



Olathe Public Schools Middle School Program Planning Guide 2026-27



WELCOME TO MIDDLE SCHOOL!

We're excited to join you as you start planning for middle school! This Program Planning Guide is designed to help you learn about the classes you'll take, both the ones everyone needs and the electives you can choose. Middle school gives you tons of chances to explore new subjects and discover what interests you. As you figure out your strengths and what you enjoy, you'll be able to try advanced classes or get support in areas where you want to grow. There's something for everyone as you begin this new adventure!

TEAMS/HOUSES

Depending on which Middle School you attend, you will be placed in a "house" or team during your first year. Grade level Teams/Houses share common Core teachers who work together to coordinate instruction and routines to address student needs.

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL DAY

Students go to seven classes each day, plus a 30-minute Academic Extension period. During this time, you can get extra help from a teacher, work in small groups to build specific skills, join student clubs, attend pep assemblies, and more.

Each student must take 5.0 credits of required classes which include year-long courses of Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies and semester courses of PE/Health and a grade level learning readiness class. The rest of the schedule is made up of elective courses and/or academic support classes.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL WORLD LANGUAGE

Students in eighth grade who successfully complete Spanish I or French I will earn one (1.0) high school credit. The actual grade will appear on the high school transcript and become part of the student's grade point average. Once recorded as part of the official high school transcript, neither the course nor the grade may be changed or removed from the transcript. Credit will be added after the start of the student's ninth grade year.

Dropping a high school credit class: From the date of the first quarter mid-term through the second quarter midterm for year-long courses, students who drop a class will have either a W/P (withdraw/pass) or a W/F (withdraw/fail) placed on their transcript and no credit will be given for the class. After the date of the second quarter midterm, students must remain in their enrolled course.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OPTIONS

	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
Core Required	Language Arts 6	Language Arts 7	Language Arts 8
	Math 6 or Math 6 Plus	Math 7 or Math 7 Plus	Math 8 or Algebra I
	PE/Health (0.5)	PE/Health (0.5)	PE/Health (0.5)
	Science 6	Science 7	Science 8
	Social Studies 6	Social Studies 7	Social Studies 8
	Smart Start (0.5)	Future Ready (0.5)	Foundations for Success (0.5)

Academic Support*	ELL	ELL	ELL
	Guided Study	Guided Study	Guided Study
	Reading 6	Reading 7	Reading 8
	Resource	Resource	Resource
	QUEST (Gifted)	QUEST (Gifted)	QUEST (Gifted)

**Enrollment for these courses is determined on an individual basis by the student's team*

Elective Courses	Band 6 (1.0)	Art I (0.5) / Art II (0.5)	AIM 8 (1.0)
	Choir (0.5 or 1.0)	Band 7 (1.0)	Art I (0.5) / Art II (0.5) / Art III (0.5)
	Computer Essentials (0.25)	Choir (Tenor/Bass; Treble; Ensemble) 1.0	Band 8 (1.0)
	Exploring Art (0.25)	Computer Applications (0.5)	Choir (Tenor/Bass; Treble; Ensemble) 1.0
	Exploring Engineering & Industrial Technology (0.25)	Engineering: Automation & Robotics (0.5)	Computer Applications (0.5)
	Focus on FACS (0.25)	Engineering: Design & Modeling (0.5)	Engineering: Automation & Robotics (0.5)
	Media Lab (0.25)	Focus on French (0.5)	Engineering: Design & Modeling (0.5)
	Orchestra 6 (1.0)	Focus on Spanish (0.5)	Focus on French (0.5)
	Path to Leadership (0.25)	Intro to Baking (0.5)	Focus on Spanish (0.5)
	PE Foundations 6 (0.5)	Intro to Culinary (0.5)	French I (1.0) <i>High School Credit</i>
	Theatre 6 (0.25)	Intro to Computer Coding (0.5)	Intro to Baking (0.5)
	World Language Exploratory (0.25)	Intro to Fashion & Interior Design (0.5)	Intro to Culinary (0.5)
		Jazz Band (0.5)	Intro to Computer Coding (0.5)
	Dual Language Immersion 6: Smart Start Leaders (1.0) (Offered at Frontier Trail & Prairie Trail Middle Schools Only) **This elective course is a continuation for students of the K-5 Spanish Immersion program offered at Black Bob Elementary and Manchester Park Elementary**	Lead & Succeed (0.5)	Intro to Engineering & Industrial Technology (0.5)
		Leadership in Action (0.5)	Intro to Fashion & Interior Design (0.5)
		Lifetime Activities (0.5)	Jazz Band (0.5)
		Media Makers (0.5)	Lead & Succeed (0.5)
		Orchestra 7 (1.0)	Leadership in Action (0.5)
		Spanish for Heritage Speakers (0.5)	Lifetime Activities (0.5)
		Stagecraft (0.5)	Media Makers (0.5)
		Team Sports (0.5)	Orchestra 8 (1.0)
		Teen Living (0.5)	Spanish I (1.0) <i>High School Credit</i>
		Theatre I (0.5) / Theatre II (0.5)	Spanish for Heritage Speakers (0.5)
			Stagecraft (0.5)
			Team Sports (0.5)
			Teen Living (0.5)
			Theatre I (0.5) / Theatre II (0.5)
			Yearbook (1.0)

Electives vary based on student request and building staffing.

All electives may not be offered in every building.

