



School District U-46

Middle School Electives Curriculum Proposal for 2026-2027 Implementation

Board of Education Presentation

Presenters

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September 8, 2025



**6th Grade Artes de Lenguaje en Español (ALE)/Spanish
Language Arts (SLA) Curriculum Proposal**

**Middle School CTE (Career and Technical Education)
Curriculum Proposal**

Middle School Fine Arts Curriculum Proposal

Middle School Rotations

6th Grade AVID Curriculum Proposal

2026-2027



Purpose

This proposal seeks the adoption of new middle school electives in alignment with our pathways, academies, and programming under the areas of ALE (Artes de Lenguaje en Español, CTE (Career and Technical Education), Fine Arts, Rotations, and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination).

Alignment to Strategic Plan

GOAL #1



1

**Building
Early
Academic
& Social-
Emotional
Foundations**

GOAL #2



2

**Safety,
Sense of
Belonging,
& Inclusion**



GOAL #3



3

**Academic
Growth
& Mastery**



GOAL #4



4

**Ready to
Embrace
a Diverse
& Changing
World**



Process Timeline

Curriculum Development and Review of Resources	2023-2025 School Years
Instructional Council Steering Committee	March 3, 2025
Instructional Council	March 20, 2025

Standards

The curriculum for each of the proposed courses was developed using the associated learning standards for that content.

- ALE- [Spanish Language Arts Standards](#) and [Spanish Language Development Standards](#)
- AVID – [Student Agency, Rigorous Academic Preparation, and Opportunity Knowledge](#)
- Business - [National Entrepreneurship Standards](#)
- Computers, Engineering, Healthcare - [International Society for Technology Education](#)
- Human Development - [National Association for the Education of Young Children](#)
- Culinary Arts - [National Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences](#) - *Food Production & Services*
- Career Exploration - [National Career Development Guidelines](#)
- Civic Justice - [Common Core State Standards English/Language Arts](#)
- Art - [National Core Arts Standards](#) - *Visual Arts* Strand
- Choir - [National Core Arts Standards](#) - *Music: Traditional & Emerging Ensembles* Strand
- Dance - [National Core Arts Standards](#) - *Dance* Strand
- Theatre - [National Core Arts Standards](#) - *Theatre* Strand
- Illinois SEL - [Social and Emotional Learning Standards](#)

Program Overview/ Middle School Electives

All middle school students will have two class periods each school year to choose electives from the options below.

Yearlong Course Options (All Grades Unless Indicated Otherwise):

- AVID
- Artes de Lenguaje en Español (ALE)
- Level 2 Band
- Level 3 Band (7/8)
- *Level 1 Choir
- *Level 2 Choir (7/8)
- Level 2 Orchestra
- Level 3 Orchestra (7/8)
- World Language (7/8)

Yearlong Rotation Course Options (6th or 7th Grade):

- *Explore Justice, Design & Enterprise
Art Exploration, Civic Justice, Design & Modeling, Intro to Business
- *Explore Voices, Vision & Vocation: Be a Star!, Career Exploration, Computer Technology, Human Development

Semester-Long Course Options (7th or 8th Grade):

- *Culinary Arts 1
- *Culinary Arts 2
- *Graphic Artistry
- Essential Technology
- *Artistic Vision
- Interactive Media
- *World Dance Exploration
- Automation & Robotics
- *Dance Conservatory
- *Medical Detectives
- *Here We Come, Hollywood!
- *MxINCedu
- *Broadway Bound!

