



25-26 Course Catalog

6th Grade: Core / Required Courses

English/Language Arts 6: Grade six English / Language Arts takes students through literature and informational texts centered on characters and people who are facing crucial decisions and experiencing real-life learning. From an investigation of what happens when a critical event interrupts life to investigation of ancient times, students will engage in reading myths, fables, poems, and stories of inspiration and hope. This course lays the foundation for future writing and analysis through skills determined by the Michigan ELA Standards.

Math 6: This course is aligned to the Common Core Standards with the purpose of allowing students to gain mastery of concepts and skills for greater success in future mathematics courses. Students will be able to apply their understanding of content as well as show mastery of the mathematical practice standards such as: making sense of problems and persevering through them, model with mathematics, use appropriate math tools, and communicate their thinking process. Areas of focus include: ratios and unit rates, arithmetic skills, surface area and volume problems, and understanding of statistical variability.

World Geography 6: This class is designed to help students understand basic elements of geography, history, civics, and economics through the study of historical and modern cultures. Students will use their learning to make connections to their own lives and to analyze how world events play a part in the course of global events past and present. Students will be equipped with the tools of reading apprenticeship and historical/geographic inquiry to conduct their studies.

Natural World 6: This year-long course will focus on using inquiry skills to explore science in a hands-on setting. Emphasis will be placed on using the scientific method in order to reach a deeper understanding of science concepts, and each unit will feature several lab investigations. The course will cover a variety of topics in all three main branches of science: Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science. This class also incorporates reading strategies and reading apprenticeship into science content.

Health 6: This course is designed to welcome students to the middle school, and to the beginning of their transition into adolescence. Students will be introduced to the social skills and problem solving techniques that will help them successfully navigate the next few years. Students will work on making good choices and apply those choices to health-related behaviors such as healthy eating. This course is

designed in such a way as to encourage positive communication with caregivers and other trusted adults.

6th Grade: Exploratory Courses

Art 6: In this course students will experience and explore the basic Elements of Art. Students will be encouraged to “Think Like Artists,” stretch their imagination, explore new art materials, develop craft, envision end results through brainstorming, and create extraordinary Artwork!

Band 6: This full year course will help develop students into creative, proficient musical performers. Band members develop musically as individuals and as a group while exploring elements of musical theory, performance, and instrumentation. You’ll learn familiar melodies, have the chance to use your skills in other classes, and perform twice in our auditorium!

Choir 6: 6th grade choir students study and learn many styles of music and to develop poise and confidence through singing and performing together in this year-long course. Music reading, singing technique, performing and music history are the focus of this course. In addition to our December and May concerts and school assemblies, choir members participate in Michigan School Vocal Music Association Solo & Ensemble. Many 6th grade choir members continue singing in choir throughout middle and high school enjoying Michigan Honor Choir, Choral Festival and solo opportunities each year.

PE: This course is designed for students to gain increased skills and increase their cardiovascular endurance in a variety of team sports. Each grade level class will be expected to complete activities appropriate to their level. Sports such as volleyball, basketball, kickball, etc...will be offered.

SFT: This trimester course seeks to establish 21st century skills and habits that are necessary for success in middle and high school. Considering routines, goals, and time management, students learn and practice soft skills to help them grow and succeed.

7th Grade: Core / Required Courses

English/Language Arts 7: Through ELA 7, students develop an ability to read critically, analyze literary and informational texts, write responsively, and consider themes. The selection of texts moves students through fictional and non-fictional accounts of setting out to achieve a goal in the face of adversity, of exploring what constitutes a just society, and of questioning the challenge of human interaction. Skills are taught and assessed according to the 7th Grade ELA Standards set by the Michigan Department of Education.

Math 7: This course is aligned to the Common Core Standards with the purpose of allowing students to gain mastery of concepts and skills for greater success in future mathematics courses. Areas of focus include: the number system, proportional relationships, expressions and equations, area and volume, and data distributions

Accelerated Math 7: This course is aligned to the Common Core Standards with the purpose of allowing students who have demonstrated advanced proficiency in math to gain mastery of concepts and skills for greater success in future advanced mathematics courses. This course covers the second half of Math 7 plus all of Math 8 in order to prepare students for Algebra. Areas of focus include: The Number System, Geometry, Statistics and Probability, Expressions and Equations, and Functions.

Social Studies 7: This course is designed to help students understand ancient history. Students will look at different civilizations and the characteristics that define them. Students then move into a brief look at world religions and how they have shaped the growth of the world. The last portion of the course will give an idea at what many continents found themselves looking like before the year 1500.

Science 7: This course will focus on applying inquiry skills to explore science in a hands-on setting. Emphasis will be placed on analyzing data in order to reach a deeper understanding of science concepts. Topics that will be covered include: energy, thermal energy, waves, digital signals, fossils, history of Earth, evolution, plate tectonics, geoscience processes, and Earth's resources.

Health 7: In 7th grade, students will continue working on taking ownership of their physical, emotional and social health. They will work on creating plans to maintain lifelong health behaviors. The course is designed in such a way as to encourage positive communication with parents and other adults, and allows for students to understand complex issues associated with health.

