Middle School – Grade 8

Academic Planning Guide

The Academic Planning Guides are also available on your school's webpage.

Language Assistance

For assistance in another language please call 715-852-3000 or contact your child's school.

Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov ntawv nov ua lus Hmoob, thov hu xov tooj rau koj tus menyuam lub tsev kawm ntawv los yog hu tus xov tooj no: 715-852-3000.

Si Ud. le gustaría ayuda para interpretar el idioma de estos materiales, por favor llame Ud. a la escuela de su hijo o hija, o 715-852-3000.

Equal Educational Opportunities

All ECASD programs and classes (including Career & Technical Education/Project Lead the Way/Transcripted Credit/Start College Now/Early College Credit Program/Advanced Placement/Youth apprenticeships/Mentorships) are available to students regardless of their sex, race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, gender identity, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability.

Equitable Multi-level System of Supports (EMLSS)

Students reach educational targets and benchmarks in different ways. Several factors can impact when students reach proficiency in a course of study. In Eau Claire, our goal is that all students will meet or exceed our benchmarks. Therefore, we work to provide educational services within an Equitable Multi-Level System of Support (EMLSS) framework.

This means that we provide rigorous, differentiated educational programming within our universal coursework. Some students will need additional support and/or enrichment to meet or exceed grade-level benchmarks. Below is an explanation of some of the ways students can be supported in the EMLSS framework within the Middle School program.

English Learners:
Students who speak a language other than English at home may qualify for English language (EL) support. Contact your school's EL teacher or the Director of Student Services.

Name	Phone Number	Email Address
Director of Student Services, Misti Trowbridge	715-852-3188	mtrowbridge@ecasd.us

Talented and Gifted Education:
Students who exhibit gifted behavior in any of the following areas: general intellectual ability, specific academic ability, artistic ability (including art, music, drama), leadership ability, and creative ability may be assessed for appropriate math, science, and language arts placement during their middle school years. Contact your school's instructional coach or the Director of Secondary Programming.

Name	Phone Number	Email Address
Director of Secondary Programming, Michelle Radtke	715-852-3091	mradtke@ecasd.us

Special Education:
Special education services may be delivered in a general classroom, pull out environment, or a combination of these options. Individual Educational Plans (IEP) are designed to meet the student's educational needs with accommodations and/or modifications. Course selection decisions are made based on the student's IEP. Most special education courses parallel traditional core academic offerings, but some are significantly modified in content and focus. See your school counselor, IEP manager, or the Director of Special Education for more information.

Name	Phone Number	Email Address
Director of Special Education, Dana McConnell	715-852-3077	dmcconnell1@ecasd.us

Course Credit Requirements:
The District has established standard credit requirements for high school graduation. All required credits must be earned by completing the course with a minimum passing grade while the student is enrolled in the grades 9-12 in the high school. Students in the Talented and Gifted program in middle school may enroll in high school courses; however, credits earned count as middle school courses only and will not impact high school grade point average. Middle School courses will be listed on a student's high school transcript to ensure sequence of coursework will be followed. Students will need to complete the required number of credits for each high school department during grades 9-12.

Grade 8

Required Courses

Course Number	Course Name	Length of Course	Description
8100	English 8	Year	Students will grow as writers and readers and continue to read both informational and literary texts and develop their skills in comprehension at or above grade level. Through various strategies, reader/writer workshop, reader response, close reading and the writing process, students will develop skills for narrative, argumentative and informational writing. They will also expand their abilities with other forms of communication, continue to pursue excellence in their work through continual revision and strive to produce work that meets expectations for Grade 8 language and grammar. Units in science fiction, mythology, classics, poetry, mass media, and other literature are taught throughout the year.
8200	Math 8	Year	The curriculum will expand on algebraic concepts and provide students with a strong foundation for Algebra I and is structured to help students learn the state standards for mathematical content and practices that allow them to communicate their reasoning and apply their learning to real-world problems. This will encourage the development of habits of mind that will allow students to develop deep understanding of mathematics. Topics addressed include real number operations, radicals and integers exponents, proportional relationships and lines, systems of linear equations, functions, rules of congruence and similarity, Pythagorean Theorem, volume, and analyzing bivariate data.
8300	Social Studies 8	Year	Explores the history of the United States from the founding of the nation through 1929. The course is an important foundation for the development of participatory citizenship. Students will learn about important people and events that helped to shape the United States. Further, they will interact with many primary and secondary sources, draw conclusions, and compare and contrast events from multiple perspectives. Students will also conduct research projects of varying length while learning to evaluate sources for reliability and validity. Instruction will include a variety of methods designed to ensure students learn the techniques used by historians to recount events of the past and make links to the future. Finally, students will learn many ways to present findings effectively to various audiences.
8400	Science 8	Year	Curriculum includes physical science including units on motion, forces, work, sound, light, heat, energy, and chemistry. Students will also conduct investigations using the scientific method, problem solving techniques, and critical thinking skills. All skills will be learned in a laboratory setting, with time being devoted to experimenting. Students are expected to do supplemental work to assist them in understanding the ideas developed through lab work. In addition, students will use technology as a tool to collect data and communicate conceptual understanding.