Program Overview

Artes de Lenguaje en Español (ALE) /Spanish Language Arts (SLA) (Yearlong)

Available for Grades	New Course Name	Course Highlights	DL Program
6	<i>ALE/SLA 6th Grade (Yearlong)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bilingualism and biliteracy development• Culture and bilingual identity• Critical thinking, action research	All dual-language students will take this class

Recommended Resources

6th GRADE ALE/SLA

- Most resources used in 6th grade will remain the same:
 - Textbook: Arriba la lectura (currently used in 6th grade)
 - Current 6th-grade classroom libraries
 - Current literacy digital databases (e.g., NewsELA, Gale, SIRS)
- New resources will include:
 - Custom curated novels in Spanish for classroom libraries

Professional Learning

Content/Course	Curriculum & Assessment Unpacking	Resource Training	Additional Professional Learning Needs
6th Grade ALE/SLA	X		Language Acquisition Biliteracy Pedagogy

Cost

Item	Initial Cost	Annual Cost (Consumables)
ALE/SLA 6th Grade	\$57,044.61*	\$0.00

*This is a one-time cost.

Program Overview/CTE Business Course (*Semester*)

Available for Grades	New Course Name	Course Highlights	Courses Being Phased Out
7, 8	<i>MxINCedu</i> (<i>Semester</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Real-world problem solving● Modified business model● Innovation of product and services	There are no existing middle school business courses.

Program Overview/CTE

Culinary Arts Courses (*Semester*)

Available for Grades	New Course Name	Course Highlights	Courses being phased out
7, 8	<i>Culinary Arts 1 (Semester)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Essential skills ● Basic culinary techniques ● Recipe development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Culinary Arts and Leadership ● Culinary Arts and Personal Growth
7, 8	<i>Culinary Arts 2 (Semester)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recipe enhancement ● Explore different cuisines ● Meal planning, dietary needs 	

Program Overview/CTE Healthcare (Medical Detectives) Course (*Semester*)

Available for Grades	New Course Name	Course Highlights	Courses Being Phased Out
7, 8	<i>Medical Detectives (Semester)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical Investigations• Critical thinking, teamwork	There are no existing middle school healthcare science courses.

Recommended Resources

BUSINESS

- MxINCedu
- Standard classroom consumables (paper, markers, ink in printers)

CULINARY ARTS

- Adventures in Food (Goodheart- Wilcox)
- Consumable food items such as eggs, flour, spices

HEALTHCARE (MEDICAL DETECTIVES)

- Project Lead the Way- Medical Detectives
- Experiment Kits
- Notebooks

Professional Learning

Content/Course	Curriculum & Assessment Unpacking	Resource Training	Additional Professional Learning Needs
Business	X	mxINCedu	Uncharted Learning Bootcamp
Culinary Arts	X	Goodheart-Wilcox	
Healthcare (Medical Detectives)	X	PLTW	PLTW Medical Detectives Core Training

Cost

Item	Initial Cost	Annual Cost (Consumables)
Business	\$36,000.00	\$36,000.00
Culinary Arts	\$211,518.80	\$54,000.00
Healthcare (Medical Detectives)	\$73,253.65	\$34,293.75

Program Overview/Fine Arts

Art Courses (*Semester*)

Available for Grades	New Course Name	Course Highlights	Courses Being Phased Out
7, 8	<i>Graphic Artistry (Semester)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Digital Art ● Architectural Perspective ● 3D Product Design ● Packaging Design ● Portfolio 	Art 1 (Semester) Art 2 (Semester)
7, 8	<i>Artistic Vision (Semester)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2D Landscape ● 3D Sculpture ● Mixed Media ● Digital Art ● Portfolio 	Art 3 (Semester) Art 4 (Semester)

Program Overview/Fine Arts

Choir Courses (*Yearlong*)

Available for Grades	New Course Name	Course Highlights	Courses Being Phased Out
6, 7, 8	<i>Level 1 Choir (Yearlong)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Beginning Music Literacy ● Beginning Vocal Technique ● Ensemble Singing 	7th Grade Chorus (yearlong)
7, 8	<i>Level 2 Choir (Yearlong)</i> <i>**repeatable**</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Intermediate Music Literacy ● Advancing Vocal Technique ● Ensemble Singing ● Introduction to Solo Singing 	8th Grade Chorus (yearlong) Combined Chorus (yearlong)

