NORTHWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

8th Grade Curriculum Guide

Northwood Middle School 12908 N. Pittsburg
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Mead School District, 2323 E Farwell Rd, Mead, WA 99021

8th Grade Courses

Eighth grade required courses

Math (students will be placed in the appropriate math course)	**2 Semesters**
English (see course descriptions for options)	**2 Semesters**
Social Studies	**2 Semesters**
Science	**2 Semesters**
Physical Education (you may choose an additional semester of PE as an ELECTIVE option)	**1 Semester**

Year-Long elective courses

Band	**Year-Long Class**
Choir	**Year-Long Class**
Orchestra	**Year-Long Class**
Spanish 1	**Year-Long Class**

Semester-Long elective courses

Beginning Design & Modeling	**1 Semester**
Advanced Design & Woodshop (Student must have previously taken beginning Design & Modeling)	**1 Semester**
Beginning Automation Robotics	**1 Semester**
Crime Scene Investigation (CSI)	**1 Semester**
Beginning Art	**1 Semester**
Advanced Art (Student must have previously taken Beginning Art)	**1 Semester**
Leadership 8	**1 Semester**
PE – Health & Fitness Education	**1 Semester**
Yearbook (Teacher signoff)	**Year-Long Class**

8th Grade Course Descriptions
REQUIRED COURSES

ENGLISH

English 8 The eighth grade English course focuses on reading, writing, speaking and listening and research skills that are all taught and reinforced through our core curriculum program called *Collections.* Students read a variety of novels and short stories, along with nonfiction texts. Reading comprehension and vocabulary study are foundational in all English classes. Writing is taught throughout the core curriculum and focuses on name writing that is the primary focus in that grade level. Students learn structure, organization, word choice, idea development and conventions as they deepen their understanding about how to communicate through writing. (*Note: A student with an IEP in Reading/Writing will be scheduled appropriately.)*

Honors English 8 This course uses the same core curriculum program as English 8, but the activities take students deeper into the content. Students will also read more complex texts that may be above grade level. This course is designed to offer an enriched and challenging sequence of study for students who may be advanced in reading and writing. This is an advanced course that is open to all students; however, students should thoughtfully consider enrollment in an honors course.

MATHEMATICS

Math 8 Students take their understanding of unit rates and proportional relationships to a new level, connecting these concepts to points on a line and ultimately using them to solve linear equations that require them to apply algebraic reasoning as well as knowledge of the properties of operations. Students will also expand their understanding of numbers beyond rational numbers. *(Note: A student with an IEP in Math will be scheduled appropriately in a Resource Math class.)*

Algebra I Algebra I is foundational for all future math courses. Students explore algebraic problem-solving for linear, exponential and quadratic functions as represented in context or as a graph, equation and table. Areas of study include arithmetic and geometric sequences; linear systems and inequalities, polynomials and factoring; and modeling and statistics. This course is consistent with Washington State Standards. *A student earning a passing grade in this course will receive high school credit, which shall be applied to fulfilling high school graduation requirements, unless requested otherwise by the student and the student's parent or guardian by the end of the 11th grade year. (WAC 180-51-030)*

Geometry In this course, students will strengthen their logical system of thought while developing geometric concepts and addressing formal proof through transformational reasoning. Algebra is used throughout to analyze characteristics of geometric figures through the coordinate plane. The Common Core State Standards and Standards for Mathematical Practices are followed in this course. *A student earning a passing grade in this course will receive high school credit, which shall be applied to fulfilling high school graduation requirements, unless requested otherwise by the student and the student's parent or guardian by the end of the 11th grade year. (WAC 180-51-030)*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health and Fitness Education This course emphasizes team and individual sports, lifetime activities, and health and fitness concepts. Students will participate in a wide variety of activities, as well as gain an understanding of how to plan their own lifelong health and fitness.

SCIENCE

Science 8 This course offers students the opportunity to explore the natural and physical wonders of the earth and space. The four big ideas addressed in eighth grade CTE science are:Physics, Astronomy, Energy and Earth's Geological Systems. Career Technical Education (CTE) and Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) principles are infused in a project-oriented curriculum.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 8 (U.S. History) Eighth graders examine ideas, issues and events from the colonization of the Thirteen Colonies through Reconstruction following the Civil War. Students will explore the founding of the United States and the framing of our Constitution in order to deepen their knowledge and understanding of politics, society, culture and economy in the United States.

MUSIC ELECTIVES (year-long courses)

Beginning Band Beginning Band is for the student who has little or no band experience. There will be performances during the school year. Students will be graded on performance, preparation, participation in class and attendance at additional rehearsals and events. Students are responsible for providing their own instruments. The band instructor will guide this process during the first week of school. Students will be placed in the appropriate band.

