



NORTH
KANSAS CITY
SCHOOLS

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7th & 8th Grade
Transitional Academic Guide
2026-2027

www.nkcschools.org



Antioch Middle School



Maple Park Middle School



New Mark Middle School



Northgate Middle School

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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Families,

This is an exciting time in the life of your middle school child. It's when students are asked to make decisions that will shape their future school years and beyond.

In our changing society, it is crucial that students prepare well and wisely for careers and college. This course description booklet has been created to assist you and your student in this important process. The booklet provides information about courses your child must take to meet state and local requirements. In addition, it explains opportunities for your child to explore and develop a variety of interests during their seventh and eighth grade years.

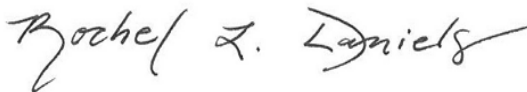
Our school counselors will assist you and your student in making individual educational choices.

Because you know your student better than anyone, your input is essential. We want you to be confident that your student has made the best possible class choices from those offered in our exceptionally rich curriculum. Please consider these choices carefully, as few schedule changes are made after the enrollment process.

If you have questions about enrollment or the courses offered, please call your middle school office and speak with a school counselor. The principals and I are looking forward to an exciting 2026-2027 school year.

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Dr. Christopher Green	Maple Park Middle School	(816) 321-5280
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Sincerely,



Rochel Daniels, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & OPPORTUNITIES

Each middle school provides a range of services and programs: special education services for students with disabilities or students that need additional support, assistance for English Language Learners, and programs for students with advanced academic abilities.

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) (Daily)

The AVID program is designed to help students prepare to enter and succeed in four-year colleges and universities. Many students with the potential for success in post-secondary education need extra academic assistance and encouragement. AVID meets the needs of these students by providing *academic preparation, career awareness, study skills, and help in managing the demands of the increased rigor associated with middle and high school curriculum*. AVID students will increase their skills in writing to learn using focused note-taking, learning logs, reflective journals, and other writing strategies. They will improve their inquiry skills through skillful questioning, critical thinking techniques, and dialogue. Collaboration skills are emphasized through group projects, study partners, and "think-pair-share" responses. Organization is key in AVID, and students use three-ring binders or eBinders and weekly binder checks to keep their academic work organized. Reading is the final learning skill that students focus heavily on; through practice and techniques they will improve their reading skills. AVID is offered as an elective class for each grade level in middle school (and through high school). In order to enroll in AVID, students will need to apply, interview, and be selected.

Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP)

Eighth grade students have the opportunity to participate in the Distinguished Achievement Program. To be recognized as a Distinguished Achievement Honoree, a student must complete 8 of the 10 performance standards given below:

1. Earn a 3.20 GPA. If this standard is not met, a 2.5 GPA must be maintained to qualify for the award.
2. Demonstrate success in at least two honors courses during the school year. This can be earning an A or B in advanced math, high school level language, or AVID.
3. Participate in a fine arts activity demonstrating creativity. (for example- music solos, dance recital, Honors band/choir, school play, having art displayed)
4. Participate in a student activity demonstrating action and leadership. (for example- organize a community service activity, teach/coach younger kids, MPDC, Student Council, AVID Ambassador)

5. Participate in school/community service demonstrating action and leadership. (for example- volunteer at a food pantry, neighborhood clean-up, work without pay, helping a teacher at school)
6. Practice good citizenship (no office referrals).
7. Participate in career exploration opportunities such as job shadowing, AVID activities, or complete independent research.
8. Earn a minimum of two awards. (for example- honor roll, student recognitions, star of the week, student of the week, x-country medal, belt in Taekwondo)
9. Earn Advanced or Proficient on at least one section of the MAP test. (from the previous year)
10. Maintain 90% attendance or higher

English Language Learners (ELL) (Daily)

The ELL class is designed to meet the needs of identified English Language Learners and targets integrated English language development in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the core content areas. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) defines the criteria for student placement in this program. ELL students are assigned at the appropriate grade level to an ELL classroom in one or more of the four core areas, as determined by each school and the individual needs of each student. Students are assessed annually on the ACCESS assessment of English language proficiency to measure their progress toward English proficiency. Once students score proficient on the ACCESS and other state and district assessments, they are exited from the ELL Program. ELL teachers meet all state and district certification standards for teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS):

MTSS is a 30-minute block of time that every middle school in NKC adds to their daily schedule. It will serve students in two different ways. Students will either be assigned to intervention (Math or ELA) if they need additional support, or they will participate in an enrichment course. The courses vary in length of term (quarter, semester, and year). Students are presented with a catalog of options for enrichment. The students rank ordered their top choices. Students are then placed into at least one of their top choices. Upon review of data (MAP, STAR, grades, iReady etc.), students who could benefit from additional ELA or Math support were placed with their ELA or Math teacher for intervention instead of enrichment to start the school year. Students' progress will be monitored closely in MTSS intervention to determine their needs, provide the additional support, and as the student progresses, hopefully advance out of intervention and into their preferred enrichment course.

Literacy Plus (Daily)

This course has been designed to accelerate the literacy skills of students who are more than one grade level below their expected reading level. Literacy skills include reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will be screened for reading ability in fifth grade and each year thereafter for placement in this program. Placement will be made by our literacy specialist.

Students in Academically Gifted Education (SAGE) (One Day per week)

The cognitive and affective needs of gifted students are addressed in the SAGE Program. Identified gifted students attend class at the Northland Innovation Center one day per week. Students select two Unit of Study topics from several options. They work at an accelerated pace and master content at a higher degree of complexity than their age-level peers.