7th Grade: Exploratory Courses

Spanish: Students will explore Hispanic cultures and the basics of the Spanish language with a focus on vocabulary acquisition and basic conversation. This optional course fulfills the language experience credit for high school. Students who complete Spanish and choose to continue Spanish language learning will enter the high school Spanish 1 class with prior knowledge that will help them be successful.

Choir 7: This year-long course provides the opportunity for students to develop into confident singers and performers. Music reading, performing and studying music history are the focus of this course. Choir members participate in Michigan School Vocal Music Association Honor Choir, Solo & Ensemble and Choral Festival annually. Middle School Choirs present two community concerts each school year and sing for Recognition Night.

Band 7: This year-long course will help develop students into creative, proficient performers. Band members work both as individuals and as a group while exploring elements of musical theory, performance, and instrumentation. Students are also encouraged to participate in a competition held by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association.

STEAM 7: This trimester course allows students to get hands-on experience exploring Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics, while focusing on 21st Century Skills of communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity. Students will experience many hands-on projects that will challenge their problem solving skills.

Art 7: In this trimester course students will focus on creating artwork utilizing the Principles of Design. Students will be encouraged to express themselves through their work, practice persistence through trial & error, observe the art world around them, and connect their tasks to real-life careers relating to art.

Young Entrepreneurs: This course builds on the skills developed in Success for Today by creating opportunities for students to investigate career and college opportunities. Students create an educational development plan that is tailored to their interests, personality, and goals. Students continue to practice goal setting and creating good, productive habits.

PE: This trimester course is designed for students who wish to gain increased skills and increase their cardiovascular endurance in a variety of team sports. Each grade level class will be expected to

complete activities appropriate to their level. Sports such as volleyball, basketball, kickball, etc., will be offered.

8th Grade: Core / Required Courses

English/Language Arts 8: This course is designed to allow students to gain an ever increasing skill set in the areas of literacy and writing. Utilizing a “Workshop” approach each student will be challenged to grow and develop into a better reader and writer throughout the year. Together, we will investigate a broad spectrum of literary and informational texts to explore the trials and tensions of the human experience.

Accelerated ELA 8: This course is designed for students who are advanced readers and writers. Using Common Core 8th grade standards, students will focus on complex literature through in depth analytical essays. Students would then move on to advanced/advanced placement ELA courses at the high school.

Math 8: This course is aligned with the Common Core Standards for 8th grade math. Upon completion of this course students will be enrolled in Algebra I at the high school.

Advanced Math Algebra: This course is aligned with the Common Core Standards and is designed for students who are ready to gain more advanced skills in mathematics. Upon receiving a C first semester and a C second semester, students will receive 1 high school credit towards math. Students would then be enrolled in Geometry at the high school.

Social Studies 8: This course is designed to help students understand the culture, geography, and history of the United States from its origins until the end of The Civil War. Students will use their learning to make connections to their own lives and to analyze how world events play a part in the course of global events past and present.

Science 8: This course focuses on the Next Generation Science Standards. Students will perform & design experiments, create projects & presentations, and research current science topics. Students will be expected to create arguments backed by scientific evidence in order to prove they have achieved a deeper understanding of science concepts.

Health 8: In 8th grade, students will continue working on taking ownership of their physical, emotional and social health, as they prepare for the increased independence that comes with the transition to high school next fall. They will work on creating plans to maintain lifelong health behaviors. The course is designed in such a way as to encourage positive communication with parents and other adults, and allows for students to understand complex issues associated with health.

8th Grade: Exploratory Courses

Spanish: Students will explore Hispanic cultures and the basics of the Spanish language with a focus on vocabulary acquisition and basic conversation. This optional course fulfills the language experience credit for high school. Students who complete Spanish and choose to continue Spanish language learning will enter the high school Spanish 1 class with prior knowledge that will help them be successful.

Art 8: In this trimester course students will focus on creating artwork utilizing the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. Students will be encouraged to express themselves through their work, practice

persistence through trial & error and engage with the art world around them.

Choir 8: This year-long course provides the opportunity for students to develop into confident singers and performers. Music reading, performing and studying music history are the focus of this course. Choir members participate in Michigan School Vocal Music Association Honor Choir, Solo & Ensemble and Choral Festival annually. Middle School Choirs present two community concerts each school year and sing for Recognition Night.

Band 8: This year-long course will help develop students into creative, proficient performers. Band members work as individuals, in small ensembles, and as a full group while exploring elements of musical theory, performance, and instrumentation. Students are also encouraged to participate in a competition held by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association. In the spring, band members select a piece and perform it for their Recognition Night.

PE: This trimester course is designed for students who wish to gain increased skills and increase their cardiovascular endurance in a variety of team sports. Each grade level class will be expected to complete activities appropriate to their level. Sports such as volleyball, basketball, kickball, etc., will be offered.

STEAM 8: This trimester course allows students to get hands-on experience exploring Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics, while focusing on 21st Century Skills of communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity. Students will experience many hands-on projects that will challenge their problem solving skills.

HS Prep: This trimester course utilizes 21st century skills to prepare students in the areas of time management, collaboration, communication, responsibility, and organization.