



2026-27 Allied Course Descriptions

Grade 8

Horace Mann Middle School

2026-27 PROGRAMMING INFORMATION

In 6th Grade:

- Students will have two periods of math and literacy, and one period of social studies and science.
- Students will have a Resource period every day, which may include band/orchestra lessons and math/literacy interventions.
- Students will have Physical Education and 6th Grade Music Exploration every other day for the school year.
- Students will have Business/Technology Education and Art every day for a quarter. Students will have Health Education every day for two quarters (either first and third, or second and fourth)

In 7th Grade:

- Students will have two periods of math and literacy, and one period of social studies and science.
- Students will have a Resource period every day, which may include band/orchestra lessons and math/literacy interventions.
- Students will have Physical Education every other day for the school year.
- Students will elect to have additional allied courses to complete their schedule (see last page).

In 8th Grade:

- Students will have two periods of math and literacy, and one period of social studies and science.
- Students will have three periods to be used for allied courses and Resource, which will include Physical Education every other day for the school year. All other elective choices will be chosen by students/families from the classes in this program.
- It is important to note that students who plan to be full IB at Wausau East must take a language in 8th grade.

Requests to drop/add requests: In all cases, drop/add class requests should be completed prior to the school year or semester. In some circumstances, drop/add class requests are granted within the first two weeks of the school year or semester. After two weeks, drop/add class requests will not be granted. In all cases, drop/add requests must be given in writing/email to a Horace Mann administrator or school counselor.

ALLIED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

8th Grade

Students will have the following courses during their 8th grade year:

Physical Education every other day for the school year

Throughout the school year, the Physical Education instructors will emphasize the following themes: invasion games, individual skill development, fitness and nutrition, outdoor pursuits and adventure education, and net games. Students will participate in a variety of activities ranging from one week to four weeks in length. Activities may include the following areas of emphasis; soccer, basketball, volleyball, team handball, ultimate, floor hockey, weight training, swim instruction, pool games, winter outdoor activities, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, inline skating, and bicycling to name a few.

Students will elect to have the following courses during their 8th grade year:

Art-2D every other day for a semester

This class focuses on 2-dimensional art making; think drawing, painting and printmaking. We will work with traditional materials that may include, pen and ink, pastels, pencils, acrylic and watercolor paints, and mixed media. We will also delve into new technologies for making art including digital cameras, digital drawing tablets, and computers with image editing and painting software. Throughout the course we will develop problem-solving strategies that promote creative fluency, flexibility, elaboration and originality and study ways of effectively communicating visually.

Art-3D every other day for a semester

This class focuses on 3-dimensional art making; think sculpture. We will learn how to manipulate a variety of tactile materials, including: wire, plaster, paper, wood, clay, glass, and “found objects”. Throughout the course we will develop problem-solving strategies that promote creative fluency, flexibility, elaboration and originality and study ways of effectively communicating visually.

Band every other day for the school year and lessons

Explore the power of music in 8th grade band! At this grade level, students have the chance to further develop their musical skills and knowledge through full rehearsal and one small group lesson weekly.

The course of study in 8th grade band is focused on further advancing technical skills and tone production. Several concerts are held during the course of the school year; other topics covered may include music history, music theory, even marching! Students will not only have the chance to tap into their creativity through performing in band, but will also encounter exciting performance opportunities such as Jazz Band, District Solo & Ensemble Festival, and State Honors Ensembles.

Prerequisite: If a student is planning on enrolling in 8th grade band, but has no previous experience, the student must complete the six lesson summer school course provided through the District prior to beginning the program or have instructor permission. The summer school lessons are free of charge, although an instrument will need to be rented or purchased.

**A purchased or rented instrument is required for participation in band/orchestra. Families may choose to purchase or rent instruments from local music stores. A limited number of instruments are available for rent from the school at a reduced rate for families who qualify for financial assistance. Please contact the band or orchestra instructor for more information*

Business and Technology Education every other day for a semester

This course will introduce students to the world of personal finance and career exploration. Students will use the Internet, Google Apps and Career Cruising to complete unit projects based on real-world applications and develop necessary software skills for high school. Students will learn to use the features of each software product to boost the quality of their work for all classes. During this course, Junior Achievement volunteers will meet with each class six times to present their program “JA Economics for Success”.

Choir every other day for the school year

8th Grade Choir offers a higher level choral experience, introducing SSA, SAB, and SATB part singing. Students will also develop sight-singing and music reading skills, the elements of good vocal technique as well as develop critical thinking skills through the analysis of musical elements, including form and text. Students are expected to perform in two concerts during the course of the school year. An opportunity to perform in Solo & Ensemble will be offered, but not required.

Family and Consumer Science every other day for a semester

The FUNdamental Foods course gives students the opportunity to learn basic cooking skills. The focus will include an emphasis on safety and sanitation through various hands-on activities. Students will learn how to successfully read a recipe and acquire the skills needed to complete all cooking labs . Further emphasis will be placed on correct measuring and cooking techniques using basic equipment and understanding cooking terminology.