High School Credit Opportunities: Math and Global Language

Middle school students in North Kansas City Schools have the opportunity to earn credit for high school level coursework in math (Algebra I and Geometry) and global language. See pages 24-25 for more information on how credit for these classes is recorded on the high school academic transcript and to clarify some important questions regarding the potential impact of the credit for your student.

SEVENTH GRADE COURSE OPPORTUNITIES

Seventh Grade Core Program Opportunities

The following required core subjects are taught within each team.

English Language Arts

The seventh grade English Language Arts curriculum focuses on students' ability to read and communicate skillfully in a variety of personal, school, and real-life settings.

Students apply the skills and strategies of the reading process to:

- read and understand texts representing a variety of cultures and perspectives
- analyze and interpret a variety of literary and informational texts
- analyze various elements of literature and explain how they relate to each other and the real world
- apply research skills to gather and use information for research and study purposes
- apply prewriting strategies to develop ideas and plans for writing and apply the skills and strategies of the writing process
- write for a variety of purposes, and create a variety of accurate and effective communications to share with others
- use grammatical and mechanical conventions appropriately in a variety of written compositions
- evaluate writing for clarity, organization, and purpose
- revise/rewrite to improve communication

7th Grade Math

This course provides students with a solid foundation in basic math skills and is fully aligned to the Missouri Learning Standards for the seventh grade. Students will use:

Ratios and Proportional Relationships

- Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems

The Number System

- Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers

Expressions and Equations

- Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations

Geometry

- Draw and construct geometrical figures, and describe relationships between them
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume

Statistics and Probability

- Use random sampling to draw inferences about a population
- Draw informal comparative inferences about two populations
- Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models

Pre-Algebra

This course provides students with a solid foundation in preparation for Algebra I and is aligned to the Missouri Learning Standards. Students will learn from experiences centered on:

- Algebra Basics
- Exponents and Scientific Notation
- Solving Equations and Inequalities
- Relations and Functions
- Slope, Equations, and Graphs of Lines
- Systems of Equations
- Linear Inequalities and Systems of Linear Inequalities
- Additional Grade-level Content Standards and Concepts, including and not limited to:
 - Data and statistics
 - Proportional relationships
 - Geometry

7th Grade Pre-Algebra Considerations

Student who took 7th Grade Math

- Passing grade in 7th Grade Math

Student who took 6th Grade Math

- Math MAP Scores – Advanced
- Attendance – 94% or better
- 6th Grade Math Grade – A
- Spring Benchmark (7th Grade Math)– Advanced
- Teacher Recommendation or AVID accepted

Algebra I

The Algebra I curriculum is the foundation for all future high school mathematics courses while meeting specified Missouri Learning Standards. This course has been designed for those students who already exhibit a mastery of basic math skills and concepts using rational numbers as well as an understanding of pre-algebra concepts. There will be an emphasis on algebraic concepts with applications in algebra, statistics, and probability. This course includes techniques in problem solving involving the real number system. An understanding of patterns, relations, and functions is introduced in this course. Students will learn how to represent and analyze mathematical situations and structures using algebraic symbols and how to use mathematical models to represent and understand quantitative relationships. This course also includes the analysis of change in various contexts and prepares students for Geometry. ***(This course counts as high school credit and will affect a student's high school GPA.)***

Note: Prior to taking Algebra I, it is highly recommended to take Pre-Algebra during the summer if you did not take it during the regular school year.

7th Grade Algebra I Considerations

Student who took Pre-Algebra

- Passing grade in Pre-Algebra

Student who took 7th Grade Math

- Math MAP Scores– Advanced
- Attendance – 94% or better
- 7th Grade Math – A
- Spring Pre-Algebra Benchmark –Advanced
- Teacher Recommendation or AVID accepted

