks**
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Scrapbooking **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts

Scrapbooking will focus on self-discovery. The students will make a scrapbook of themselves at the end of this 10-week course. Students will make connections between personal experiences and books read in class. Students must be able to bring in several photographs from home for this class.

Sketch It Out **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts

For students who love to draw and often times find themselves drawing or doodling throughout the day-- this class is for you! Students will explore Anime, portrait drawing, and additional sketch art forms in this 10-week course. In addition, students will support school-wide projects. At the end of the course, students will have created a portfolio of their best work.

Sports History **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts, Math

This history course will examine the development of sports in the United States. The historical study will focus on helping students gain a better understanding of the inner relationship that sports have on social, economic, cultural, and political forces that are at work in the United States as well as the world. Students will explore the historical context as well as the significance of gender, race, ethnicity, and social class. The historical investigation will consist of readings, primary sources, and visual materials as wells as class discussions.

Stories From My Life **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

This elective class will help the students write and appreciate stories of their life. The student will write about life events and create their own personal story. Possible topics could include: What I like Best About My Family, Traditions, A Time I Will Never Forget, The Best Vacation and What is Special to Me. Along with the personal stories, the student will use pictures to assist them with their storytelling. By the end of the course, students will create a "lifebook" to take home and appreciate throughout the years.

String Theory **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts

String Theory is the opportunity for students to learn to play guitar or bass. Students will start with the fundamentals – string names, tuning, strumming, picking and hand placement. This course will take the students as far as they can go in learning instrument technique through learning songs. The focus of this class will be acoustic guitar, electric guitar, acoustic bass and electric bass. Instrument is **NOT** provided.

Theatre Arts **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts

Theatre Arts introduces the students to the art of physical and vocal expression through pantomime, acting, and improvisation. Students will explore character movement, voice, attitude, and motivation as they develop improvisational skills and learn the techniques of acting. Students will create, participate in, and reflect on small and large group performances. Class participation is a must.

The Compassion Club **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Life Skills

Kindness. We have learned about the foundation of kindness; however, as we grow older, the concept of being kind sometimes escapes our everyday routine. Now, more than ever, we need to take the time in our lives to stop, take a breath, and remember that kindness is a domino effect. The Compassion Club focuses on the awareness of others. Through service, The Compassion Club, will help students develop self-confidence and lifelong, healthy mental health. Students will participate in discussions about compassion, gratitude, courage, and kindness, as well as, encourage kindness throughout their school, home, and community.

The Hunger Games and Roman Influence **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

Students will read the novel "The Hunger Games". Students will take notes on the study of the tributes and the country of Panem. As they read, students will be introduced to the allusions of Roman Culture and Mythology that are implemented by the author with the novel.

World Music Drumming **10 weeks**
Do Not Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Social Studies

This class will focus on hand and stick rhythms of African and Afro-Cuban drumming. Basic drumming techniques will be taught in the various styles. Using various world percussion instruments, our drum circle will explore music of Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America. An assortment of instruments will be provided and students may also bring in their own instruments that are appropriate to the ensemble.

Yearbook **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts

Yearbook is a combination of journalism, photography, and graphic design. Student staff members are expected to have a high level of maturity and the ability to work independently, in pairs, and in groups. Students will assist in the production, design, and promotion of the school yearbook. Creating the yearbook is a fun process, and the end result of all the effort is a product of which the students can be proud!

Grade 8
Core Courses
(Required For All Students)

Language Arts 8 **Full year**

8th Grade ELA uses materials from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: *Into Literature*. At each grade level, *Into Literature* is presented in six units that center on an Essential Question that links reading selections, frames the unit's theme, and connects to students' experiences. Lessons are organized around age-appropriate authentic texts that support reading instruction and serve as mentor texts for student writing. Reading selections include a variety of genres and representations of diverse cultures and characters. The interconnected tasks build student knowledge and provide opportunities for increased independence. These tasks are supported by spiraling and scaffolded practice. Students will also read the following novels: *Coraline*, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, *Singularity*, and *The Outsiders*.

