2026-2027

OLENTANGY MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE PLANNING GUIDE

OLENTANGY SCHOOLS

2026-2027

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE PLANNING GUIDE

Berkshire Middle School
2869 S. Three B's & K Road
Galena, OH 43021
T: 740-657-5200 F: 740-657-5299

Berlin Middle School
2500 Piatt Road
Delaware, OH 43015
T: 740-657-5850 F: 740-657-5899

Hyatts Middle School
6885 Sawmill Parkway
Powell, OH 43065
T: 740-657-5400 F: 740-657-5499

Liberty Middle School
7940 Liberty Road
Powell, OH 43065
T: 740-657-4400 F: 740-657-4499

Orange Middle School
2680 E. Orange Road
Lewis Center, OH 43035
T: 740-657-5300 F: 740-657-5399

Shanahan Middle School
814 Shanahan Road
Lewis Center, OH 43035
T: 740-657-4300 F: 740-657-4398

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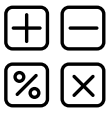
OLENTANGY COURSE OF STUDY FOR 6TH GRADE

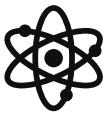
CORE COURSES

Year-long required courses

Integrated English



Mathematics



Science

Social Studies

UNIFIED ARTS COURSES

Six week courses

Physical Education

Physical Education
(repeat 2nd 6 weeks)

Health

Visual Art

Academic Lab

Technology

MUSIC COURSES

Optional: If selected, choose up to two.

Choir

Strings

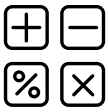
Band

OLENTANGY COURSE OF STUDY FOR 7TH GRADE

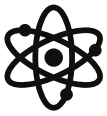
CORE COURSES

Year-long required courses

Integrated English



Mathematics



Science

Social Studies

UNIFIED ARTS COURSES

Six week courses

Physical Education

Family and Consumer Science

Technology

Exploring French

Exploring German

Exploring Spanish

ELECTIVES

Six week courses must total 36 weeks

Visual Art

Physical Education

Health

Year-long optional electives

Choir

Strings

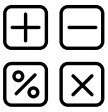
Band

OLENTANGY COURSE OF STUDY FOR 8TH GRADE

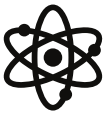
CORE COURSES

Year-long required courses

Integrated English



Mathematics



Science

Social Studies

UNIFIED ARTS COURSES

Six week course electives must total 72 total weeks

Physical Education

Family and Consumer Science

Technology

World Languages

Visual Art

Health

Year-long optional electives

Choir

Strings

Band

GRADES 6-8

INTEGRATED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The Integrated English curriculum, grades 6-8, is largely related to the Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards for English Language Arts (ELA). Taken together, the K-12 ELA learning standards describe the fundamental capacities of college and career-ready students in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Broadly speaking, students in grades 6-8 are becoming adept at the comprehension and critique of text, using technology and media in written communication, identifying and evaluating the quality of evidence, knowing and appreciating multiple perspectives on an issue or topic, and independently reading, writing, and comprehending a range of complex texts.

Integrated English 6

Description: This class emphasizes the skills of reading a range of texts (e.g., non-fiction, fiction, multi-media) and explores strategies to produce high-quality interpretations. Students strengthen skills of effective communication, such as, using a process approach to writing and employing effective oral communication skills.

Link to OLSD Blueprint

Integrated English 7

Description: This class deepens the knowledge and skills of interpreting text, with an emphasis on author's craft, language, point of views, and structure. Students learn the skills of effective communication, including the role of researching, using, and evaluating quality evidence to write non-fiction texts and to support claims on a topic or issue.

Link to OLSD Blueprint

Integrated English 8

Description: This class emphasizes the analysis of evidence in order to evaluate the quality and validity of a text. Students conduct research with multiple sources and deepen their skills of synthesis and writing for specific purposes. The skills of argument writing are explored and practiced.

Link to OLSD Blueprint

GRADES 6-8

MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics curriculum, grades 6-8, is related to the Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards for Mathematics. The K-12 Mathematics Learning Standards describe the fundamental capacities of college and career-ready students in mathematical understanding. Broadly speaking, students in grades 6-8 are becoming adept at the processes and proficiencies of mathematical learning, which include but are not limited to the skills of problem-solving, reasoning, and procedural fluency and the knowledge of mathematical concepts, operations, and relations. Students also gain ground in developing productive beliefs and dispositions about mathematics (e.g., mathematics as a useful tool and a belief in one's own efficacy).