GRADE 6

REQUIRED COURSES

CORE

Language Arts 6

LA 000 A/B

Grade Level: 6
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This course is the beginning of the secondary language arts program. It includes the study of literature and relevant informational text. Effective reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language skills are developed through reading and analyzing complex text. Students will produce argumentative, informational/explanatory, and narrative writing for a variety of purposes.

Math 6

MA 000 A/B

Grade Level: 6
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This course focuses on mathematical practices and four critical areas of content: 1) connecting fractions to ratio and rate along with solving problems; 2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; 3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and 4) developing understanding of statistical thinking. This course stresses the depth and rigor for future math course success.

Math 6 Plus

MA 006 A/B

Grade Level: 6
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This course combines all of the Kansas College and Career Standards for Mathematics for Grade 6 and some Grade 7 standards into one course. The standards are bundled by units from decimal computation to algebraic skills such as equations and expressions. The mathematical practices are applied to proportional reasoning, operations with rational numbers, linear equations, and real-world applications. **Enrollment Note: Students will be placed in this course based on the following district criteria: 1) district and state assessment results, 2) MAP scores, 3) current course performance.**

Science 6

SC 000 A/B

Grade Level: 6
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This course explores the science of the dynamic earth and the universe, along with an integration of basic physics. Conducted in a laboratory setting, this course emphasizes investigative science and activity-based learning.

Social Studies 6

SS 000 A/B

Grade Level: 6
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This course focuses on an exploration of ancient world civilizations through the lens of history, geography, economics, religion and government. Students examine primary and secondary sources to investigate ancient world history using claim, evidence and reasoning.

Smart Start

YA 160

Grade Level: 6
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Students build a strong middle school foundation by practicing essential reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills while developing executive functioning, empathy, kindness, and conflict-resolution strategies. They explore personal interests and strengths, connect these to academic goals and future opportunities, and begin creating an Individual Plan of Study to guide informed choices throughout middle school, high school, and beyond.

Dual Language Immersion 6: Smart Start Leaders

FL 140 A/B

Grade Level: 6
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This course, taught in Spanish, helps students build leadership and executive functioning skills while increasing confidence using Spanish, especially through speaking and listening. Students explore personal strengths, interests, and goals, begin an Individual Plan of Study, and practice problem-solving and responsible decision-making. Through collaboration, reflection, and discussion in Spanish, students develop empathy, confidence, and positive leadership skills for school and beyond. **Enrollment Note: This course is only available to students at Prairie Trail and Frontier Trail Middle Schools who participated in the K-5 Spanish Immersion Program at either Black Bob or Manchester Park Elementary Schools. This class satisfies the Smart Start 6th grade requirement and also embeds the Path to Leadership 6th grade course content into the immersion course.**

Physical Education/Health

PE 010

Grade Level: 6
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Physical Education/Health meets every day for a semester. Students participate in a variety of fundamental skills for team sports and lifetime activities. Health, wellness, fitness and physical activity concepts are key components of class.

Academic Support

Reading 6

WW 349 A/B

Grade Level: 6
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This course is designed to improve basic reading skills including foundational skills, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. **Enrollment Note: Students are placed into this class based on district criteria.**

Guided Study

YA 290
YA 290 A/B

Grade Level: 6
One or Two Semesters - 0.5-1.0 credit

Students needing additional instructional time to master academic concepts may be assigned to this course. Students seeking time to complete coursework may also enroll. **Enrollment Note: Students are placed into this class based on teacher/counselor recommendation.**

GRADE 6

ELECTIVES

Band 6

PA 000 A/B

Grade Level: 6
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

Students may have had prior band experience in 5th grade or start as beginners with band director approval. **Enrollment Note: Throughout the year, attendance is required at performances and rehearsals, which may be scheduled before/after school, in the evening and on weekends. Regular at-home practice will be required as a graded assignment. Students must provide their own instrument. A uniform purchase may be required. Financial assistance is available to those who qualify.**

Choir

PA 100 A/B

Grade Level: 6
One or Two Semesters - 0.5-1.0 credit

Students will discover the joy of singing while building relationships that last a lifetime. Singers will build confidence and skills that prepare them for future success. **Enrollment Note: Throughout the year, attendance is required at performances and rehearsals, which may be scheduled before/after school, in the evening, and on weekends. Home practice may be required as a graded assignment. A uniform purchase may be required. Financial assistance is available to those who qualify.**

Computer Essentials

CP 000

Grade Level: 6
One Quarter - 0.25 credit

Computer Essentials introduces students to the foundational technology skills they need for school and beyond. Students will strengthen their keyboarding skills, learn how to use email safely, and explore essential computer applications such as Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

Exploring Art

AR 000

Grade Level: 6
One Quarter - 0.25 credit

Students will explore a variety of 2-D and 3-D media. Basic techniques and an overview of artistic materials will be stressed. The emphasis will be on developing the student's creativity and imagination.

Exploring Engineering & Industrial Technology

IT 020

Grade Level: 6
One Quarter - 0.25 credit

Exploring Engineering and Industrial Technology introduces students to the exciting world of designing, building, and problem-solving. In this hands-on course, students will learn foundational skills used in engineering and technical fields, such as safe tool use, creative thinking, and basic design processes. Through fun projects and challenges, students will discover how things work and how ideas become real creations.