Science 8 **Full year**

As with all middle school science courses, the 8th Grade program is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The middle school performance expectations blend the core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge to explain real world phenomena in the physical, biological, and earth and space sciences. Performance expectations at the middle school level focus on students developing understanding of several scientific practices. These include developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, and constructing explanations; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas. Students are also expected to demonstrate understanding of several engineering practices including design and evaluation. These practices will be applied through Amplify Units that include Harnessing Human Energy, Force and Motion, Magnetic Fields, Light Waves, Earth/Moon/Sun, Natural Selection, and Evolutionary History.

Social Studies 8 **Full year**

The purpose of this course is to develop the student's understanding of the heritage that shaped the United States as a democratic nation. United States history is surveyed from the early colonial period through the development of an industrial, urban, and global United States. The political, economic, and social changes of our nation will be explored. Native Americans, exploration, colonization, and the Revolutionary War will be reviewed. The formation of our national government, Westward Movement, and the Civil War, and Reconstruction will be studied in detail. The course will periodically include the study of Michigan history and U.S. foreign affairs through 1931. The study of American history will prepare students to become responsible citizens.

Math 8 **Full year**

This course is for 8th Grade students who are preparing to take Algebra 1 as a freshman at the high school. Instruction will place major emphasis on families of functions, algebra skills, probability, and geometry. The graphing calculator will be utilized as a problem-solving tool to enhance student learning.

Algebra I **Full year**
Staff Assigned Only

Students must qualify for this course. Eligibility is determined by grades, State Assessment proficiency, and percentile rank on the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test. Students enrolled in this course receive high school credit. Course topics include family of functions (linear, power, polynomial, exponential, and quadratic), expressions, equations, inequalities, and the study of bivariate data.

Geometry **Full Year**
Staff Assigned Only

This course is for advanced students who successfully completed algebra in the 7th grade. This is a high school geometry course and begins by establishing definitions and familiarizing students with the language of geometry. Postulates and theorems are introduced, and students learn to write formal proofs. Included in the course are triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, areas of plane figures, volumes of solid figures, coordinate geometry, and transformations. Students attend class at Trenton High School (1st hour) then are bused back to AMS in time for 2nd hour.

Grade 8
Focus Courses
(Band OR Spanish Students)

Band 8 **Full year**

Eighth Grade Concert Band is a year-long, graded course of study that offers instruction on flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, baritone, French horn, trombone, tuba, and percussion. Generally made up of 4th year band students, new students are welcome to join! Eighth graders will perform at THS Marching Band Invitational, Trenton Christmas Parade, Winter Concert, Band & Orchestra Festival, and Spring Concert. Eighth graders have the opportunity to perform at the MSBOA Solo & Ensemble Festival (strongly encouraged!).

OR

Spanish 1A & 1B **(Pre-selection sheet required)** **Full year**

Spanish 1A & 1B is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. Primary objectives of this course are to develop strong foundations in the area of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and culture. There is an emphasis on vocabulary-building and the grammar necessary for language use in the classroom and through online resources.
Successful completion of this course will earn 1.0 high school credit.

Grade 8
Exploratory Courses
(Required for Band/Spanish Students)

Physical Education 8 **10 weeks**

Students will experience a variety of aquatic, recreational, sport, and fitness activities. Students will learn the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to enjoy an active lifestyle. Attention will be paid to the components of physical fitness and the development of students' knowledge and skill in this area.

Grade 8
Focus Courses
(Non-Band/Non-Spanish Students)

Core Skills 8 **6 2/3 weeks**

Students will review Document, Spreadsheet, and Presentation (Google versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) via relevant assignments pertaining to Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. With the computer skills under their belt, students will work on project-based assignments. They will incorporate skills from the computer portion of the class and skills from all core classes to explore and solve real-world scenarios.

Educational Technology 8 **6 2/3 weeks**

Students will complete the *Creating Apps with Devices* unit from Code.org. Students will explore the role of physical devices in computing. Using App Lab and Adafruit's Circuit Playground, students will develop programs that utilize the same hardware inputs and outputs that you see in smart devices, looking at how a simple rough prototype can lead to a finished product. Then, students explore how physical devices can be used to react to the world around them using a "maker" mindset to create prototypes with everyday materials.