Mathematics 6

Description: This class emphasizes the skills of solving equations and simplifying expressions. Students strengthen skills of and knowledge related to: data analysis, real world mathematical problems, ratios, and the relationship between operations, and geometric problem solving.

Link to OLSD Blueprint

Mathematics 7 OR 7/8

Math 7: This class deepens the knowledge and skills of solving equations and simplifying expressions, with an emphasis on the ways operations and relationships vary. Students learn the skills of data collection and analysis and explore data displays, representations, and predictive qualities.

Link to OLSD Blueprint

Math 7 and 8: This class is an accelerated class that includes both math 7 and math 8 content. Students take the Math 7 Ohio State Test. Each middle school building communicates the requirements for the accelerated class.

Link to OLSD Blueprint

Mathematics 8/Algebra I

Mathematics 8: This class explores: how functional relationships can be expressed in real contexts, graphs, algebraic equations, tables, and word,s. There's also a focus on different sets of data and multi-step equations.

Link to OLSD Blueprint

Algebra I: Topics such as functions and solving equations are prominent in Algebra I. This course generates high school credit. Please NOTE: Algebra I is a prerequisite to Geometry.

Link to OLSD Blueprint

OLENTANGY SCHOOLS MATHEMATICS PATHWAYS

This flowchart provides sample pathways for students to progress in mathematics through their senior year. It is not comprehensive, and an individualized conversation with a counselor or math teacher is essential to determine the best course sequence for each student.

4	4th Grade Mathematics	4th Grade Mathematics	5th Grade Mathematics (Formal Acceleration in Grades 1-4*)
5	5th Grade Mathematics	5th Grade Mathematics	6th Grade Mathematics (Formal Acceleration*)
6	6th Grade Mathematics	6th Grade Mathematics	Mathematics 7/8
7	7th Grade Mathematics	Mathematics 7/8	Algebra 1
8	8th Grade Mathematics	Algebra 1	Geometry
9	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra II OR equivalent**
10	Geometry	Algebra II OR equivalent**	Pre-Calculus OR AP Pre-Calculus
11	Algebra II OR equivalent**	Pre-Calculus OR AP Pre-Calculus	Calculus OR AP Calculus AB
12	Pre-Calculus OR fourth math credit not previously taken***	Calculus OR AP Calculus AB	AP Calculus BC OR AP Statistics OR AP Computer Science

*Formal acceleration requires assessment, demonstrated above-grade-level aptitude, and approval by the school acceleration committee.

**Algebra II OR Mathematics Modeling and Reasoning OR Discrete Math OR Data Science Foundations

***Ohio requires students to earn four math credits, including Algebra II or its equivalent, to meet graduation requirements.

GRADES 6-8

SCIENCE

The Science curriculum, grades 6-8, reflects the Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards for Science. Taken together, the K-12 Science learning standards describe the fundamental capacities of college and career-ready students in scientific inquiry and scientific ways of knowing. Broadly speaking, students in grades 6-8 are becoming adept at asking questions as part of an inquiry process, collecting and analyzing data, and carrying out investigations, and composing scientific explanations. *The Olentangy MS Science Skill Framework* builds upon the state standards as students utilize science-specific communication, explore inquiry, work in collaboration with each other and the scientific community, strengthen skills in evidence gathering and data literacy, as well as equitable scientific practices.

Science 6

Description: This class emphasizes the skills of inquiry and the processes behind thinking like a scientist. Cell biology, matter and motion, and minerals, rocs, and solis are some topics of the course. communication skills.

Link to OLSD Blueprint

Science 7

Description: This class has a focus on energy in physical science and as it relates to and helps to define earth and space science. Some topics include: the hydrologic cycle, atmospheric conditions, global climate patterns, and the solar system.

Link to OLSD Blueprint

Science 8

Description: This class emphasizes earth science and the study of how the processes that shape earth today also shaped earth in the past. The class also prepares students in physical and life science concepts, such as genetics and forces. The inquiry process and thinking like a scientist are also emphasized.