Focus on FACS

HE 000

Grade Level: 6
One Quarter - 0.25 credit

Focus on FACS introduces students to important life skills through fun, hands-on activities. Students will learn the basics of cooking and nutrition, simple sewing skills, and how to build positive relationships with friends and family. The class also explores child care and what it means to be responsible and supportive at home and in the community. Along the way, students will discover different opportunities within Family & Consumer Sciences.

Media Lab

LA 135

Grade Level: 6
One Quarter - 0.25 credit

Media Lab introduces students to the exciting world of communication and media creation. In this class, students will build skills in speech, debate, and effective communication while also exploring basic journalism and media literacy. Through engaging projects, presentations, and collaborative activities, students will practice clear speaking, confident writing, and critical thinking. Media Lab helps students become strong communicators-both in the classroom and beyond.

Orchestra 6

PA 060 A/B

Grade Level: 6
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

Students may have had prior orchestra experience in 5th grade or start as beginners. **Enrollment Note: Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances. Regular at-home practice will be required as a graded assignment. Students on violin, viola, and cello must furnish their own instrument. A uniform purchase may be required. Financial assistance is available to those who qualify.**

Path to Leadership

YA 295

Grade Level: 6
One Quarter - 0.25 credit

Students build foundational leadership skills by practicing simple problem-solving models, brainstorming and evaluating solutions, and making responsible choices. Through engagement and reflection, they explore what leadership looks like in school—encouraging others, serving as positive role models, and leading by example in both the classroom and the wider school community.

PE Foundations 6

PE 015

Grade Level: 6
One Semester - 0.50 credit

This course will be an extension of the required 6th grade PE course with the goal of developing healthy individuals who have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activity. **Enrollment Note: This is a co-ed course.**

Theatre 6

PA 150M

Grade Level: 6
One Quarter - 0.25 credit

Enter the thrilling and interactive world of theatre. This class will help build self-confidence and creative expression through introductory acting techniques, dramatic movement and vocal work.

World Language Exploratory

FL 006

Grade Level: 6
One Quarter - 0.25 credit

This course provides students with both a linguistic and cultural overview of languages around the world. Topics include writing systems, phonology, gestures, geography, and customs. Students will be provided with a brief overview of multiple world languages. Students will gain knowledge about the use and structure of various languages and the places where these languages are spoken. Students will learn basic greetings and ways to communicate in multiple languages during the span of the course.

GRADE 7

REQUIRED COURSES

CORE

Language Arts 7

LA 010 A/B

Grade Level: 7
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This course includes the study of literature and relevant informational text. Effective reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language skills are developed through reading and analyzing complex text. Students will produce argumentative, informational/explanatory, and narrative writing for a variety of purposes.

Math 7

MA 010 A/B

Grade Level: 7
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This course emphasizes mathematical practices applied to the following critical areas: developing understanding and application of proportional relationships, operations with rational numbers, working with expressions and linear equations, solving problems involving scale drawings and geometric constructions, as well as working with 2D and 3D shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume.

Math 7 Plus

MA 017 A/B

Grade Level: 7
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit
Prerequisite: Math 6 Plus

This course combines the remainder of the Kansas College and Career Standards for Mathematics for Grade 7 and the majority of the Grade 8 Standards into one course. The standards are bundled by units from real number computation to algebraic skills such as equations and functions. The mathematical practices are applied to the real number system, equations, statistic and probability, geometry, and real-world applications.

Science 7

SC 010 A/B

Grade Level: 7
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This course will explore life processes and environmental studies. Conducted in a laboratory setting, this course emphasizes investigative science and activity-based learning.

Social Studies 7

SS 010 A/B

Grade Level: 7
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This course includes a semester of world geography and a semester of Kansas history and government. Students examine primary and secondary sources to investigate world geography and Kansas history and government using claim, evidence and reasoning.

Future Ready

YA 180

Grade Level: 7
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Students focus on personal well-being, emotional regulation, and building positive relationships through empathy, respect, and conflict resolution. Students continue to explore interests and strengths that connect learning with future opportunities through their Individual Plan of Study. Students will investigate high school options and career pathways in Olathe specific to their current and future personal, academic, and career goals.

Physical Education/Health

PE 110

Grade Level: 7
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Physical Education/Health meets every day for a semester. Students participate in a variety of fundamental skills for team sports and lifetime activities. Health, wellness, fitness and physical activity concepts are key components of class.

Academic Support

Reading 7

WW 350 A/B

Grade Level: 7
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This course offers intensive instruction to improve basic reading skills in terms of comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency based on individual student needs. Students will also choose reading material based on interest and reading level. **Enrollment Note: Students are placed into this class based on district criteria.**

Guided Study

YA 290

YA 290 A/B

Grade Level: 7
One or Two Semesters - 0.5-1.0 credit

Students needing additional instructional time to master academic concepts may be assigned to this course. Students seeking time to complete coursework may also enroll. **Enrollment Note: Students are placed into this class based on teacher/counselor recommendation**

GRADE 7

ELECTIVES

Art I

AR 110M

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

This introductory art course is designed to provide seventh and eighth grade students an opportunity to experience drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, and sculpture. The Elements of Art, artists, and art history will provide a framework for this experience.

Art II

AR 120

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit
Prerequisite: Art I

This course is designed for both seventh and eighth grade students who will be building on what they learned in Art 1. There will be an emphasis on the Elements of Art and Principles of Design while creating a variety of 2-D and 3-D projects.