Exploratory Art III **6 2/3 weeks**

In Exploratory Art III, students will refine perceptual and technical skills by creating and analyzing art. Students will explore and plan for better composition. They will incorporate a more sophisticated theory of the elements of art, principles of design, and demonstrate their knowledge of color theory while working on projects which may include drawing, painting, cartooning, clay, and weaving.

Physical Education 8 **20 weeks**

Students will experience a variety of aquatic, recreational, sport, and fitness activities. Students will learn the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to enjoy an active lifestyle. Attention will be paid to the components of physical fitness and the development of students' knowledge and skill in this area.

Read 180 **10 + weeks**
Staff Assigned Only

Read 180 is an intensive reading intervention program designed to meet the needs of students whose reading achievement is below proficient level. Data is utilized to assess student performance and needs, enabling informed decisions for placing students in the class. The program directly addresses individual needs through adaptive and instructional software, high-interest literature, and direct instruction in reading.

Grade 8
Elective Courses
(Teacher Recommended or Required)

ELA Enrichment **10 weeks**
Staff Assigned Only

Are you often reading ahead in class? Do debate and creative writing both hold the same intrigue for you? ELA Enrichment offers a deep dive into novels, a platform for student-centered writing, and the ability to enhance grammatical skill sets. ELA Enrichment is a course available to students who have tested on or above grade level on the iReady assessment and have maintained a grade of B+ or higher in their ELA class.

Guided Academics **10 weeks**
Staff Assigned Only

A teacher will guide a small group of students to promote student success. This course will focus on work completion, organization, and academic skill building.

Jazz Band **20 weeks**
Audition Required

The Arthurs Jazz Band is open to 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade students who are currently enrolled in a concert band class. All members of the Arthurs Jazz Band are selected by audition. Arthurs Jazz Band gives various performances throughout the year. Students must be able to commit to before and after school rehearsals approximately twice a week. The Arthurs Jazz Band is inclusive with regard to instrumentation. Generally, Jazz Band is comprised of saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, electric bass, drum set and guitar, but we also include flute, clarinet, baritone horn, French horn, violin, oboe, and vocalist. Jazz improvisation is a featured aspect of our performances and all members of the Jazz Band are instructed and encouraged to improvise. A detailed approach to jazz music interpretation will be emphasized as well as focusing on individual and group performance.

Leap into Language 8 **10 weeks**
Staff Assigned Only

Students having difficulty achieving grade level expectations for Reading, Writing, Spelling, and Grammar may be required to take this class. Formal and informal assessments will be used to place students in this class. Students will be given additional help so they may attempt to attain grade level expectations by filling in the gaps and work completion.

Math Power 8 **10 weeks**
Staff Assigned Only

Math Power is designed to help and encourage students to improve core math skills. The focus of this course will be to fill gaps in learning based on students' standardized test results. This course will center on games, manipulative activities, drills, and extra practice. The teacher will also assist students with math homework. The goal is to help students gain the required skills necessary to be successful in mathematics and to encourage them to enjoy math in a relaxed setting.

Peer 2 Peer **10 weeks**
Staff Assigned Only

Peer 2 Peer is an elective course that provides students with the opportunity to support and model academic and social skills from one non-disabled peer to a peer with a disability. There is a focus on leadership skills, understanding and adapting to individual differences, modeling social experiences, and advocating for others in the school setting. Peers will have training in the classroom and join their linked peer during the elective. Peers and students will get to play games and other fun activities to show their linked peer how to interact with others. As a peer you will have a chance to make new friends, problem solve any issues with staff and have fun. Attendance, classroom participation with peers, and the final project are required. Time outside of the classroom may be required. **(Students must fill out an application form and if selected the applicant will go through a short interview process to determine an appropriate fit for a peer.**

Science Project Based Learning (Genius Hour) **10 weeks**
Staff Assigned Only

Science Project Based Learning will allow the higher achieving learners to self-select the science topics they would most like to learn. This class is offered to the students with advanced iReady scores and high grades in Science classes. Students will engage in a research project for the entire card-marking based on driving questions and a culminating product to present to the group at the end of the term.