Cadet Band This course is for students with band experience. Along with music fundamentals at the individual level, students will learn group techniques in an advanced band setting. This band has a number of performances during the school year. Students will be graded on performance, preparation, participation in class and attendance at additional rehearsals and events. Students will be placed in the appropriate band.

Symphonic Band This course is for advanced students with concert band experience. Along with music fundamentals at the individual level, students will learn group techniques in an advanced band setting. This band has a number of performances during the school year. Students will be graded on performance, preparation, participation in class and attendance at additional rehearsals and events. Students will be placed in the appropriate band.

Wind Ensemble An elite band for students with advanced band experience. Musicians are expected to perform at the fourth-year level. The curriculum consists of developing and refining techniques introduced in previous bands. Along with stressing individual musicianship, group ensemble techniques will be dealt with on an advanced level. Students will be graded on performance, preparation, participation in class and attendance at additional required rehearsals and events. Students will be placed in the appropriate band.

Jazz Ensemble I Jazz I is an elective class for the most advanced students who have auditioned and been selected as members of the ensemble. Students in Jazz I are required to also have a concert band as their elective, unless their instrument is piano or bass. The curriculum consists of advanced jazz techniques such as ensemble playing, style, feel, jazz theory and improvisation. This band has a number of performances throughout the year.

Jazz Ensemble II Jazz II is a "zero hour" class for students who have auditioned and been selected as members of the ensemble. Students in Jazz II are required to have a concert band as their elective, unless their instrument is piano or bass. The curriculum consists of developing jazz techniques such as ensemble playing, style, feel and improvisation. This band has a number of performances throughout the year. Jazz II rehearses Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 am to 8:00 am. Auditions are held at the beginning of the year.

Concert Choir For all voices - sixth, seventh and eighth grade - no audition required. Students will learn and improve vocal skills by performing literature from many genres including American, sacred, jazz and contemporary. Students will perform in night concerts and travel to festivals. Students are graded on participation in class, skills-evaluations, and required performances as outlined in the Choral Handbook. This is not an audition-based choir. Required fees include ASB and uniform purchase.

Treble Choir For Soprano, Mezzo Soprano and Alto voices, advanced singers in mostly seventh and eighth grade, by audition. Students will learn and improve vocal skills by performing challenging literature from many genres. Students will perform in night concerts and travel to festivals. Students are graded on participation in class, skills-evaluations, and required performances as outlined in the Choral Handbook. Required fees include ASB and uniform purchase. This is an audition-based choir and will be a year-long (two semester) commitment.

Jazz Choir For all voices including Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Baritone, mostly eighth grade advanced singers by audition only. Students will learn and improve classical and jazz vocal skills in particular, performing challenging literature from many genres including chamber and jazz music. Students are graded on participation in class, skills-evaluations, and required performances as outlined in the Choral Handbook. Required fees include ASB and uniform purchase. This is an audition-based choir and will be a year-long (two semester) commitment.

Beginning Orchestra This course is for students with little or no Orchestra experience and a desire to explore the joy of making music with others. Instruments and materials will be provided for students, but you are welcome to get your own as well (please contact me before buying so I can support this process). Students will learn body position, music reading, and music performing ensemble skills. There will be a few concerts during the year. Grading is based on daily participation, preparation, and performance attendance.

Intermediate Orchestra (must have taken a prior year of beginning orchestra or have instructor approval) Students should be fluently reading music and have basic knowledge of instrument set-up and position. Musicians work as a collaborative ensemble to create performances for our peers and community. We strive to be professional musicians in an orchestral environment.

Advanced Orchestra This orchestra course is designed for the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade advanced strings student with advanced playing experience, foundational posture, and music reading skills in place. Students will refine fundamental skills while exploring new techniques and playing more advanced music. There will

be a few concerts during the year. Grading is based on daily participation, preparation, and performance attendance. Student placement in this ensemble will be made by the teacher and based on demonstrated playing skills.

ELECTIVE COURSES (Year Long)

Spanish I Students will acquire the tools to communicate in Spanish at a beginning level through listening, speaking, reading and writing. A variety of interactive learning methods will be used in this foundation course. Students must earn a C or better grade in order to advance to Spanish II at the high school. *A student earning a passing grade in this course will receive high school credit, which shall be applied to fulfilling high school graduation requirements, unless requested otherwise by the student and the student's parent or guardian by the end of the 11th grade year. (WAC 180-51-030)*

Yearbook This course teaches and uses multimedia skills. Students will work cooperatively to design and produce the school yearbook. Tasks will include photographing and creating layouts for the current year's edition. Teamwork, time management and organizational skills will be emphasized.