Band 7

PA 020 A/B

Grade Level: 7
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit
Prerequisite: Band 6 or permission by instructor

This course is open to all 7th grade band students and focuses on the continued development of instrument and performance techniques. **Enrollment Note: Throughout the year, attendance is required at performances and rehearsals, which may be scheduled before/after school, in the evening and on weekends. Regular at-home practice will be required as a graded assignment. Students must provide their own instrument. A uniform purchase may be required. and financial assistance is available for those who qualify.**

Choir Ensemble

PA 145 A/B

Grade Level: 7, 8
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This advanced choral experience focuses on progressive ensemble skills, vocal techniques, and music literacy skills. Independent singing, vocal technique, and sight singing skills will be developed. **Enrollment Note: An audition may be required for this course. Throughout the year, attendance is required at performances and rehearsals which may be scheduled before/after school, in the evening, and on weekends. Home practice may be required as a graded assignment. A uniform purchase may be required. and financial assistance is available for those who qualify.**

Choir - Tenor/Bass

PA 120 A/B

Grade Level: 7, 8
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This class focuses on intermediate to advanced study of vocal technique, sight singing, and ensemble performance practices. **Enrollment Note: An audition may be required for this course. Throughout the year, attendance is required at performances and rehearsals which may be scheduled before/after school, in the evening, and on weekends. Home practice may be required as a graded assignment. A uniform purchase may be required. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.**

Choir - Treble

PA 140 A/B

Grade Level: 7, 8
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This class focuses on advanced study of vocal technique, sight singing, and ensemble performance practices. **Enrollment Note: An audition may be required for this course. Throughout the year, attendance is required at performance and rehearsals, which may be scheduled before/after school, in the evening, and on weekends. Home practice may be required as a graded assignment. A uniform purchase may be required but financial assistance is available for those who qualify.**

Computer Applications

CP 200P

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Computer Applications helps students build strong digital skills they can use in school and everyday life. Students will learn how to create, format, and edit documents, spreadsheets, and presentations using common software tools. Through hands-on, real-world projects, students will practice organizing information, solving problems, and presenting ideas clearly and creatively. Course content is updated regularly to reflect current and emerging technologies, helping students stay prepared for future classes and careers.

Engineering: Automation & Robotics

IT 395

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Students learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students apply what they know to design and program traffic lights, robotic arms, and more.

Engineering: Design & Modeling

IT 391

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the class to design a product with a real-world impact.

Focus on French

FL 100

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Students explore French countries, focusing on their cultural differences, holidays, and customs. Students interact with vocabulary and phrases related to daily life and personal interests.

Focus on Spanish

FL 110

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Students explore Spanish-speaking countries, focusing on their cultural differences, holidays, and customs. Students interact with vocabulary and phrases related to daily life and personal interests.

GRADE 7

ELECTIVES

Intro to Baking

HE 130

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Intro to Baking focuses on the art and science behind baked goods. Students will learn essential baking skills such as measuring accurately, understanding ingredients, following recipes, and using equipment safely. Hands-on labs will introduce students to breads, pastries, cookies, cakes, and other baked items while emphasizing the scientific principles that make baking work. This course is perfect for students who enjoy creating sweet and savory baked treats and want to develop baking skills they can continue to grow in high school culinary pathways.

Intro to Culinary

HE 140

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Intro to Culinary introduces students to the fundamentals of cooking and kitchen skills. Students will learn about kitchen safety, sanitation, nutrition, and how to prepare a variety of foods, including proteins, vegetables, grains, and international dishes. Through hands-on cooking labs, students will explore basic cooking techniques, practice meal preparation, and learn how to manage a kitchen confidently. This class builds a strong foundation for students interested in continuing culinary studies in high school.

Introduction to Computer Coding

CP 120P

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

This course will allow students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating projects and developing mobile apps. Students will learn about programming by blending hardware design and software development. Students will customize their experience by choosing a problem that interests them.

Intro to Fashion and Interior Design (FAID)

HE 170

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Intro to FAID gives students a hands-on introduction to the creative world of fashion, apparel, and interior design. Students will explore color, textiles, design principles, fashion history, and basic construction skills while completing fun, real-world projects. They will also learn how designers develop ideas, make choices, and create products that are both stylish and functional. **Enrollment Note: Students are encouraged to bring their own supplies for individual projects to personalize their work and fully explore their creativity.**

Jazz Band

PA 050

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit
Prerequisite: Band 6 or permission by instructor

Concurrent enrollment in Band 7/8 or Orchestra 7/8 is required. This course provides students with strong fundamental skills covered in the concert band classes, with an introduction to various jazz styles, solo improvisation, and performance opportunities. **Enrollment Note: Throughout the year, attendance is required at performances and rehearsals, which may be scheduled before/after school, in the evening and on weekends. Regular at-home practice will be required as a graded assignment. Students must provide their own instrument. A uniform purchase may be required. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.**

Lead & Succeed

YA 300

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Students explore civic responsibility and engagement while building civic leadership skills through public speaking, active listening, collaboration, and civil discourse. They learn to identify community issues, set goals, plan projects, and resolve conflicts respectfully. Students examine diverse perspectives and practice advocacy through research and media literacy,—writing letters, creating proposals, and engaging decision-makers while developing inclusive, reflective leadership skills.