Grade 8
Elective Courses
(Available to All Students)

Advanced Studio Art **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated With Permission of Instructor
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts

This elective art course is for students that have an interest improving their art skills in painting, drawing, sculpture, and printmaking. Students will develop their own ideas to create projects using a variety drawing materials, paint, ink, metal, plaster gauze, and clay. Students will learn how to analyze artwork and write self-critiques on each project to create an electronic portfolio of their work.

Advanced Team Sports **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Physical Education

This course is appropriate for students who want to take their knowledge and skills of team sports to the next level. Students will work on offensive/defensive strategies, advanced drills to accelerate skill levels, game situations, and tournament play. The importance of being a good team member will also be emphasized. Depending on the season, the following sports will be covered: Basketball, Volleyball, Football, Tennis, Soccer, Pickleball, Hockey, as well as non-traditional sports/activities.

Animation & Game Design with Scratch **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Technology

Unleash your creativity and dive into the world of animation and game development with Scratch, a user-friendly visual programming language developed by MIT. This course introduces students to the fundamentals of coding through hands-on projects that bring ideas to life.

Designed for beginners, the course covers essential programming concepts such as loops, conditionals, variables, and event handling in a playful, engaging environment. Students will create interactive animations, design fun games, and learn how to incorporate sound, motion, and visual effects to enhance their projects.

App Inventor **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Technology

Students will learn how to build mobile apps and test them using the web-based program *MIT APP Inventor*. Important programming concepts and terminology will be discussed. Apps created will be able to be tested on an Android device and iOS (Apple) devices. Students will have access to Kindle Fires as well as the Emulator on the computer to test their apps.

Art From Many Hands **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts

This class is for art students who want to gain confidence in their own abilities while expanding their knowledge of art from many cultures. Just like today, people of ancient times were using every conceivable material to bring beauty and interest into their lives. Students will try a variety of their techniques to solve design problems. This will increase the students' technical skills as well as help them value the skills of artisans from around the world.

Book Club **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

Students will participate in a novel study and participate in a student-led Book Club regarding the novel(s) available to the class. Novels can include but are not limited to: Counting By Sevens, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, The Breadwinner, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Freak the Mighty, Making Bombs for Hitler, and Hatchet.

Brain Games **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Life Skills

This course allows students to play games while improving their mathematical and critical thinking skills. Students learn gaming strategies in a fun, competitive, and friendly environment. Games include Chess, Blokus, Rush Hour, Sequence, Sudoko puzzles, Othello, and a chance to solve the Rubic's cube. No prior experience is necessary. All grade levels are welcome.

Bridge Building **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies

Bridge Building introduces the students to different types of bridges around the world and the history of bridge development. We explore architectural strengths and geometric features that are found in bridges. Students practice building different types of bridges before finally forming a construction company and creating one final challenging bridge creation.

Calligraphy **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts

Calligraphy will give students an introduction to types of cursive writing and the history of handwriting. Students will learn the formation of letters in cursive and use of a calligraphy pen. Students will translate calligraphy to print and print to calligraphy. A culminating activity will be a formal calligraphy letter that is sent to a person. This class would also be a great assistance for students who want to improve their handwriting and fine motor skills.

Children's Books **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

Do you enjoy reading children's books? In this course, you will create your very own children's book. You will learn how to make a book, write, and illustrate a picture book.

Clue Crew **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts

Love a good mystery? Interested in figuring out how or why something happened? Clue Crew sets students on a course to solve short mysteries through a series of matrix puzzles and short stories. Students will look for clues and use deductive reasoning to draw conclusion and find answers. Students will even have the opportunity to create their own mystery.

Community Service and Leadership (CSL) **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Leadership, Social Studies

Interested in making a difference and gaining leadership skills? Then take this class! Students will be asked to plan and participate in special activities such as athletic pre-game activities, spirit week activities, and school and community service projects. **Students will be required to perform 10 hours of community service outside the regular school day.**

Countries Around the World **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Social Studies

Students will learn continents and countries of the world. Geography skills will be highlighted. Map Game tournaments will be conducted. Countries in the news will be highlighted.