North Kansas City Schools Math Pathways

Grade

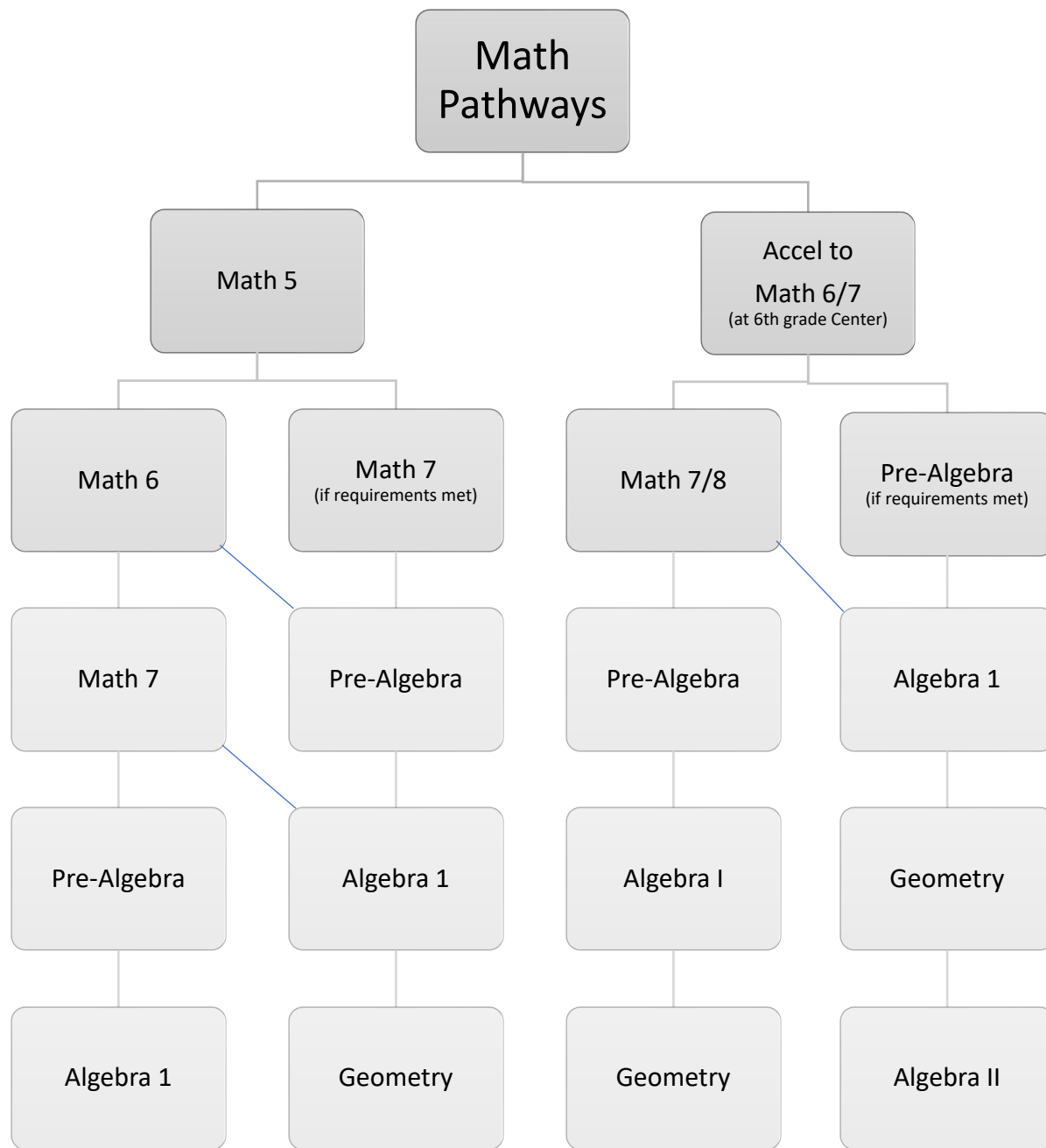
5th

6th

7th

8th

9th



*Diagonal lines indicate acceleration with requirements that must be met.

Science

7th grade students in Missouri experience four strands of science: Physical Science, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, and Engineering Design. These strands are covered in depth as students move through the grade levels. Students in sixth grade in North Kansas City Schools study a variety of science concepts upon which science instruction will be based in succeeding grades. Seventh grade students learn about methods used by scientists and engineers to explore science and study a variety of scientific ideas. Therefore, scientific inquiry and engineering design provide the methods for the foundation of study in the following instructional units:

- Cell Structure and Function
- Electromagnetism
- Force and Motion
- The Solar System
- Weather

Students will see the relevance of science in their everyday lives while exploring these units through inquiry.

Social Studies: World Geography and Ancient Civilizations

7th grade social scientists will analyze ancient civilizations with an emphasis on present-day implications. Ancient civilizations, world geography, and cultures will be examined through five units in order to create an overarching understanding of how history has impacted the world today. Students will authentically engage in inquiry-based learning using primary and secondary sources of varying types and mediums to build their understanding.

Seventh Grade Encore Program Opportunities

Through the encore program students will have exposure to a wide variety of activities and experiences. All seventh graders will be enrolled in two periods of encore classes each day.

Encore I

During **Encore I**, students may choose four of these offerings: Art, Design & Modeling PLTW, General Music, Medical Detectives PLTW, or Global Language (French or Spanish). These courses are offered daily for nine weeks and may have some variation in each building.

OR

Students may choose one of these offerings: AVID, Band, Choir, or Orchestra. These courses are offered every day for the year.

The following course descriptions should provide you additional clarification and an overview of expectations for each Encore I class.

Art (Daily for 9 weeks)

This art course continues to develop the students' understanding of the importance of the visual arts in their everyday life. Students will develop an increasing fluency in the use of tools, techniques, processes, and art vocabulary. Students will study artists' styles as inspiration for their personal artwork.

AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination (Daily for 36 weeks)

The seventh-grade AVID course is an elective class for students who are college bound. While concurrently enrolled in a challenging course of study, students learn strategies to enhance success. Students learn time management, practice goal-setting skills, create a four-year academic plan, develop note-taking skills, work effectively in collaborative groups, and learn strategies for test preparation. Students will also begin to explore their college and career options. To take the AVID elective course, students must apply, interview, and be accepted.

Band (Daily for 36 weeks)

Students in seventh grade band will meet on a daily basis for the entire year in a full band setting. The practices and procedures started in sixth grade band are continued and enhanced in the seventh-grade band course. Students will continue music reading and skill building on their instrument utilizing the next level of instruction book and standard band literature. Daily practice at home and participation in evening concerts is expected. Students who excel on their instrument will be encouraged to prepare for honors level audition. The seventh-grade band will perform at least two annual concerts. Extra help is available from the instructor before or after school.

Choir (Daily for 36 weeks)

Seventh grade choir is a non-auditioned choir designed for students who are interested in becoming independent musicians and who enjoy singing with others. The main emphasis in seventh grade choir will be the enhancement of the singing voice and choral skills through rehearsal and performance. These skills include octavo music reading, choral blend of voices, and the application of good vocal technique.

Design & Modeling PLTW (Project Lead The Way) (Daily for 9 weeks)

Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

General Music (Daily for 9 weeks)

The seventh-grade general music program includes a continuation of the activities initiated in sixth grade. In addition, students study styles of music, the human voice, and the use of technology to learn keyboard skills, basic music theory, and composition.