Leadership in Action

YA 308

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Students put leadership into action through community engagement and service. They identify local issues, plan projects, and partner with community leaders, nonprofits, and city organizations. Through research, discourse, and collaborative problem-solving, students propose solutions to real civic challenges, transforming ideas into meaningful action for their school and community.

Lifetime Activities

PE 135

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

This course introduces students to a variety of activities they can enjoy throughout their lives such as walking, golf, racquet sports, weight-lifting and bowling. Students will also practice setting personal fitness goals and tracking their progress, helping them build the knowledge and confidence to make healthy choices that support lifelong wellness.

Guided Enrollment Note: This is a co-ed course.

Media Makers

LA 140

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Media Makers helps students become confident and creative communicators in today's digital world. Students will develop skills in journalism, writing, and multimedia projects while learning to use digital tools like podcasting, blogging, webcasting, and graphic design. The class also emphasizes responsible and safe use of social media and AI. Through hands-on projects and real-world applications, students will explore how to share ideas, tell stories, and communicate effectively in a variety of formats.

Orchestra 7

PA 070 A/B

Grade Level: 7
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit
Prerequisite: Orchestra 6 or permission by instructor

This course is open to all students who play violin, viola, cello and string bass. Students should be starting their third year of instruction. **Enrollment Note: Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances. Regular at-home practice will be required as a graded assignment. Students on violin, viola, and cello must furnish their own instrument. A uniform purchase may be required. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.**

GRADE 7

ELECTIVES

Spanish for Heritage Speakers

FL 120

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

This course is designed specifically for students who have already gained speaking and listening proficiency in Spanish in a home or other community setting or in a previous school setting outside of the United States. Students will strengthen their reading and writing skills in Spanish through study and discussion of language structure, cultural and current events, and academic language. This class is conducted entirely in Spanish. Students may be asked to complete a language assessment to determine proper placement in this course. **Enrollment Note: Students may take this course in both 7th and 8th grade if desired. This course may not be offered at all middle schools.**

Stagecraft

PA 180

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Students will take a look behind the scenes in this technical theatre course. Students get hands-on experience with design, scenic painting, costumes, makeup, prop construction, and other aspects of production work.

Team Sports

PE 130

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

This course introduces students to a variety of traditional team sports such as volleyball, basketball, soccer, and more. Students will develop fundamental skills and strategies while learning the rules and techniques of each game. Through active participation, students will strengthen their physical fitness, sportsmanship, and confidence both on and off the court. **Enrollment Note: This is a co-ed course.**

Teen Living

HE 210

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Teen Living gives students hands-on experience with the skills needed to live confidently and make healthy choices. In this class, students will explore topics like personal well-being, building positive relationships, child development, financial responsibility, and everyday life skills. Through practical activities and real-life scenarios, students will learn how to take care of themselves, work well with others, and understand the world around them. Teen Living also introduces students to future opportunities in Family & Consumer Sciences and serves as a great starting point for high school Human Services program.

Theatre I

PA 160

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Explore the multi-faceted world of theatre in this introductory class. Students will cultivate self-expression and confidence through a collaborative look at movement, acting techniques, and performance. Students will also improve their creative thinking and analytical skills through scriptwriting and interpretation.

Theatre II

PA 190

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit
Prerequisite: Theatre I

This class is an in-depth course that builds upon the skills and techniques learned in Theatre I. This class will challenge students' leadership and creativity as they collaborate in theatre projects such as scene work, playwriting, play production, script analysis, and character development.

GRADE 8

REQUIRED COURSES

CORE

Algebra I

MA 520 A/B

Grade Level: 8
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit
Prerequisite: Math 7 Plus

Students engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions. Students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of problem solving skills. Students will analyze and explain the process of solving an equation as well as write, interpret, and translate between various forms of linear equations and inequalities.

Language Arts 8

LA 110 A/B

Grade Level: 8
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This course includes the study of literature and relevant informational text. Effective reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language skills are developed through reading and analyzing complex text. Students will produce argumentative, informational/explanatory, and narrative writing for a variety of purposes.

Math 8

MA 110 A/B

Grade Level: 8
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

Students continue to build an algebra foundation from earlier grades. This course embeds the mathematical practices throughout learning. Instruction will focus on an in-depth study of expressions and equations leading to linear equations. The concept of a function will be formalized to prepare students for Algebra 1. The course ends with geometric concepts of angles, distance, similarity, scatter plots, congruence and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

Science 8

SC 110 A/B

Grade Level: 8
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This course introduces students to different forms of energy, basic chemical reactions, and topics in meteorology and climate. Conducted in a laboratory setting, this course emphasizes investigative science and activity-based learning.

Social Studies 8

SS 110 A/B

Grade Level: 8
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This course focuses on American history from the end of the American Revolution to 1900. Students examine primary and secondary sources to investigate American history using claim, evidence and reasoning.

Foundations for Success

YA 200

Grade Level: 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Students will engage in collaborative learning that builds teamwork, leadership, and interpersonal skills as they prepare for high school. Through reading, writing, speaking, and listening activities, they will refine their interests and strengths to guide high school course and career programming opportunities, linking middle school learning to high school academics and future success.

Physical Education/Health

PE 120 M

Grade Level: 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Physical Education/Health meets every day for a semester. Students participate in a variety of fundamental skills for team sports and lifetime activities. Health, wellness, fitness and physical activity concepts are key components of class.