Creative Expressions **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

Creative Expressions allows future authors a chance to practice the art of storytelling using their creative writing skills. This class studies different genres so that students can practice different forms of writing such as poetry, plays, comic strips, myths and more!

C.S.I.: "Numb3rs" **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Math, Technology

Students will be learning how to solve crimes using mathematics integrated with technology. This course offers students an opportunity to explore career paths in crime investigation as well as learn how math and math theory plays a critical role. The program is based on the popular television series titled, "Numb3rs". Students will watch episodes as they relate to math to solving crimes. Students will be involved in collecting and analyzing data, graphing, and predicting trends.

Current Events **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts, Technology

In this class, students will explore the current news events around the world. We will discuss news topics that include world news, science, history, sports, and entertainment among other topics.

Family History **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts

Students will examine their family history, create a family tree, and explore possible lineage based on surnames in their family. Students will discuss traditions and important events, or talk about significant people within their family through presentations and other class activities. They will also have an opportunity to study their probable country of origin and share in the heritage of different countries presented by classmates. This is a great class where students can learn more about themselves and the world!

Financial Fitness for Life **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Math, Social Studies

Financial Fitness for Life will introduce students to the consumer world. Students will be involved in a real life simulation where they apply the basic principles of economics, will create a budget, "open" a checking account, and will explore saving, spending, and credit.

Forensic Science **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Science

Students will be introduced to Forensic Science, which is a branch of science that focuses on criminal investigation to provide physical evidence to solve criminal cases. Students will learn a brief history of the subject, discuss the many occupations related to this study, practice the system of identifying criminals, and experience the exactness of fingerprinting.

Get Into the Green Scene **10 Weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Science

Get ready to hug a tree and play in the dirt! "Get into the Green Scene" is an environmental science class that will introduce students to a variety of issues and topics. Students will study topics of plants and trees, sustainable development, recycling, hybrid cars, water/wetlands, pollution, climate change, and Earth Day.

Get Into the Groove **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Physical Education

Dance based class featuring Zumba, line dances, movement to music, and Just Dance with Wii. Students will be given the opportunity to create dances and learn the latest dance moves by searching the internet.

Great Books **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts (Advanced)

This course is for the student who loves to read and is looking for exciting and challenging book choices. Class members will also have some voice in book selections. Discussions and book talks will be student led. Students should expect daily reading in and out of class time.

Greek and Norse Mythology **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

Explore the fascinating myths and legends of ancient Greece and Norse cultures! Students will learn about iconic gods, heroes, monsters, and epic adventures while discovering how these stories shaped ancient civilizations and influence modern pop culture.

Through creative projects, storytelling, and discussions, students will meet figures like Zeus, Athena, Thor, and Loki and explore themes like bravery, loyalty, and betrayal. By the end, they'll gain a deeper appreciation for these timeless tales and their lasting impact on today's world.

History Detectives **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts

Who killed JFK? Was King Tut murdered? Who invented the Alphabet? What happened to Roanoke's lost colony? Who really discovered the Americas? Were there witches in Salem? History Detectives examines some of World History's most intriguing and thought provoking unsolved mysteries. Students will be engaged in higher order thinking through independent and group projects while exploring primary source materials, diary entries, newspaper articles, and photographs in an attempt to solve some of History's greatest mysteries.

I Hate to Read Club **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

This course is for the student who claims they hate to read. This class is guaranteed to change their mind. Students will be introduced to fun, high interest books in a teacher led, relaxed environment. Students will read *The Loser List* and *Freak the Mighty*.

Independent Study **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Life Skills

Independent Study is an elective course designed to give middle school students extra time to complete assignments, homework and assessments. Students may also use this time to pursue other academic interests.