Global Language: French, Spanish (Daily for 9 weeks)

The global language program allows students to experience French and/or Spanish. The seventh-grade course develops conversational, audio-lingual skills, and cultural awareness in the specific language of study. This course is highly recommended, although not required, to those considering taking a Global Language for high school credit in 8th grade. *May not be available at all schools.*

Medical Detectives PLTW (Project Lead The Way) (Daily for 9 weeks)

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a "crime scene." They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the symptoms of the human body work together to maintain health.

Orchestra (Daily for 36 weeks)

Seventh grade Orchestra provides students with learning and performance opportunities playing the violin, viola, cello, and bass. The primary focus is on the development and expansion of basic skills learned in sixth grade orchestra, which are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble contests, honor orchestra, and private lessons. Topics/skills covered include tone development and bowing technique, counting, timing, and rhythmic development, reading and notation skills, including sight-reading, introduction of scales, basic music theory, development of an extensive vocabulary of musical terms and symbols, ear training and listening skills, equipment care and maintenance, and effective practice habits. Students in the seventh grade Orchestra perform in at least two concerts a year. Seventh grade Orchestra students are eligible for the district Honors Philharmonic Orchestra, a select extra-curricular ensemble. Teachers are available to assist students both before and after school in every building.

Encore II

During **Encore II**, students will have Physical Education on alternating days. Physical Education will alternate with a semester of Health and a semester of Theatre.

The following course descriptions should provide you additional clarification and an overview of expectations for each encore class and they may vary in each building.

Health (Alternating days for 18 weeks)

This required course is an integral part of the middle school curriculum of North Kansas City Schools. The seventh-grade Health curriculum encourages every child to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors that will help build a safe and healthy lifestyle. Students learn health behaviors that will contribute to the well-being of the community and enrich their quality of life. Seventh grade Health focuses on body systems, disease prevention and control, injury prevention and safety, and risk assessment and reduction as it relates to tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs.

Physical Education (Alternating days for 36 weeks)

The overview of the middle school Physical Education program is an academic subject designed to incorporate the psychomotor, cognitive, and affective learning domains which will enhance the knowledge, fitness levels, motor skill, personal/social skill, and attitude of each student. The goal of Physical Education is to provide students with opportunities to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to develop and maintain the core values of having a lifetime of healthy habits, wellness, and to sustain an active lifestyle. Students will participate in a variety of fitness activities and learn to appreciate the value of an active life to improve their personal level of fitness. In Physical Education students will also develop the skills and knowledge necessary to participate successfully in lifetime activities, team, and individual sports. All courses will emphasize the importance of safety, cooperation, and sportsmanship.

Theatre 7 (Alternating days for 18 weeks)

This class gives students the opportunity to reinforce and expand upon the basics that were introduced in sixth grade. Students will continue to become more competent writers and speakers through researching, outlining, and delivering a variety of speeches. Students will also become better communicators by using technology in a variety of ways. Students will be exposed to the world of theatre; they explore live stage performance, technical theatre, reader's theatre, or improvisational theatre. Listening skills will be reinforced as well as theatre etiquette. This course integrates English Language Arts curriculum satisfying state and national standards.

Seventh Grade Scheduling Structure

Core	English Language Arts
Core	Math Pre-Algebra Algebra I (<i>High School Credit given for Algebra I</i>)
Core	Science
Core	Social Studies: World Geography and Ancient Civilizations
Encore I	<u><i>Year-long Courses (choose 1):</i></u> AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Band Choir Orchestra
	<u><i>Nine Week Courses (choose 4):</i></u> Art Design & Modeling PLTW General Music Global Language (French or Spanish) Medical Detectives PLTW
Encore II	Health Physical Education Theatre 7

EIGHTH GRADE COURSE OPPORTUNITIES

Eighth Grade Core Program Opportunities

The following required core subjects are taught within each team.

English Language Arts

The eighth grade English Language Arts curriculum focuses on students' ability to read and communicate skillfully in a variety of personal, school, and real-life settings.

Students apply the skills and strategies of the reading process to:

- read and understand texts representing a variety of cultures and perspectives
- analyze and interpret a variety of literary and informational texts
- analyze various elements of literature and explain how they relate to each other and the real world
- apply research skills to gather and use information for research and study purposes
- apply prewriting strategies to develop ideas and plans for writing and apply the skills and strategies of the writing process
- write for a variety of purposes, and create a variety of accurate and effective communications to share with others
- use grammatical and mechanical conventions appropriately in a variety of written compositions
- evaluate writing for clarity, organization, and purpose
- revise/rewrite to improve communication

Pre-Algebra

This course provides students with a solid foundation in preparation for Algebra I and is aligned to the Missouri Learning Standards. Students will learn from experiences centered on:

- Algebra Basics
- Exponents and Scientific Notation
- Solving Equations and Inequalities
- Relations and Functions
- Slope, Equations, and Graphs of Lines
- Systems of Equations
- Linear Inequalities and Systems of Linear Inequalities
- Additional Grade-level Content Standards and Concepts, including and not limited to:
 - Data and statistics
 - Proportional relationships
 - Geometry

Algebra I

The Algebra I curriculum is the foundation for all future high school mathematics courses while meeting specified Missouri Learning Standards. There will be an emphasis on algebraic concepts with applications in algebra, statistics, and probability. This course includes techniques in problem solving involving the real number system. An understanding of patterns, relations, and functions is introduced in this course. Students will learn how to represent and analyze mathematical situations and structures using algebraic symbols and how to use mathematical models to represent and understand quantitative relationships. This course also includes the analysis of change in various contexts and prepares students for Geometry. ***(This course counts as high school credit and will affect your high school GPA.)***