ELECTIVE COURSES (Semester Long)

Potential offerings. Every effort will be made to offer your selections.

Beginning Design and Modeling Do you like to draw, design and use software to create 3 dimensional spaces? Students will be introduced to Google SketchUp, design software and its application in the design process. Students will problem-solve real world issues and build prototypes of their designs. STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math) career and educational opportunities will also be presented and explored.

Advanced Design and Woodshop ***(for students who have taken beginning Design and Modeling)*** Students continue to apply the principles of the design process to new challenges involving architecture, basic woodworking, and independent design projects. They will explore how to incorporate Computer Aided Design (CAD) into their designs and experiment with a variety of tools in order to enhance the quality of their final product.

Beginning Automation-Robotics Students trace the history, development and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. Focus is on the building and limited programming of robots.

Advanced Automation-Robotics ***(for students who have taken Beginning Automation and Robotics)*** Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths and robotic arms. Focus is on advanced builds and more in depth programming skills.

Crime Scene Investigation (CSI): Crime Scene Investigation is a stand alone course that helps students to understand how crime scenes are processed, and evidence is collected. We will focus on the crime scene basics, identifying and matching fingerprints, DNA analysis, blood spatter analysis, manner and cause of

death, as well as ballistics and tool marks identification.

Beginning Art Students will be introduced to the vocabulary of art (the elements, principles, materials and skills) and begin to apply that knowledge in creating projects. Creative problem solving will be introduced in some lessons and the purpose of art making will be explored. Explaining art work and preparing artwork for display are also included. Students may experience drawing, painting, mixed media art, sculpture, ceramics and other areas of visual art.
Students wishing to take advanced art must complete a semester of beginning art first.

Advanced Art (***for students who have taken Beginning Art)*** Students taking advanced art classes will continue working with the elements and principles of art as well as exploring materials and skills. They will have the opportunity to delve further into areas of interest while beginning the tasks of analyzing and critiquing art work. Skills will be further developed and craftsmanship and workmanship will be emphasized. Art assignments may include the use of art to communicate ideas and beliefs. 2-D and 3-d work will be produced, possibly including but not limited to drawing techniques, painting with various media, mixed media, sculpture, and ceramics.

Leadership 8 8th Grade Leadership- Student Leadership keeps this school community strong. This semester-long class plans school events, assemblies, lunchtime activities, food drives, and more. This is no easy task and there is much to do every day. When you take this class you will become a family with the peers you work with and get to serve every person in our school with acts of service.

PE - Health and Fitness Education This course emphasizes team and individual sports, lifetime activities, and health and fitness concepts. Students will participate in a wide variety of activities, as well as gain an understanding of how to plan their own lifelong health and fitness.

SUPPORT COURSES

Reading Enrichment This course uses Read 180 and focuses on reading comprehension and vocabulary. Students learn different reading strategies each week that can immediately be implemented in their core classes to help build reading comprehension. Weekly attention is also given to reading fluency and reading rate, as necessary. However, the focus is on reading strategies and vocabulary development to improve understanding of all different types of texts. Students will be assigned to this class based on data.

Math Strategies - Math is hard, confusing, and a unique journey for each of us. If you are placed in this class you will learn strategies to help with math, you will have help with your homework for math, and hopefully, you will enjoy the journey of learning math. The goal is growth, not perfection. Students will be assigned to this class based on data.

Structures of English 1-3
This is a class for Multilingual Learners (ML) who qualify for the district ELD program. Instruction is designed to incorporate the four main language skills, which include listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The class may also support cultural needs, study skills and content vocabulary.

SPECIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

Students must be qualified through the Mead School District's Special Services Department. Each student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) services will be determined on a case by case basis. A continuum of services will be provided for each individual student's needs.

Resource Room The purpose of the Resource Room is to provide a specially designed curriculum and individual instruction in the basic skills of reading, written expression, mathematics, and other areas as determined by the IEP team.

Life Skills The course goal is to teach the functional skills that a student needs to become a productive and independent family member, citizen, employee, and a participant in a variety of vocational and leisure time activities. Consequently, they will be taught to develop healthy self-concepts, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to become productive citizens.

Developmental Learning Center This is a Mead School District program for middle school students who qualify for special education services and who have an Individualized Educational Program (IEP). The curriculum is highly individualized and based on each student's IEP. The program focuses on functional academics, communication skills, and the development of social and adaptive skills. This is a non-graded program for middle school students.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

The Mead School District complies with all federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Inquiries regarding compliance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX/RCW 28A.640.