Jazz Improvisation **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts

Want to learn how to be the star soloist in the band? Use this opportunity to learn the tools for improvising on your instrument. During this class students will study classic jazz, rock and blues solos. Students will learn how to read chord symbols, create melodies from scales and improvise in all types of styles. With these tools students will be able to play anything!

Jeopardy Jammers **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science

Can't remember what you ate for breakfast this morning, but somehow remember every word to the hit song of 2009? Do you LOVE trivia questions – right or wrong – and learning the answers? Then sign up for Jeopardy Jammers! Watch famous trivia shows and participate in classroom based trivia games such as Kahoot, Quizzizz, Internet Jeopardy, Live Jeopardy, Pictionary and more!

Life in a Jar & Other Balancing Acts **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Science

Students will discover that the living and non-living parts of an ecosystem change until it becomes stable. One of the main projects is designing and conducting a scientific investigation. Students will set up a fresh water aquarium. Their goal is to set up a balanced ecosystem. The plants and animals in the container will be studied during the course. Students will be responsible for monitoring and maintaining their aquariums. Additional microscopic and hand lens activities will enhance this experience.

Mad Money **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Math, Social Studies

Mad Money introduces students to the investment power of the Stock Market. Students will develop an understanding of market history, how to research companies, select and follow stocks of interest, and assess team portfolios. The students will utilize online resources, including the national Stock Market Game.

Math-terpieces **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Math

"Math"-terpieces is a class where math, art, and fun come together. This course will explore the many connections between mathematics and art. Students will explore polygons and other geometric shapes to create tessellations, string art, and more. Each student will walk away with "math"-terpieces of his or her own to take home.

Mind, Body, and Spirit **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Life Skills

Students will be able to manage stress through exercise, self reflection, journaling, and nutrition. Students will learn how stress can affect their bodies and will be given strategies to overcome stressful situations. Students will take part in yoga, meditation, stretching, de-stressing crafts, and nutrition lessons. Students will leave the classroom feeling healthy and refreshed!

Music Time **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts

Music Time is the opportunity for students to play musical instruments. If the student has never played an instrument before, this is their chance to start. If the student is already in band and wants to try something new, this is their chance to add another instrument to their skill set. If the student is in band and wants more time to practice and develop on their current instrument, this class is for taking skills to the next level. Whether the student is a complete beginner or has years of experience, students in Music Time will receive private lessons and group instruction in instrumental musicianship.

Outdoor Backyard Games **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Physical Education

This course is appropriate for students who want to expand their knowledge and skills of backyard sports/games. Students will be introduced to new and ongoing backyard sports/games. The focus of the class will be on developing and mastering different sport specific skills in relation to multiple outdoor sports/games. As always, sportsmanship, teamwork and fair play will be a top priority. Some of the sports/games involved will be cornhole, ladder golf, paddle ball, bottle smash, kan jam, spikeball, washers, bocce ball, and cross net.

Paper Roller Coasters **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Science, Math

Paper Roller Coasters is a course where collaborative group work is the foundation of designing and constructing a paper roller coaster. A couple of mini-labs allow students to get to know one another and set the criteria/rules for designing, collecting data, and building a paper roller coaster. Be prepared to work every day with your peers to construct a coaster that is 100% an original design by you!

Poetry & Songwriting **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts

Use rhythm and rhyme to create your own poems. Look at famous poetry and learn about poets. Be creative! Remember – You may be a poet and you just don't know it!

Public Speaking **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

Are you daring? Do you have what it takes to step up? Public speaking is the number one fear for many people. This course will help you give speeches and presentations with confidence. Have fun while getting over your fear to speak in front of the class.

Reel to Real: Take 2 **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

Enjoy getting "real" about the latest movie? This class is for interested students who enjoy watching movies. "Reel to Real" is designed to challenge students to become thoughtful, active viewers and provide them an opportunity to talk and write about films in new and exciting ways. Students will examine movies that portray real life stories that will inspire them to "Dream it, Believe it, Achieve it". The movies selected focus on young adult themes of families, belonging, moral dilemmas, and fulfilling dreams.