8th Grade Algebra I Considerations

Student who took 7th Grade Pre-Algebra

- Passing grade in Pre-Algebra

Student who took 7th Grade Math

- 7th Grade Math MAP score – Advanced
- Attendance – 94% or better
- Course grade in 7th Grade Math– A
- Algebra Spring Benchmark – Advanced
- Teacher recommendation or AVID accepted

Geometry

The Geometry curriculum meets the specified Missouri Learning Standards. There will be an emphasis on geometric concepts with applications in algebra, statistics, and probability. This course involves the analysis of properties of two- and three-dimensional shapes and the development of mathematical arguments about geometric relationships. Students in this course will learn how to specify locations and describe spatial relationships using coordinate geometry and other representational systems. They will also apply transformations and use symmetry to analyze mathematical situations. Visualization, spatial reasoning, and geometric modeling will be used in this course to solve problems. This course prepares students for Algebra II. ***(This course counts as high school credit and will affect your high school GPA.)***

8th Grade Geometry Requirements

Student who took 7th Grade Algebra

- Passing grade in Algebra

North Kansas City Schools Math Pathways

Grade

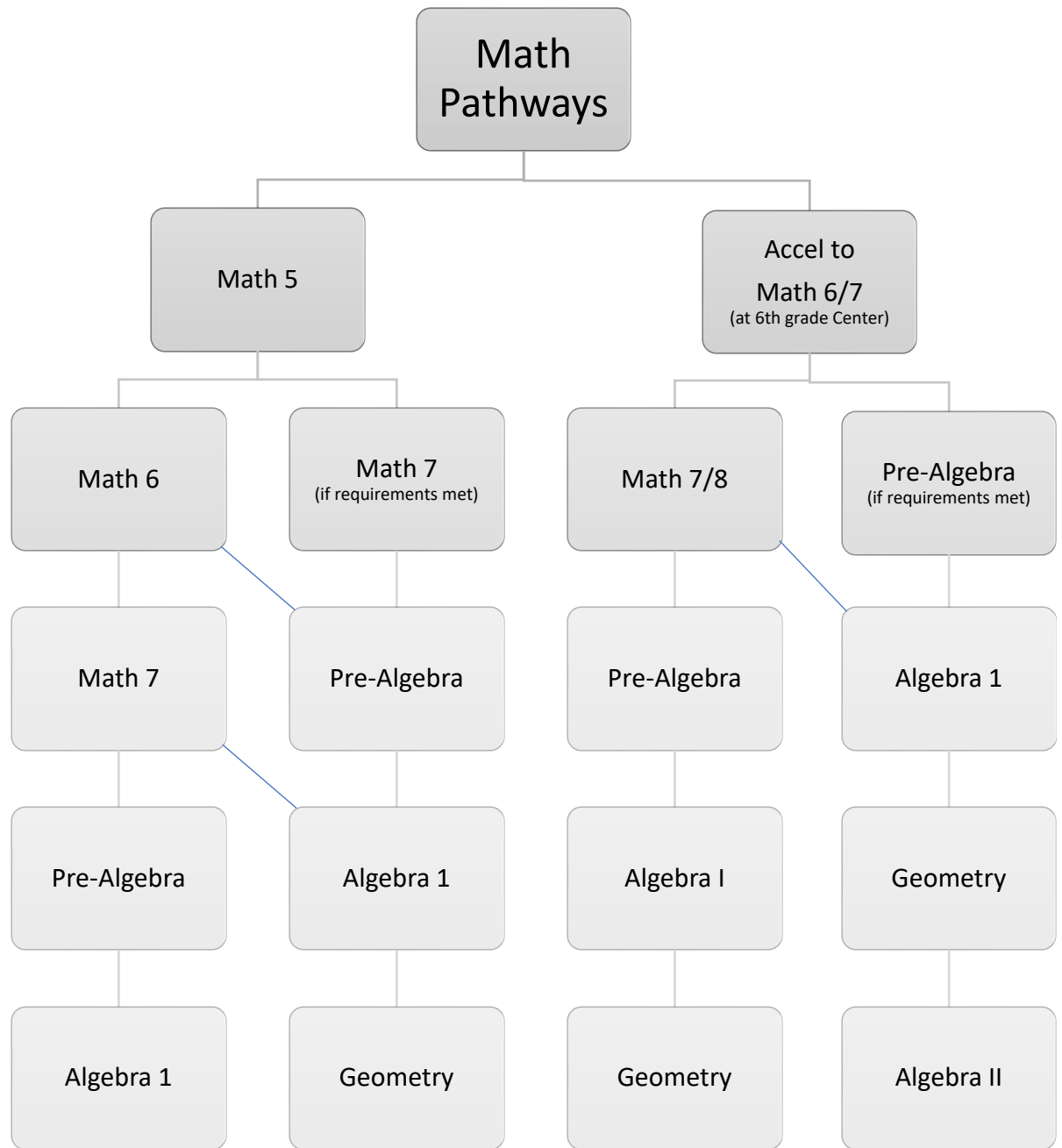
5th

6th

7th

8th

9th



*Diagonal lines indicate acceleration with requirements that must be met.