Course Number	Course Name	Length of Course	Description
8640	Gateway to Technology	Semester	This course has two units. • Design and Modeling: Students uses solid modeling software (a sophisticated mathematical technique for representing solid objects) as part of the design process. Utilizing this design approach, students learn how design influences their lives, sketching techniques and use descriptive geometry as a component of design and measurement and computer modeling. Students also brainstorm, research, develop ideas, create models, test and evaluate design ideas and communicate solutions. • Automation and Robotics: Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics. They learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. Students acquire knowledge and skills in problem solving, teamwork collaboration and innovation.
8650	Family & Consumer Science 8	Semester	Provides students the opportunity to learn essential life skills. Students will utilize food preparation labs and learn about healthy food choices. Cooperation and problem solving are evaluated during all lab experiences. Students will explore the world of work and will use the website, Xello to enhance high school course planning and post-secondary goal setting. Other topics include family relationships, employability skills, housing and design, consumer and financial skills, creative fabric projects, child development, and consumer and financial smarts.
8700	Physical Education 8	Year – Alternate Days	Provides opportunities for students to develop lifetime leisure activities with an emphasis on individual sports and participation and skill development of all students regardless of ability level. Teamwork, cooperation, healthy competition, fitness, and effort are also stressed at this level. Students are required to wear the physical education t-shirts that were provided in Grade 6 or 7. If a replacement is needed, a new t-shirt must be purchased by parents/guardians. Students new to the school in Grade 8 will be provided a t-shirt at no cost.

Grade 8

Music Electives

Course Number	Course Name	Length of Course	Description
8900	Band 8	Year – Alternate Days	Designed for students with two years of band experience. Students who wish to start band in Grade 8 or have only one year of experience must consult with the band teacher. Concerts, parades, and solo festivals are a few of the experiences students will have. In addition, students may have the opportunity to participate in band clinics and perform in various additional ensembles.

Course Number	Course Name	Length of Course	Description
8910	Chorus 8	Year – Alternate Days	Offers students who have an interest and ability in singing an opportunity to sing a more challenging level of choral music. Much of the rehearsals will deal with further developing singing technique and music reading skills. Classroom activities will culminate in the performance of a wide variety of styles of music in three- and four-part harmony. Opportunities may be available for singing solos and performing in local and district solo festivals, as well as singing in various ensembles (trios, quartets, octets, triple trios, show choirs, honors groups, etc.) Participation in performances will constitute part of the student's grade. This course has a dress code for all performances.
8930	Orchestra 8	Year – Alternate Days	Designed for students with two years of orchestra experience. Students who wish to start orchestra in Grade 8 or have only one year of experience must consult with the orchestra teacher. Concerts and solo festivals are a few of the experiences students will have. Students may have the opportunity perform with additional ensembles. Attendance at summer lessons is expected if offered unless other arrangements have been made with the orchestra instructor. Participation in performances will constitute part of the student's grade.