Academic Support

Reading 8

WW 351 A/B

Grade Level: 8
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This course offers intensive instruction to improve basic reading skills in terms of comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency based on individual student needs. Students will also choose reading material based on interest and reading level. **Enrollment Note: Students are placed into this class based on district criteria.**

Guided Study

YA 290
YA 290 A/B

Grade Level: 8
One or Two Semesters - 0.5-1.0 credit

Students needing additional instructional time to master academic concepts may be assigned to this course. Students seeking time to complete coursework may also enroll. **Enrollment Note: Students are placed into this class based on teacher/counselor recommendation**

GRADE 8

ELECTIVES

AIM 8

WW 441 A/B

Grade Level: 8
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This course is an elective class for students who are college-bound. Students learn college and career readiness skills to enhance academic success. Students will set goals, learn about time management and note-taking skills, create a four-year high school academic plan and work effectively in collaborative groups while learning about future college and career options. **Enrollment Note: Students are selected for this class based on teacher recommendation. This course may not be offered at all middle schools**

Art I

AR 110M

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

This introductory art course is designed to provide seventh and eighth grade students an opportunity to experience drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, and sculpture. The elements of art, artists, and art history will provide a framework for this experience.

Art II

AR 120

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit
Prerequisite: Art I

This course will be an emphasis on the elements of art and principles of design while creating a variety of 2-D and 3-D projects.

Art III

AR 130

Grade Level: 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit
Prerequisite: Art II

This advanced class offers an in-depth examination of the creative process. Eighth grade students who would like to take an additional art class may enroll in this class again with instructor permission.

Band 8

PA 030 A/B

Grade Level: 8
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit
Prerequisite: Band 7 or permission by instructor

This course is open to all 8th grade band students and focuses on the advanced study of instrument and performance techniques. **Enrollment Note: Throughout the year, attendance is required at performances and rehearsals, which may be scheduled before/after school, in the evening and on weekends. Regular at-home practice will be required as a graded assignment. Students must provide their own instrument. A uniform purchase may be required. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.**

Choir Ensemble

PA 145 A/B

Grade Level: 7, 8
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This advanced choral experience focuses on progressive ensemble skills, vocal techniques, and music literacy skills. Independent singing, vocal technique, and sight singing skills will be developed. **Enrollment Note: An audition may be required for this course. Throughout the year, attendance is required at performances and rehearsals which may be scheduled before/after school, in the evening, and on weekends. Home practice may be required as a graded assignment. A uniform purchase may be required. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.**

Choir - Tenor/Bass

PA 120 A/B

Grade Level: 7, 8
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This class focuses on intermediate to advanced study of vocal technique, sight singing, and ensemble performance practices. **Enrollment Note: An audition may be required for this course. Throughout the year, attendance is required at performances and rehearsals which may be scheduled before/after school, in the evening, and on weekends. Home practice may be required as a graded assignment. A uniform purchase may be required, and financial assistance is available for those who qualify.**

Choir - Treble

PA 140 A/B

Grade Level: 7, 8
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This class focuses on advanced study of vocal technique, sight singing, and ensemble performance practices. **Guided Enrollment Note: An audition may be required for this course. Throughout the year, attendance is required at performance and rehearsals, which may be scheduled before/after school, in the evening, and on weekends. Home practice may be required as a graded assignment. A uniform purchase may be required but financial assistance is available for those who qualify.**

Computer Applications

CP 200P

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Computer Applications helps students build strong digital skills they can use in school and everyday life. Students will learn how to create, format, and edit documents, spreadsheets, and presentations using common software tools. Through hands-on, real-world projects, students will practice organizing information, solving problems, and presenting ideas clearly and creatively. Course content is updated regularly to reflect current and emerging technologies, helping students stay prepared for future classes and careers.

Engineering: Automation & Robotics

IT 395

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Students learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students apply what they know to design and program traffic lights, robotic arms, and more.

GRADE 8

ELECTIVES

Engineering: Design & Modeling

IT 391

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the class to design a product with a real-world impact.

Focus on French

FL 100

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Students explore French countries, focusing on their cultural differences, holidays, and customs. Students interact with vocabulary and phrases related to daily life and personal interests.

Focus on Spanish

FL 110

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Students explore Spanish-speaking countries, focusing on their cultural differences, holidays, and customs. Students interact with vocabulary and phrases related to daily life and personal interests.

French I (High School Credit)

FL 410M A/B

Grade Level: 8
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This class is designed for students who have had little or no experience learning French. Students learn about the French culture and learn to communicate in the context of ordinary, daily situations. In order to promote language proficiency, much of this class is taught in French. Students who complete this course continue to French II. **Enrollment Note: Students must take French 1 in 8th grade if they plan to enroll in AP French their senior year in high school. Students in 8th grade who enroll in Spanish I or French I will earn high school credit. Those courses will be included on their high school transcript and cannot be removed. Credits will be added after the start of the student's ninth grade year.**

Intro to Baking

HE 130

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Intro to Baking focuses on the art and science behind baked goods. Students will learn essential baking skills such as measuring accurately, understanding ingredients, following recipes, and using equipment safely. Hands-on labs will introduce students to breads, pastries, cookies, cakes, and other baked items while emphasizing the scientific principles that make baking work. This course is perfect for students who enjoy creating sweet and savory baked treats and want to develop baking skills they can continue to grow in high school culinary pathways.