Science

Students in Missouri experience eight strands of science. These strands are covered in depth as students move through the grade levels. Students in eighth grade in North Kansas City Schools study a variety of science concepts upon which science instruction will be based in succeeding grades. Scientific inquiry provides the foundation for study of the following instructional units:

- Chemistry - Changes in Matter
- Earth Processes
- Body Systems
- Genetics

Students will see the relevance of science in their everyday lives while exploring these units through inquiry.

Social Studies: American History

Eighth grade students learn about the past, emphasizing the early history of the United States. Students will study geography, government and citizenship, society and culture, history, economics, and the tools of social science inquiry. The time period covered includes European Exploration through Reconstruction following the Civil War. Emphasis is placed on formulating a greater understanding of historical events and their impact on the development of democracy in the United States.

Eighth Grade Encore Program Opportunities

All eighth-grade students will participate in two encore periods each day. One semester is equal to 18 weeks in length.

Encore I

During **Encore I**, students may choose two of these offerings: Art, Choir, Flight and Space PLTW, Global Language (French or Spanish), or Theatre. These courses are offered daily for 18 weeks.

OR
Students may choose one of these offerings: AVID, Band, Choir, Global Language (French I or Spanish I), or Orchestra. These courses are offered every day for the year.

The following course descriptions should provide you additional clarification and an overview of expectations for each Encore I class.

Art *(Daily for 18 weeks OR alternating days for 18 weeks for full-year music students)*

This class further develops students' comprehension of media, techniques, and art concepts and prepares students for high school art. Opportunities will be provided for a more in-depth application of problem-solving skills and independent thinking through the process of creating art and studying art history. Students will expand their ability to evaluate their own artwork and the artwork of others.

AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination (Daily for 36 weeks)

The eighth-grade AVID course is an elective class for students who are college bound. While concurrently enrolled in a challenging course of study, students learn strategies to enhance success. Students will learn time management, practice goal-setting skills, create a four-year academic plan, demonstrate note-taking skills, work effectively in collaborative groups, and learn strategies for test preparation. Students will also begin to explore their college and career options. In order to take the AVID elective course, students must apply, interview, and be accepted or be currently enrolled in the AVID program.

Band (Daily for 36 weeks – Teacher Approval Required)

The eighth-grade band meets daily all year with a continued focus on individual and ensemble skill building. Students will utilize their increasing performance and rehearsal skills with more challenging music and performance schedules. Daily practice and more intense rehearsal skills are an expectation as students are prepared for high school. Students will be expected to attend and participate in all scheduled rehearsals and performances. The eighth-grade band will perform many times during the year and will participate in a district-wide assessment performance. Students may also audition for the North Kansas City Schools Honors Band and the KC Metro District Honors Band. Students may choose to be involved in a Solo and Ensemble contest. Extra help from the instructor is available after school.

Choir (Daily for 18 or 36 weeks)

Interested students are invited to participate regardless of previous choir experience. Participants in the eighth-grade choir are required to perform in concerts both inside and outside of school. Students will be required to sing the following choral styles in concerts: classical songs, art songs, patriotic songs, American folk songs, pop songs, madrigals, and holiday songs. Successful participation will prepare students for involvement in high school select choirs. The course will emphasize the development of fundamental skills in appropriate choral singing such as sight singing, vocal production, tone quality, and performance etiquette. Activities will include an opportunity to audition for the All-District Honor Choir, participation in a middle school/high school festival, performance field trips, and competitions.

Flight and Space PLTW (Project Lead The Way) (Alternating days for 18 weeks)

The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight and Space. During this unit, students delve into the history of flight and space, discover the science behind aeronautics, and explore traveling and living in space. Students are then challenged to use their knowledge to design, build, and test an airfoil.

Global Language: French (Daily for 18 weeks)

This course includes an introduction to the basic concepts of French. Skills in listening speaking, reading, and writing will be developed, and basic grammar will be introduced. Conversational skills will be emphasized, and the culture of French-speaking countries will be studied. This course gives additional foundation before beginning the yearlong course in high school. *May not be available at all schools.*

Global Language: Spanish (Daily for 18 weeks)

This course includes an introduction to the basic concepts of Spanish. Skills in listening speaking, reading, and writing will be developed, and basic grammar will be introduced. Conversational skills will be emphasized, and the culture of Spanish-speaking countries will be studied. This course gives additional foundation before beginning the yearlong course in high school.

Global Language: French I (Daily for 36 weeks)

Students who choose the full year option for French will follow the same curriculum offered in the four district high schools. In this option, students commit to rigorous language learning focusing on the four areas of language acquisition: reading, writing, speaking, and listening comprehension with the goal of true literacy in the target language. Students experience daily exposure to grammar, vocabulary, and culture. This course requires a high-level of commitment and maturity and should only be considered by students who consistently earn grades of A or B. Students should earn a C or better first semester to continue the course second semester. Eighth grade students who satisfactorily complete the all-year course will receive one credit hour on their transcript which applies towards graduation and will be ready for Spanish II upon entering high school. ***(This course counts as high school credit and will affect your high school GPA.)*** *May not be available at all schools.*

Global Language: Spanish I (Daily for 36 weeks)

Students who choose the full year option for Spanish will follow the same curriculum offered in the four district high schools. In this option, students commit to rigorous language learning focusing on the four areas of language acquisition: reading, writing, speaking, and listening comprehension with the goal of true literacy in the target language. Students experience daily exposure to grammar, vocabulary, and culture. This course requires a high-level of commitment and maturity and should only be considered by students who consistently earn grades of A or B. Students should earn a C or better first semester to continue the course second semester. Eighth grade students who satisfactorily complete the all-year course will receive one credit hour on their transcript which applies towards graduation and will be ready for Spanish II upon entering high school. ***(This course counts as high school credit and will affect your high school GPA.)***

Orchestra (Daily for 36 weeks – Teacher Recommendation)

Eighth Grade Orchestra gives students who have successfully completed three years of string study experience in performing music of various styles and periods as they continue to develop skills in fingering and bowing. Musical interpretation and ensemble playing are stressed, and opportunities for public performance are provided. Students continue to develop good tone, intonation, articulation, and style of playing by studying solo, ensemble, and orchestra literature. They will perform Grade II and III literature and identify music symbols, key signatures, and tempo. Orchestra members participate in school concerts and local and regional festivals. Eighth Grade Orchestra students are eligible for the Honors Orchestra, a district-wide, select, extracurricular ensemble.