Link to OLSD Blueprint

GRADES 6-8

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies curriculum, grades 6-8, is related to the Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards for Social Studies. The K-12 Social Studies learning standards describe the fundamental capacities of college and career-ready students in four, broad areas: economics, history, geography, and government. Broadly speaking, students in grades 6-8 are becoming adept at spatial, historical literacy, and civic participation skills, economic decision-making, and the knowledge of governments, rules, laws, and the transitions, migrations, and expansions that define historical knowledge. *The Olentangy MS Social Studies Skill Framework* builds upon the state standards as students explore opportunities for civic engagement, build cultural awareness, strengthen academic literacy, pursue inquiry, and develop geography and spatial reasoning skills.

Social Studies 6

Description: A major theme of this class is: Regions and People of the Eastern Hemisphere (Africa, Asia, Australia and Europe). The geographic focus includes the study of contemporary regional characteristics, the movement of people, products and ideas, and cultural diversity. Students develop their understanding of the role of consumers and the interaction of markets, resources and competition.

Link to OLSD Blueprint

Social Studies 7

Description: A major theme of this course is: World Studies from 750 B.C. to 1600 A.D.: Ancient Greece to the First Global Age. The class explores how historic events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic and political factors. Students develop their understanding of how ideas and events from the past have shaped the world today.

Link to OLSD Blueprint

American History 8

Description: A major theme of this course is: U.S. Studies from 1492 to 1877: Exploration through Reconstruction. The class explores the chronologic view of the development of the United States. Students examine how historic events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic and political factors.

Link to OLSD Blueprint

GRADES 6-8

MUSIC

The middle school music program includes choice and overlap in experiencing and exploring different performing arts, including choir, band, and/or strings. The premise of the music program is to give students opportunities to explore an area or areas of the performing arts that may be of interest and to guide that exploration in deeper, focused ways than previous music experiences, fostering the capacity for continued success in the performing arts at the high school level. For detailed program information for each of the middle schools, please click here.

Choir, 6-8

Description: Through the context of singing and voice, students express themselves through music, apply artistic and reasoning skills to refine choral works, work in groups to create and perform music, and evaluate and understand choral works of art.

Link to OLSD Blueprint

Strings, 6-8

Description: Within the context of orchestral performance, students express themselves through music, apply artistic and reasoning skills to refine musical works, work in groups to create and perform music and evaluate and understand artworks.

Link to OLSD Blueprint

Band, 6-8

Description: Through the context of playing in a band and learning to play an instrument, students express themselves through music, apply artistic and reasoning skills to refine musical works, work in groups to create and perform music and evaluate and understand artworks.

Link to OLSD Blueprint

GRADES 6-8

TECHNOLOGY

The middle school technology curriculum emphasizes project-based learning and offers a variety of courses designed to equip students with fundamental digital literacy and technology skills. These courses cover topics such as digital citizenship, research and information fluency, design thinking, problem-solving, programming, physical computing, and digital storytelling. The middle school technology pathway seamlessly aligns with the high school industrial technology courses by introducing core concepts that will be further developed in areas such as computer-aided design (CAD), engineering, prototyping, computer science, and digital arts.

6th Grade

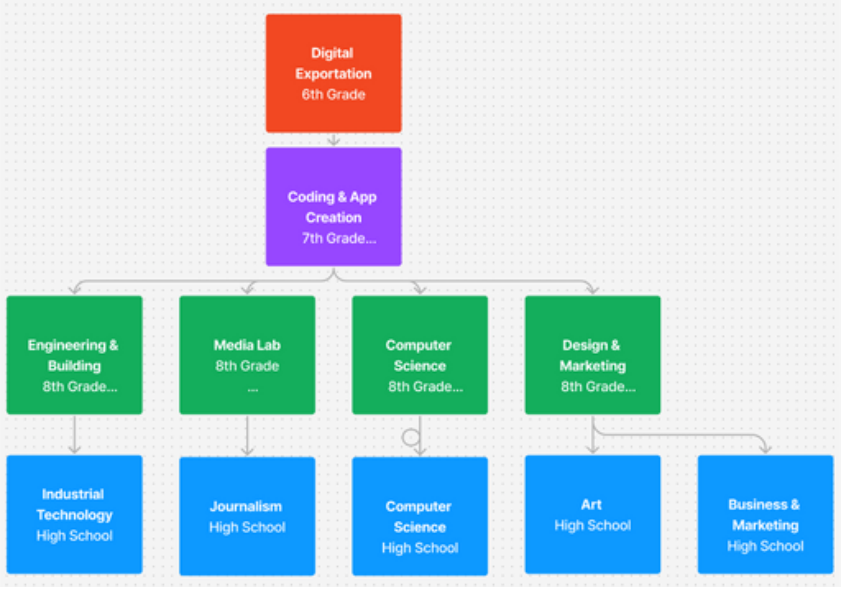
Digital Exploration

This course empowers students to effectively and responsibly navigate the digital world while developing essential skills in digital citizenship, research, problem-solving, and communication.