Family and Consumer Science every other day for the school year

The FUNdamental Foods YEAR LONG course gives students the opportunity to learn basic cooking skills throughout the entire year. The focus will include an emphasis on safety and sanitation through various hands-on activities. Students will learn how to successfully read a recipe and acquire the skills needed to complete all cooking labs . Further emphasis will be placed on correct measuring and cooking techniques using basic equipment and understanding cooking terminology. Students will continue cooking skills in nutrition and nutritional meal planning. Students will be able to differentiate between careers in the food industry and family and consumer sciences. All skills learned will be evaluated with cooking competitions and challenges.

French 1 every day for the school year

**Students who plan to be full IB at Wausau East must take a language in 8th grade.*

This yearlong course presents the French language in realistic cultural situations that are part of the French speaking world. Students will develop the vocabulary needed for communicating about friends, school, sports and hobbies, food and cafés, and family. Students will begin to develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing French. They will have the opportunity to do skits, play games, sample French foods, sing songs and use technology often to facilitate learning.

The successful completion of 8th grade French will enable students to progress to level 2 of the language in high school and will also fulfill one year of high school level foreign language.

German 1 every day for the school year

**Students who plan to be full IB at Wausau East must take a language in 8th grade.*

This yearlong course presents the German language in realistic cultural situations that are part of the German speaking world. Students will develop the vocabulary needed for communicating about friends, school, sports and hobbies, food and restaurants, family, shopping. Students will begin to develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing German. They will have the opportunity to do skits, sample German foods, and use technology often to facilitate learning.

The successful completion of 8th grade German will enable students to progress to level 2 of the language in high school and will also fulfill one year of high school level foreign language.

8th Grade Piano Exploration every other day for the semester

PIANO Exploration offers a variety of individual musical experiences including intermediate and advanced level piano keyboard instruction, composition, and technology. All work is done during class – no after school concerts are required. Students will learn to work independently, developing and learning skills necessary to become an independent musician.

8th Grade Guitar Exploration every other day for the semester

Like PIANO Exploration, this course will offer a variety of small group and individual musical experiences using the guitar. Students will be introduced to intermediate and advanced chords and accompany songs in class. Melodies will be introduced using tablature. Additional instruments such as ukuleles will be introduced and studied.

Orchestra every other day for the school year and lessons

Explore the power of music in eighth grade Orchestra! In this grade level, students have the chance to further develop their musical skills and knowledge playing violin, viola, cello or bass, in rehearsals and small group lessons. The course of study in Eighth grade Orchestra is focused on further advancing technical skills and tone production. Several concerts are held during the course of the school year; other topics covered may include music history, music theory, even composing music on your instrument! Students will not only have the chance to tap into their creativity through performing in Orchestra, but will also encounter exciting performance opportunities such as Chamber Orchestra, District Solo & Ensemble Festival, and State Honors Ensembles.

Prerequisite: If a student is planning on enrolling in 8th grade orchestra, but has no previous experience, the student must complete the six lesson summer school course provided through the District prior to beginning the program or have instructor permission. The summer school lessons are free of charge, although an instrument will need to be rented or purchased.

**A purchased or rented instrument is required for participation in band/orchestra. Families may choose to purchase or rent instruments from local music stores. A limited number of instruments are available for rent from the school at a reduced rate for families who qualify for financial assistance. Please contact the band or orchestra instructor for more information.*

Resource every other day for the year or everyday for the year

Reminder: in 8th grade you will not have a Resource unless you add it to your schedule.

Resource will be used as a time for students to independently complete schoolwork. Students will be scheduled with a teacher and may be allowed to visit the IMC. Visits to classroom teachers (math, english/language arts, science, and social studies) will be limited. Specific resource time may be pre-scheduled with teachers.

Spanish 1 every day for the school year

**Students who plan to be full IB at Wausau East must take a language in 8th grade.*

This year-long course presents the Spanish language in realistic cultural situations that are part of the Spanish speaking world. Students will develop the vocabulary necessary for communicating about friends, family, school, weather, sports and hobbies, places around the city, and likes and desires. Students will begin to develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish. They will have the opportunity to do skits, sing songs, celebrate with Spanish/Mexican foods, and use technology to further their learning.

The successful completion of 8th grade Spanish will enable students to progress to level 2 of the language in high school and will also fulfill one year of high school level foreign language.

Technology and Engineering Education- Hi-Tech Manufacturing every other day for a semester

This is an exciting, real-world, hands-on approach that teaches students the world of high-tech manufacturing. Students will design a product and set-up a real manufacturing line using "lean" concepts, 3D solid modeling, automation, power tools and rapid prototyping (3D printing).

Technology and Engineering Education- STEM every other day for a semester

Students will trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms. Students will learn the fundamentals of computers, the internet, be tasked with creating an original concept for an app, build their own three page websites and learn about the basics of game design. This class is a great segway for students who can see a future in the area of programming, game design or anything technology related. The content in the class will be aimed toward students with little to no programming experience and all are encouraged to register!