Intro to Culinary

HE 140

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Intro to Culinary introduces students to the fundamentals of cooking and kitchen skills. Students will learn about kitchen safety, sanitation, nutrition, and how to prepare a variety of foods, including proteins, vegetables, grains, and international dishes. Through hands-on cooking labs, students will explore basic cooking techniques, practice meal preparation, and learn how to manage a kitchen confidently. This class builds a strong foundation for students interested in continuing culinary studies in high school.

Introduction to Computer Coding

CP 120P

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

This course will allow students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating projects and developing mobile apps. Students will learn about programming by blending hardware design and software development. Students will customize their experience by choosing a problem that interests them. **Enrollment Note: Course cannot be repeated from 7th Grade.**

Introduction to Engineering & Industrial Technology

IT 210

Grade Level: 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

This course is designed for students with an interest in woods, metals, plastics, and related technologies. After an introduction involving drafting, machine and shop safety, students fabricate projects using basic drawings and equipment.

Intro to Fashion and Interior Design (FAID)

HE 170

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Intro to FAID gives students a hands-on introduction to the creative world of fashion, apparel, and interior design. Students will explore color, textiles, design principles, fashion history, and basic construction skills while completing fun, real-world projects. They will also learn how designers develop ideas, make choices, and create products that are both stylish and functional. **Guided Enrollment Note: Students are encouraged to bring their own supplies for individual projects to personalize their work and fully explore their creativity.**

Jazz Band

PA 050

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit
Prerequisite: Band 6 or permission by instructor

Concurrent enrollment in Band 7/8 or Orchestra 7/8 is required. This course provides students with strong fundamental skills covered in the concert band classes, with an introduction to various jazz styles, solo improvisation, and performance opportunities. **Enrollment Note: Throughout the year, attendance is required at performances and rehearsals, which may be scheduled before/after school, in the evening and on weekends. Regular at-home practice will be required as a graded assignment. Students must provide their own instrument. A uniform purchase may be required. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.**

GRADE 8

ELECTIVES

Lead & Succeed

YA 300

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Students explore civic responsibility and engagement while building civic leadership skills through public speaking, active listening, collaboration, and civil discourse. They learn to identify community issues, set goals, plan projects, and resolve conflicts respectfully. Students examine diverse perspectives and practice advocacy through research and media literacy,—writing letters, creating proposals, and engaging decision-makers while developing inclusive, reflective leadership skills.

Leadership in Action

YA 308

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Students put leadership into action through community engagement and service. They identify local issues, plan projects, and partner with community leaders, nonprofits, and city organizations. Through research, discourse, and collaborative problem-solving, students propose solutions to real civic challenges, transforming ideas into meaningful action for their school and community.

Lifetime Activities

PE 135

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

This course introduces students to a variety of activities they can enjoy throughout their lives such as walking, golf, racquet sports, weightlifting and bowling. Students will also practice setting personal fitness goals and tracking their progress, helping them build the knowledge and confidence to make healthy choices that support lifelong wellness. **Enrollment Note: This is a co-ed course.**

Media Makers

LA 140

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Media Makers helps students become confident and creative communicators in today's digital world. Students will develop skills in journalism, writing, and multimedia projects while learning to use digital tools like podcasting, blogging, webcasting, and graphic design. The class also emphasizes responsible and safe use of social media and AI. Through hands-on projects and real-world applications, students will explore how to share ideas, tell stories, and communicate effectively in a variety of formats.

Orchestra 8

PA 080 A/B

Grade Level: 8
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit
Prerequisite: Orchestra 7 or permission by instructor

This course is open to all students who play violin, viola, cello and string bass. Students should be starting their fourth year of instruction. **Enrollment Note: Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances. Regular at-home practice will be required as a graded assignment. Students on violin, viola, and cello must furnish their own instrument. A uniform purchase may be required. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.**

Spanish I (High School Credit)

FL 610M A/B

Grade Level: 8
Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This class is designed for students who have had little or no experience learning Spanish. Students learn about the Hispanic culture and to communicate in the context of ordinary, daily situations. In order to promote language proficiency, much of this class is taught in Spanish. Students who complete this course continue to Spanish II. **Enrollment Note: Students must take Spanish 1 in 8th grade if they plan to enroll in AP Spanish their senior year in high school. Students in 8th grade who enroll in Spanish I or French I will earn high school credit. Those courses will be included on their high school transcript and cannot be removed. Credits will be added after the start of the student's ninth grade year.**

Spanish for Heritage Speakers

FL 120

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

This course is designed specifically for students who have already gained speaking and listening proficiency in Spanish in a home or other community setting or in a previous school setting outside of the United States. Students will strengthen their reading and writing skills in Spanish through study and discussion of language structure, cultural and current events, and academic language. This class is conducted entirely in Spanish. Students may be asked to complete a language assessment to determine proper placement in this course. **Enrollment Note: Students may take this course in both 7th and 8th grade if desired. This course may not be offered at all middle schools.**

Stagecraft

PA 180

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Students will take a look behind the scenes in this technical theatre course. Students get hands-on experience with design, scenic painting, costumes, makeup, prop construction, and other aspects of production work.