Theatre (Daily for 18 weeks)

In eighth grade students are expanding on their performance skills and knowledge of theatre. They will get more in depth into theater history, technical theatre, the process of play production, and theatre appreciation from the audience's perspective. Students will practice characterization and perform prepared material for an audience as well as further exploration of improvisational performance. Whether it is storytelling, play production, persuasive speaking, radio theatre, or filming student-generated performances, students will enjoy this exciting and lively class. This course integrates English Language Arts curriculum satisfying state and national standards.

Encore II

During **Encore II**, students will have Physical Education on alternating days. Physical Education will alternate with a semester of Health and a semester of Automation & Robotics PLTW. **Students enrolled in full-year music may opt for Art instead of Automation & Robotics PLTW.**

Automation & Robotics PLTW (Project Lead The Way) (Alternating days for 18 weeks)

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. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

Health (Alternating days for 18 weeks)

This required course is an integral part of the middle school curriculum of North Kansas City Schools. The eighth-grade Health curriculum encourages every child to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors that will help build a safe and healthy lifestyle. Students learn health behaviors that will contribute to the well-being of the community and enrich their quality of life. In eighth grade Health, students study social systems, personal and family health, nutrition principles and practices, consumer health, life management skills, and environmental health.

Physical Education (Alternating days for 36 weeks)

The overview of the middle school Physical Education program is an academic subject designed to incorporate the psychomotor, cognitive, and affective learning domains which will enhance the knowledge, fitness levels, motor skill, personal/social skill, and attitude of each student. The goal of Physical Education is to provide students with opportunities to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary that develop and maintain the core values of having a lifetime of healthy habits, wellness, and to sustain an active lifestyle. Students will participate in a variety of fitness activities and learn to appreciate the value of an active life to improve their personal level of fitness. In Physical Education students will also develop the skills and knowledge necessary to participate successfully in lifetime activities, team, and individual sports. All courses will emphasize the importance of safety, cooperation, and sportsmanship.

Eighth Grade Scheduling Structure

Core	English Language Arts
Core	Pre-Algebra Algebra I (<i>High School Credit given for Algebra I</i>) Geometry (<i>High School Credit given for Geometry</i>)
Core	Science
Core	Social Studies: American History
Encore I	<u><i>Year-long Courses:</i></u> AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Band Choir Global Language (French I or Spanish I) <i>(High School credit given for French I and Spanish I)</i> Orchestra
	<u><i>Semester Courses (choose 2):</i></u> Art Choir Flight and Space PLTW Global Language (French or Spanish) Theatre
Encore II	Automation and Robotics PLTW Health Physical Education

OTHER INFORMATION

High School Credit Opportunities: Math and Global Language

Middle school students in North Kansas City Schools have the opportunity to earn credit for high school level coursework in math and global language.

The information below is designed to help you understand how credit for these classes is recorded on the high school academic transcript and to clarify some important details regarding the potential impact of that credit for your student.

Which classes are offered to middle school students for high school credit?

Algebra I, Geometry, French I, and Spanish I are offered.

How much high school credit can be earned for each of these classes?

Each full-year class is worth one (1) high school credit.

Do these courses count toward subject area requirements for high school diplomas and college admissions?

Yes. Subject area requirements specify the number of credits that must be earned in a specific area of study to qualify for a high school diploma and for admission to colleges. For example, all students are required to earn four credits in mathematics to graduate from any North Kansas City School District high school. Some universities may also require students to have earned at least two credits in global language as an admission requirement. Math and global language credits earned during middle school do count toward all of these requirements.

Do students receive letter grades for high school credit classes taken in middle school?

Yes. Letter grades will be recorded on students' high school transcripts and will count as part of their high school grade point average (GPA) and class rank. These classes will be transcribed with the notation that the courses were completed prior to 9th grade. Please note students may opt to retake any of these classes in high school to improve their learning and their grades, however, course credit will not be duplicated.

Do these classes count as high school "Honors" classes?

Geometry and Algebra II taken during middle school do count for high school Honors credit, and students will receive Distinction Points. (Distinction Points give students an advantage in class rank.) Since Algebra I and level one global language classes are not offered for Honors credit in the high schools, middle school students will not receive Distinction Points for these courses, nor will they count as high school Honors courses.

Will students be able to transfer out of a high school credit course at semester if their grade is a D or F?

Yes. If the student is not making sufficient progress in the class and their grade is a D or F, they may transfer out at semester.

Can a student obtain Credit Recovery & Grade Replacement?

Yes. If a student retakes a class, the grade from the original class will remain on their transcript; however, the original grade will not be included in the calculation of the student's GPA.

Where can I get more information?

Please contact your student's middle school teachers or school counselors for further information. You may also call the counseling department in the high school that your student will be attending.