Grade 8

World Language Electives

Course Number	Course Name	Length of Course	Description
8500	French I	Year	**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of French 7. This course is a continuation of French 7. Students will continue to develop their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. More advanced grammatical forms and expanded vocabulary are presented. Cultural studies will be presented throughout the course.
8510	German I	Year	**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of German 7. This course is a continuation of German 7. Students will continue to develop their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. More advanced grammatical forms and expanded vocabulary are presented. Cultural studies will again be presented throughout the course.
8520	Spanish I	Year	**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Spanish 7. This course is a continuation of Spanish 7. Students will continue to develop their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. More advanced grammatical forms and expanded vocabulary are presented. Cultural studies will again be presented throughout the course

Grade 8

Electives

Course Number	Course Name	Length of Course	Description
8810	Art & Design	Semester or Year – Alternate Days	Introduces students to new art experiences as well as builds on concepts and skills learned in previous art classes. This class combines both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional art. Examples of 2-dimensional experiences may include the following: drawing, painting, tessellation design, etching, and paper arts. Examples of 3-dimensional experiences may include the following: metal making, ceramics, sculpture, and environmental and packaging design. Students will also be introduced to various artists, art styles, art careers, and world cultures. Different themes may include: art from various cultures, human proportion, information design, and visual culture; as well as additive and subtractive sculpting techniques. Art materials and techniques may include: acrylic and watercolor paints, clay, glazes, metals, plaster, carving foams, and the use of art software, such as Adobe PhotoShop Elements.
8820	Health 8	Semester or Year – Alternate Days	Builds on the foundation of knowledge and life skills learned in Grade 7 required health classes. It gives students a very relevant, interactive, fun, and exciting opportunity to not only think about the many decisions they will make, but also to learn more about those issues so that good decisions can be made! This is a great place for self-reflection and discovery promoting an excellent transition as students move from middle to high school.
8830	Business Exploration	Semester or Year – Alternate Days	Students will have fun by exploring business concepts while creating and running a business. This will include developing products and/or services, marketing the business through the development of a website, commercials, and print media, experiencing selling, and keeping financial records. Students will use word processing, desktop publishing, spreadsheet, database, presentation, digital imaging, Internet, and web page applications and discover how cooperation, leadership, and good decision-making skills are key to business success. In addition, students will research the impact education, skills, and career choice have on your financial future.
8840	Engineering & Design	Semester or Year – Alternate Days	Students will investigate the designed world by creating projects and completing activities in the areas of material, manufacturing, construction, communication, transportation, energy, and biological technologies.
8850	FACS-Expo	Semester or Year – Alternate Days	FACS EXPO is a class that explores creative cooking, sewing and family and consumer science topics. Some of the units include baking breads and sweets, culinary knife skills, world cuisines, cake decorating, recipe innovation, food truck contest, hand sewing and embroidery, machine sewing projects, crafts for giving and more! This is a class for students that prefer hands on activities and enjoy opportunities to explore their creativity.

Course Number	Course Name	Length of Course	Description
8860	Lamination Process – **Delong ONLY**	Semester or Year – Alternate Days	Provides students with an exploratory experience that includes planning, gluing, layout, forming, and shaping of laminated materials. Students may choose to make large or small projects. Students can make complex projects like bows, lamps, skateboards, or canoe paddles; or they can make small projects such as salad forks and spoons, bats, bowls, jewelry, and broad boards. Students will acquire knowledge and develop working skills centered on the construction of laminated materials. Students will use epoxy glue, plastics, woods, and other materials suitable for lamination.
8708	Recreational Activities	Semester or Year – Alternate Days	Students will have the opportunity to participate in many outdoor/indoor physical activities while learning individual lifetime fitness skills as well as an appreciation for the outdoors. The class will also work on developing leadership skills, positive self-esteem, critical thinking skills, problem-solving skills, and working in diverse situations through an extension of physical education. Students will explore the possible opportunity of a field trip at the end of the course.
8880	Introduction to Computer Science – **South ONLY**	Semester or Year – Alternate Days	Introduces students to the Computer Science curriculum. Students who take this class are prepared to take Computer Science Essentials in high school by combining two nine-week units. • Computer Science for Innovators and Makers: Students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development, allowing students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects. • App Creators: Students will be exposed to computer science as a means of computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society.
8890	Advanced Computer Applications and Coding **Delong and Northstar ONLY**	Semester or Year – Alternate Days	Builds on the knowledge and skills learned in the Grade 6 Intro to Computer Applications and Coding class. Students will learn more advanced commands in common word processing applications such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Excel, and Google Docs. Students will learn how to create and share content on their own web pages. A focus will be put on structure and styling the pages using HTML and CSS. Students will also build on their coding experience as they program animations, interactive art, apps, games, and devices using programming concepts and the design processes that computer scientists use daily. By the end of the course, students will be able to apply the programming principles they mastered to learn other programming languages.