Program Overview/Fine Arts Dance Courses (*Semester*)

Available for Grades	New Course Name	Course Highlights	Courses Being Phased Out
7, 8	<i>Dance Conservatory (Semester)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fundamental Skill Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ballet ○ Modern Dance ○ Jazz ○ Tap ● Performance Opportunity 	<p>N/A</p> <p>There are no existing middle school dance courses.</p>
7, 8	<i>World Dance Exploration (Semester)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fundamental Skill Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hip Hop ○ African Dance ○ Ballet Folklorico ○ Indian Dance ● Performance Opportunity 	

Program Overview/Fine Arts Theatre Courses (*Semester*)

Available for Grades	New Course Name	Course Highlights	Courses Being Phased Out
7, 8	<i>Broadway Bound!</i> (Semester)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Whose Scene is it Anyway?! ● The Storyteller's Stage ● It Takes Two!! ● We're All in This Together! 	<p style="text-align: center;">Speech (semester)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Debate (semester)</p>
7, 8	<i>Here We Come, Hollywood!</i> (Semester)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lights, Camera, Action! ● Breaking News ● Epic Tales ● Starring Role ● Here We Come, Hollywood! 	

Recommended Resources

ART

- Artmaking Equipment
- Consumables (Artmaking Supplies)

CHOIR

- Digital Instructional Resource (MusicFirst Classroom)
- Teacher Instructional Resource Books
- Consumables (Student Workbooks)

Recommended Resources

DANCE

- Student Textbooks
- Classroom Bluetooth Speaker
- Instructional Equipment (Folklorico Practice Skirts, Slip-On Tap Shoes)
- Consumables (Guest Artists)

THEATRE

- Recording Software
- Teacher Instructional Resource Reference Books
- Video Recording & Classroom Equipment
- Consumables (Simple Props, Costumes, Spike Tape, Set Building Materials, etc.)

Professional Learning

Content/Course	Curriculum & Assessment Unpacking	Resource Training	Additional Professional Learning Needs
Art	X		
Choir	X	MusicFirst Classroom	
Dance	X		World Dance Styles
Theatre	X	Adobe Premiere Rush/Pro	

Cost

Item	Initial Cost	Annual Cost (Consumables)
Art	\$ 20,314.80	\$18,000.00
Choir	\$ 22,384.80	\$20,250.00
Dance	\$ 103,815.00	\$16,875.00
Theatre	\$ 169,602.84	\$31,049.19

Program Overview/Rotations

Explore Justice, Design & Enterprise (Yearlong)

Available for Grades	Rotation Class Name*	Class Highlights	
6, 7	<i>Art Exploration (9 Weeks)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contour Drawing ● Watercolor Painting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One-Point Perspective ● Clay Pinch Pot
	<i>Civic Justice (9 Weeks)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Foundations of Civic Engagement ● Social Justice & Advocacy ● Law, Policy, and Governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community-Based Projects ● Ethical Decision-Making and Civic Responsibility
	<i>Design & Modeling (PLTW) (9 Weeks)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hands-On Projects and Experimenting ● Collaborative Teamwork 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Technology Integration ● Critical Thinking and Inquiry
	<i>Intro to Business (9 Weeks)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project-Based Learning ● Entrepreneurial Mindset 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Team Collaboration ● Community Involvement

*NOTE: Classes will not necessarily occur in this order, however every student will experience all four classes in the yearlong rotation course.

Program Overview/Rotations

Explore Voices, Vision & Vocation (Yearlong)

Available for Grades	Rotation Class Name*	Class Highlights
6, 7	<i>Be a Star! (9 Weeks)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comfortable Risk-Taking • Movement Matters • Finding Your Voice / Public Speaking • <i>Be a Star!</i> Acting a Scene
	<i>Career Exploration (9 Weeks)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest Inventory • Career Pathways • Interactive Activities
	<i>Computer Technology (9 Weeks)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Challenges • Interactive and Immersive Project-Based Learning • Foundational Programming & Coding Projects
	<i>Human Development (9 Weeks)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding Growth and Change • Healthy Relationships and Communication • Decision-Making and Problem-Solving

*NOTE: Classes will not necessarily occur in this order, however every student will experience all four classes in the yearlong rotation course.