Remember the Holocaust **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts

Transport yourself to the time of the Holocaust through the use of novels; Night by Elie Wiesel, The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen, and One Survivor Remembers by Gerda Weissmann Klein. Videos will accompany the hands-on lessons presented. The course will culminate with a field trip to the Holocaust Memorial. (Fee required for Museum visit.)

Score! **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Math

Love Sports? Interested in players' stats and each season's wins and losses? Take this class! Students will choose real-life football/basketball/baseball players, follow their statistics, calculate their team's total points, and compete with one another in class. Each week students will review and practice middle school math concepts with a heavy focus on fractions and decimals. Boys and girls are welcome!

Scrapbooking **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts

Scrapbooking will focus on self-discovery. The students will make a scrapbook of themselves at the end of this 10-week course. Students will make connections between personal experiences and books read in class. Students must be able to bring in several photographs from home for this class.

Sketch It Out **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts

For students who love to draw and oftentimes find themselves drawing or doodling throughout the day-- this class is for you! Students will explore Anime, portrait drawing, and additional sketch art forms in this 10-week course. In addition, students will support school-wide projects. At the end of the course, students will have created a portfolio of their best work.

Spanish 1A (Pre-selection sheet required) **Full Year**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: World Language

Spanish 1A is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. Primary objectives of this course are to develop strong foundations in the area of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and culture. There is an emphasis on vocabulary building and the grammar necessary for language use in the classroom and through online resources.
Successful completion of this course will earn .5 high school credit.

Spanish 2A **Full Year**
REQUIRED for and open only to students who successfully completed Spanish 1A & 1B in seventh grade
Curriculum Focus: World Language

Spanish 2A places a continued emphasis on vocabulary building and concurrent grammar instruction, helping students to function in more complex language situations. Speaking, writing, listening, and reading are at a more advanced level. Culture will include modern-day events which broaden students' understanding of the practices and concern of native speakers.
Successful completion of this course will earn .5 high school credit.

Sports History **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts, Math

This history course will examine the development of sports in the United States. The historical study will focus on helping students gain a better understanding of the inner relationship that sports have on social, economic, cultural, and political forces that are at work in the United States as well as the world. Students will explore the historical context as well as the significance of gender, race, ethnicity, and social class. The historical investigation will consist of readings, primary sources, and visual materials as wells as class discussions.

Stories From My Life **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

This elective class will help the students write and appreciate stories of their life. The student will write about life events and create their own personal story. Possible topics could include: What I like Best About My Family, Traditions, A Time I Will Never Forget, The Best Vacation and What is Special to Me. Along with the personal stories, the student will use pictures to assist them with their storytelling. By the end of the course, students will create a "lifebook" to take home and appreciate throughout the years.

String Theory **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts

String Theory is the opportunity for students to learn to play guitar or bass. Students will start with the fundamentals – string names, tuning, strumming, picking and hand placement. This course will take the students as far as they can go in learning instrument technique through learning songs. The focus of this class will be acoustic guitar, electric guitar, acoustic bass and electric bass. Instrument is **NOT** provided.

Theatre Arts **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts

Theatre Arts introduces the students to the art of physical and vocal expression through pantomime, acting, and improvisation. Students will explore character movement, voice, attitude, and motivation as they develop improvisational skills and learn the techniques of acting. Students will create, participate in, and reflect on small and large group performances. Class participation is a must.

The Compassion Club **10 weeks**
Do NOT Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Life Skills

Kindness. We have learned about the foundation of kindness; however, as we grow older, the concept of being kind sometimes escapes our everyday routine. Now, more than ever, we need to take the time in our lives to stop, take a breath, and remember that kindness is a domino effect. The Compassion Club focuses on the awareness of others. Through service, The Compassion Club, will help students develop self-confidence and lifelong, healthy mental health. Students will participate in discussions about compassion, gratitude, courage, and kindness, as well as, encourage kindness throughout their school, home, and community.