Team Sports

PE 130

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

This course introduces students to a variety of traditional team sports such as volleyball, basketball, soccer, and more. Students will develop fundamental skills and strategies while learning the rules and techniques of each game. Through active participation, students will strengthen their physical fitness, sportsmanship, and confidence both on and off the court. **Enrollment Note: This is a co-ed course.**

Teen Living

HE 220P

Grade Level: 7, 8
One Semester - 0.5 credit

Teen Living gives students hands-on experience with the skills needed to live confidently and make healthy choices. In this class, students will explore topics like personal well-being, building positive relationships, child development, financial responsibility, and everyday life skills. Through practical activities and real-life scenarios, students will learn how to take care of themselves, work well with others, and understand the world around them. Teen Living also introduces students to future opportunities in Family & Consumer Sciences and serves as a great starting point for high school Human Services program.

GRADE 8

ELECTIVES

Theatre I

PA 160

Grade Level: 7, 8

One Semester - 0.5 credit

Explore the multi-faceted world of theatre in this introductory class. Students will cultivate self-expression and confidence through a collaborative look at movement, acting techniques, and performance. Students will also improve their creative thinking and analytical skills through scriptwriting and interpretation.

Theatre II

PA 190

Grade Level: 7, 8

One Semester - 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Theatre I

This class is an in-depth course that builds upon the skills and techniques learned in Theatre I. This class will challenge students' leadership and creativity as they collaborate in theatre projects such as scene work, playwriting, play production, script analysis, and character development.

Yearbook

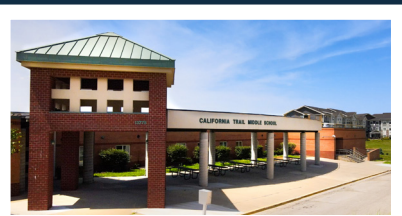
LA 240 A/B

Grade Level: 8

Two Semesters - 1.0 credit

This course exposes students to increased communications, media, and introductory journalism skills, including producing the school yearbook.

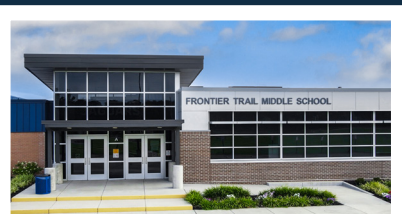
Enrollment Note: Students will be selected for this course through an application process.



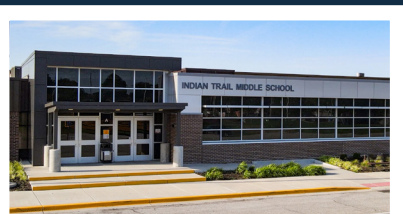
CALIFORNIA TRAIL



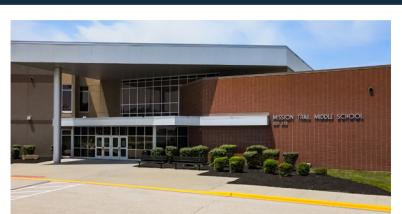
CHISHOLM TRAIL



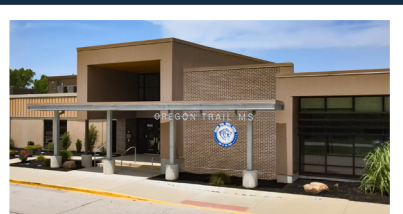
FRONTIER TRAIL



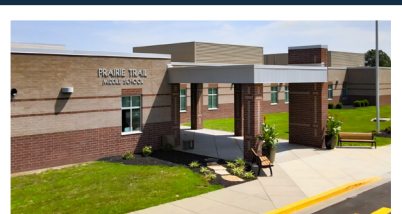
INDIAN TRAIL



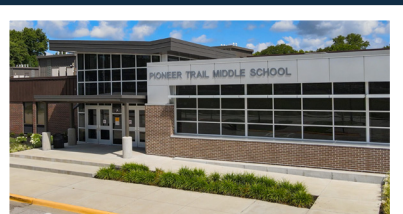
MISSION TRAIL



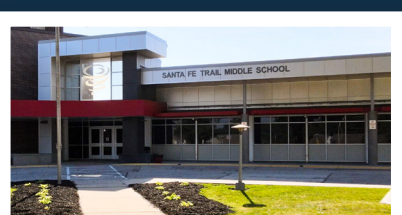
OREGON TRAIL



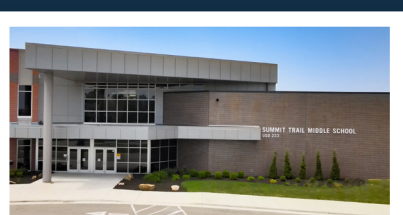
PRAIRIE TRAIL



PIONEER TRAIL



SANTA FE TRAIL



SUMMIT TRAIL



Olathe
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Notice of Non-Discrimination: The Olathe Public Schools prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity in its programs, activities or employment, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups to its facilities as required by: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Equal Access Act of 1984 and other relevant state and federal laws as amended. Inquiries regarding compliance with applicable civil rights statutes related to race, ethnicity, gender, age discrimination, sexual orientation, gender identity or equal access may be directed to Staff Counsel, 14160 S. Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS 66063-2000, phone 913-780-7000. All inquiries regarding compliance with applicable statutes regarding Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act may be directed to the Executive Director of Special Services, 14160 S. Black Bob Rd. Olathe, KS 66063-2000, phone (913) 780-7000. Interested persons including those with impaired vision or hearing, can also obtain information as to the existence and location of services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by disabled persons by calling the Assistant Superintendent, Operations. (05/22)