7th Grade

Coding & App Creation

Students will explore the intersection of hardware and software by learning basic programming concepts and developing creative solutions to real-world problems through interactive prototypes.



This flowchart demonstrates how our middle school digital technology courses (grades 6-8) provide the foundation for more specialized high school courses in engineering, computer science, digital arts, and media production.

8th Grade

Engineering & Building

Students engage in authentic design challenges to develop innovative solutions to real-world problems, incorporating measurement, scaling, technical sketching, and 3D modeling.

Design & Marketing

Learn how professionals use design to grab attention and tell stories. You'll discover how colors, fonts, and layouts affect people, then create your own print ads, videos, and audio content that actually communicate your message.

Computer Science

This course provides a foundation in Python programming, enabling students to develop computational thinking skills, problem-solving strategies, and coding design principles.

Media Lab I & II

Learn how to create professional media that people actually want to watch and listen to. You'll work like a real media team—conducting interviews, producing content, and building a portfolio of videos, podcasts, and graphics tailored to different audiences.

Media Lab I & II is a 12 week course

GRADES 6-8

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education courses in grades 6-8 focus on fostering lifelong fitness, personal wellness, and effective collaboration. Students learn the value of teamwork in achieving common goals, the joy of physical activity for a healthy, fulfilling life, and explore certain sports and activities, encouraging fitness as a lifelong pursuit. They explore the lessons of competition, embracing failure as an opportunity for growth, and practice setting specific, measurable goals to track progress and achieve personal success.

Link to the Physical Education Blueprint 6-8.

Physical Education 6

Description: Individual fitness skill development and concepts of team sports are emphasized in the class. Enjoying physical activity as a means to wellness and a healthy life is a disposition that's encouraged.

Physical Education 7

Description: Sportsmanship in team sports is a focus of this class. In addition, skills of individual fitness and understanding team sports are explored and developed.

Physical Education 8

Description: This class builds on the exploration of the previous Physical Education curriculum, deepening the concepts and developing stronger skill sets in individual fitness and team sports. Tournament play is a new concept and skill that's emphasized.

GRADES 6-8

HEALTH

Health classes in grades 6-8 equip students to make informed choices that promote long-term wellness for themselves, their families, and their communities. Students explore how practicing healthy behaviors and reducing risks positively impact physical, mental, and emotional health. They develop skills in assertive communication, evaluating health information, and accessing resources to enhance decision-making and quality of life. By recognizing risk factors and setting achievable goals, students learn to prevent health consequences and build a foundation for lifelong well-being.

Link to the Health Blueprint 6-8.

Health 6	Health 7	Health 8
Description: This class explores a range of personal safety and wellness, including reducing health risks, mental and emotional healthy, communication skills, and decision-making skills.	Description: This class explores a range of personal safety and wellness, including reducing health risks, mental and emotional healthy, communication skills, and decision-making skills.	Description: This class builds on the exploration of the 6th-grade curriculum, deepening the concepts and developing stronger skill sets in personal decision-making, evaluating health and safety risks, and the development of action plans to engage in healthy living.
NOTE: State-required topics now dictate some of the Health 6 curriculum.	NOTE: State-required topics now determine some of the Health 7 curriculum.	NOTE: State-required topics now determine some of the Health 8 curriculum.

GRADES 6-8

VISUAL ART

Visual art classes in grades 6-8 encourage students to explore techniques, skills, and technology to create authentic works of personal expression. Through the creative process, students develop decision-making and problem-solving abilities while reflecting on their identities and the world around them. They engage in art criticism to respond to, appreciate, and evaluate art, understanding its role as a reflection of society and a tool for communication and connection.

Link to the Visual Art Blueprint 6-8.

Visual Art 6

Description: Students will focus on the exploration of process, techniques and tools to create 2-D and 3-D works of art.

Visual Art 7 (options)

7th grade 2D Art

Students will have the opportunity to work with various artistic materials to develop two-dimensional skills.