Recommended Resources

Explore Justice, Design, and Enterprise

- Artmaking Equipment
- Consumables (Artmaking Supplies)
- Criminal Justice- Certiport
- Project Lead the Way- Design and Modeling
- MxINCedu

Recommended Resources

Explore Voices, Vision, and Vocation

- Consumables (i.e. pencils, binders/folders, dry erase markers/individual marker boards, poster boards, simple props, costumes, spike tape, set building materials, etc.)
- eDynamic- Middle School Career Exploration
- Technology Items
- Filament for 3D Printers
- iCEV- Family and Consumer Science

Professional Learning

Content/Course	Curriculum & Assessment Unpacking	Resource Training	Additional Professional Learning Needs
Art Exploration	X		
Civic Justice	X	<i>Pearson Criminal Justice Today</i>	
Design and Modeling	X	PLTW	PLTW Core PL Course
Intro to Business	X	mxINCedu	Uncharted Learning Bootcamp

Professional Learning

Content/Course	Curriculum & Assessment Unpacking	Resource Training	Additional Professional Learning Needs
Be a Star!	X		
Career Exploration	X	MS Career Exploration 1	
Computer Technology	X		
Human Development	X	iCEV	

Cost

Item	Initial Cost	Annual Cost (Consumables)
Art Exploration (Art Rotation)	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00
Civic Justice	\$47,291.85	\$15,750.00
Design and Modeling (PLTW)	\$110,690.60	\$43,830.00
Business	\$36,000.00	\$36,000.00
Be a Star! (Theatre Rotation)	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00
Career Exploration	\$21,996.00	\$18,000.00
Computer Technology	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00
Human Development	\$16,887.50	\$16,877.50

Program Overview/ AVID elective (Yearlong)

Available for Grades	New Course Name	Course Highlights	Courses Being Phased Out
6	AVID 6	Reading, Writing, Organization, Collaboration, Inquiry, Opportunity Knowledge	None

Recommended Resources

AVID

- [My.AVID.org](https://www.myavid.org)
- AVID Weekly resources

Professional Learning

Content/Course	Curriculum & Assessment Unpacking	Resource Training	Additional Professional Learning Needs
AVID	X	AVID professional learning	

Cost

Item	Initial Cost	Annual Cost (Consumables)
AVID	\$0.00	\$0.00

Because we already pay for building-wide AVID subscriptions, adding 6th grade results in no additional costs. 6th grade teachers and students will have access to all existing AVID resources.

Implementation Plan

- SY 2026-2027
 - The new elective course structure will go into effect starting Fall of 2026.
- With implementation of the new middle school elective structure, the following courses will be replaced:
 - Art 1
 - Art 2
 - Art 3
 - Art 4
 - Speech
 - Debate
 - 7th Grade Chorus
 - 8th Grade Chorus
 - Combined Chorus
 - Culinary and Leadership
 - Culinary and Personal Development
- Staffing will be determined by enrollment numbers following the current model. Assignments will be determined by building administration.

Proposed Results

- Identification of and engagement with students' interests
- Career exploration and preparation
- Alignment to and preparation for U-46 high school course sequences, magnet programs, and career pathways

Plans for the Evaluation of Change

- The intended impact of this curriculum will be evaluated over the first full curriculum cycle based on the following considerations:
 - Student Enrollment/Demand
 - Course Assessment Data
 - Teacher Feedback
- At the completion of the initial curriculum cycle, based on the collected data, the Curriculum and Instruction Department will work with District leadership to make needed adjustments to course/program structure or resources to ensure that the objectives are being met with fidelity.



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