WEB **10 weeks**
Do Not Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Leadership

WEB is exclusively for 8th grade students. WEB, which stands for "Where Everybody Belongs" is a middle school orientation and transition program that welcomes 6th graders and new students to AMS. The purpose of WEB is to make new students feel comfortable throughout their first year at AMS. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, the program trains mentors from your 8th grade class to be WEB Leaders. As positive role models, WEB Leaders are mentors and student leaders who guide 6th grade students to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to middle school. Students must apply and be accepted in order to become a WEB Leader, as well as adhere to the WEB Leader Code of Conduct.

World Music Drumming **10 weeks**
Do Not Repeat
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Social Studies

This class will focus on hand and stick rhythms of African and Afro-Cuban drumming. Basic drumming techniques will be taught in the various styles. Using various world percussion instruments, our drum circle will explore music of Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America. An assortment of instruments will be provided and students may also bring in their own instruments that are appropriate to the ensemble.

Yearbook **10 weeks**
Course May Be Repeated
Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts

Yearbook is a combination of journalism, photography, and graphic design. Student staff members are expected to have a high level of maturity and the ability to work independently, in pairs, and in groups. Students will assist in the production, design, and promotion of the school yearbook. Creating the yearbook is a fun process, and the end result of all the effort is a product of which the students can be proud!

Special Education Courses
All Grade Levels

Language Arts

This course continues to build Language Arts skills begun at the elementary level. The curriculum includes proper sentence structure, grammar, a variety of writing activities, study skills, and spelling. Practical application of these skills will be used whenever possible. The reading program contains practice in both vocabulary and comprehension skills. Both fiction and non-fiction materials are used for learning enjoyment.

Math

This course is designed to reinforce and expand mathematical concepts including computation and understanding of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and measurement. Special emphasis is placed on applying knowledge of these concepts to problem solving, using calculators when necessary.

Science

This course parallels that of general education science with its focus on Life, Physical, and Earth Sciences. Hands-on experiences are provided whenever possible along with modifications for individual needs.

Social Studies

This course is designed for students who need basic knowledge of self, their community, their state and nation, and the world.

Guided Academics

The purpose of this course is to offer services to students who need academic support in their general education classes. Students will be pulled as needed from their Exploratory/Elective (E^2) times.

Co-Taught

Students will be in general education core classes with the support of a special education teacher.

Section 21f – Online Courses
All Grade Levels

Online Courses

In accordance with Section 21f of the State School Aid Act, students in grades 6-12 may take up to two online courses during an academic term, semester, or trimester in place of a currently scheduled course.

Eligibility includes all of the following requirements:

1. The student is enrolled in Trenton Public Schools in grades 6-12, and
2. The student has not previously earned credit for the requested course, and
3. The online course generates academic credit, and
4. The online course is consistent with the remaining graduation requirements or career interest of the student, and
5. The student possesses the prerequisite knowledge and skills to be successful in the online course, and
6. The cost of the online course does not exceed the amount authorized by law unless the parent/guardian agrees to pay the difference in cost, and
7. The online course is of sufficient quality or rigor. Course options are limited to classes that are listed in the Michigan's Online Course Catalog (https://micourses.org), and
8. The student adheres to the established school-district procedures and timelines for requesting an online course.

Timelines and Procedures:

1. Online Course Enrollment Request Forms are available in the counseling office.
2. Completed request forms must be submitted to the student's counselor by the following dates:
    - May 1 for online courses to be taken the first semester of the following school year.
    - November 1 for online courses to be taken during the second semester of the current school year.
3. Upon approval of the online course by the building principal, both the student and parent/guardian must agree to the 21f Online Learning Course Student Contract.
4. The enrollment process for the online course is conducted by the district – the student or parent may not enroll the student directly in the course.
5. The district will assign a mentor for the student. The role of the mentor is to serve as a liaison, monitor student weekly progress, and proctor online assessment as needed. The online teacher is the teacher of record.

6. A student's school record and transcript shall identify the online course title as it appears in the online course syllabus.
7. The score for the course submitted by the online instructor will be converted to a letter grade which will be posted on the student's transcript. Percentage grades will follow the common grading scale for Arthurs Middle School. The mentor is responsible for submitting the final grade to the counseling office.
8. Failure to complete an online class will show on the student's transcript as a "W" or an "E" if the teacher of record reports a failing final grade.