7th grade 3D Art

Students will have the opportunity to work with various artistic materials to develop three-dimensional skills.

Visual Art 8 (Options)

8th grade Drawing

Students will demonstrate their understanding through a variety of 2D art techniques. Students will learn shading and drawing skills with various drawing materials.

8th grade Ceramics

Students will demonstrate their understanding of a variety of hand-building techniques.

8th grade Sculpture

Students will demonstrate their understanding of a variety of art techniques to manipulate 3-D materials.

8th grade Painting

Students will demonstrate their understanding of a variety of painting techniques.

GRADES 7-8

WORLD LANGUAGE

The World Languages program is an introduction to the three languages taught at the district - Spanish, French, and German. In grade 7, students explore all three during a 6-week elective course for each language (18 weeks total); and, in grade 8, students can choose one to study more deeply. The selection at grade 8 allows students to take a high school level 1 language class for high school credit.

Exploring World Language 7

Description: Language experiences in French (6 Weeks), Spanish (6 Weeks), and German (6 Weeks).
The goal is to explore different languages before choosing one for more significant focus and study in grade 8 and beyond. Communication, culture, and connections are emphasized in the class. Link to OLSD Blueprint

High School Level 1 Language (Spanish, French or German)

Note: Successful completion earns 1 high school credit.

Spanish 1

This course introduces students to the Spanish language including basic grammatical structures and thematic vocabulary. All three modes of communication (Interpretive, Interpersonal and Presentational) are practiced as well as the four skills of language learning; listening, reading, writing, and speaking. A variety of cultural knowledge from Spanish speaking countries is presented and when possible, students are asked to compare their home culture to the target language culture. Class material is presented using a variety of resources including authentic materials when appropriate. Unit topics include an introduction to the Spanish World, student likes/dislikes, family and home, school life and at a café. Students are expected to use Spanish for communication in class when possible. Upon completion of this course students should have a novice mid-level of proficiency in the language.

Link to OLSD Blueprint

French 1

This course introduces students to the French language including basic grammatical structures and thematic vocabulary. All three modes of communication (Interpretive, Interpersonal and Presentational) are practiced as well as the four skills of language learning; listening, reading, writing, and speaking. A variety of cultural knowledge from French speaking countries is presented and when possible, students are asked to compare their home culture to the target language culture. Class material is presented using a variety of resources including authentic materials when appropriate. Unit topics include an introduction to the French World, student likes/dislikes, family and home, school life and at a café. Students are expected to use French for communication in class when possible. Upon completion of this course students should have a novice mid-level of proficiency in the language.

German 1

This course introduces students to the German language including basic grammatical structures and thematic vocabulary. All three modes of communication (Interpretive, Interpersonal and Presentational) are practiced. The four skills of language learning: listening, reading, writing, and speaking are consistently practiced throughout the year. A variety of cultural knowledge from German speaking countries is presented and when possible, students are asked to compare their home culture to the target language culture. Class material is presented using a variety of resources including authentic materials when appropriate. Unit topics include an introduction to the German World, student likes/dislikes, family and home, school life and at a café. Students are expected to use German for communication in class when possible. Upon completion of this course students should have a novice-mid level of proficiency in the language.

GRADES 6-8

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

Family and Consumer Science classes in grades 6-8 empower students to build skills for personal wellness, effective decision-making, and resource management. Students explore career paths, develop self-awareness and self-regulation, and cultivate character through reflection and intentional action. They learn to manage finances, evaluate information for sound decision-making, and strengthen relationships. By applying critical thinking, students prepare for meaningful careers and adaptable life paths in an ever-changing global society.

Link to the Family & Consumer Science Blueprint 6-8.

Family Consumer Science 6 Academic Lab

Description: The 6th-grade Academic Lab course helps students develop essential academic skills and executive functioning strategies to support their learning. Through goal-setting, organization, time management, and study techniques, students build a strong foundation for academic success and personal growth.

Family and Consumer Science 7 Life Skills

Description: This class explores career exploration and employment, nutrition and wellness, consumer savviness and financial literacy.

Family and Consumer Science 8

Options include:

- Global Gourmet I
- Global Gourmet II

Career Connections **(NEW!)**

Career Connections is a hands-on, exploratory course designed to help students discover their strengths, interests, and values while building marketable skills for the future. The course allows students to develop essential workplace skills, gain insight into potential career options, and begin planning for their future success.

Career Connections is a 12 Weeks Course