A+ Schools Eligibility Requirements – Planning for High School

North Kansas City Schools participates in the state A+ Schools program and each of our high schools are designated A+ Schools. Graduates are eligible for state reimbursement for the cost of tuition, books, and fees to any Missouri public community college, vocational, or technical school.

To be eligible, each student must sign a written agreement with the school during the last three years prior to high school graduation and:

- Attend a designated A+ School for three consecutive years prior to high school graduation.
- Graduate from high school with a grade point average of 2.5 points or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Maintain a minimum average of a 95% attendance record for the three-year period.
- Perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring for younger students.
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoidance of the unlawful use of drugs.
- Complete and submit the FAFSA for federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment.

Students receiving the Missouri A+ Schools Scholarships are required to score at the proficient or advanced level on the Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II End of Course Examination (EOC) taken in high school or during middle school to fully qualify for the A+ Scholarship.

Diploma Options

North Kansas City Schools currently offer five diploma options for graduates:

- **Career/College Readiness Diploma (26 Credits)**
Graduates are recognized as having met entrance requirements for most Missouri universities. Work with your Counselor for more guidance.
- **Gold Medallion Honors Diploma (26 Credits)**
Graduates receive honors and are recognized for completing a rigorous program designed to meet all entrance requirements for the University of Missouri system as well as most universities nationwide.
- **AP Capstone Diploma (26 Credits)**
Graduates receive honors and are recognized for completing a rigorous program outlined by the College Board. By meeting the requirements, students meet entrance requirements at universities and set themselves apart in the application process. They may also earn college credit.
- **International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP) (26 Credits)**
Graduates receive honors and are recognized for completing rigorous international curricula designed to meet the entrance requirements of the world's best universities. They may also earn college credit. *Students who select enrollment in the IBDP must attend North Kansas City High School.*
- **International Baccalaureate Career-Related Program Certificate (IBCP) (26 Credits)**
Graduates receive honors and are recognized for completing rigorous international curricula combined with a career pathway to enter the workforce and/or to meet the entrance requirements of higher learning institutions. *Students who select enrollment in the IBCP must attend North Kansas City High School.*

Diploma Credits Required

Paths to Graduation					
DIPLOMA OPTIONS:	<i>Career/College Readiness</i>	<i>Gold Medallion</i>	<i>AP Capstone</i>	<i>IBDP</i>	<i>IBCP</i>
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	4	4	4	4	4
MATHEMATICS	4	4	4	4	4
SCIENCE	3	3	3	4	4
SOCIAL STUDIES	3	4	3	3-4	3-4
FINE ARTS	1	1	1	1	1
PRACTICAL ARTS	1	1	1	1	1
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1	1	1	1	1
HEALTH	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
PERSONAL FINANCE +	0.5+	0.5+	0.5+	0.5+	0.5+
ELECTIVES	8	4	6	1.5-4	.5-4
GLOBAL LANGUAGE		2		4	2-3
AP SEMINAR		1	1		1++
AP RESEARCH			1		
THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE				1.5	
PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS					1.5-2
CAREER RELATED STUDY					3-4
TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED	26	26	26	26	26

All students will be required to complete a service component

+ **Personal Finance** will be an on-line course, with blended support

++ **AP Seminar and AP Research** – Optional for students pursuing IBCP

Portrait of a Graduate

As one of the largest, most diverse school districts in Missouri, North Kansas City Schools serves nearly 21,000 students. As champions for all students, NKC Schools' mission is to ensure that all are life-ready and ethically grounded in an ever-changing world through innovative educational experiences that inspire lifelong learning, embrace inclusion, and forge a unified community. In seeking to continually improve our systems and serve students, NKC Schools will employ change and innovation processes that boldly redefine the high school experience.

Over the course of several months during the 2019-2020 school year, NKC Schools brought together a Portrait Design Team to bring this vision to life. This team was a diverse group of individuals representing all stakeholder groups: students, staff members, teachers, district leaders, parents, Board of Education, business partners and community members. The Portrait Design Team identified the seven key competencies for our Portrait through a rigorous process, including research, concept design and development, and broader community outreach. This group's charge was to "develop a collective vision that articulates our community's aspirations for *all* of our students."

This collective vision prioritized a set of competencies that prepares all students for success now and in the future, regardless of what path they choose upon graduation. This is an exciting time as we seek to enhance student choice, improve each learner's sense of belonging and inspire even stronger relationships within our school communities.



PORTRAIT OF A NORTH KANSAS CITY SCHOOLS GRADUATE



ADAPTABILITY

Work effectively in a climate of ambiguity and changing priorities. Demonstrate agility in thoughts and actions. Seek out and respond productively to feedback, setbacks, and constructive criticisms. Understand, negotiate, and balance diverse views and beliefs to reach broadly supported solutions.



COMMUNICATION

Articulate thoughts and ideas using oral, written, and nonverbal skills in a variety of forms and contexts. Listen effectively to decipher meaning, including knowledge, values, attitudes, and intentions. Exchanges ideas for a range of purposes and audiences (i.e., to inform, instruct, motivate, persuade, learn, develop relationships, etc.).



COLLABORATION

Honor and leverage strengths of group members to build collective commitment and action. Enrich the learning of both self and others via cooperative efforts. Seek, contribute, and respond to feedback to achieve collective outcomes. Elicit diverse perspectives and contributions. The greater good, common ground, and compromise are vital concepts related to this competency.



EMPATHY

Demonstrate awareness, sensitivity, concern, and respect to connect with others' feelings, opinions, experiences, and cultures. Use awareness of others' feelings, opinions, perspectives, and experiences to inform creative and effective decisions and actions.



INTEGRITY

Actively evaluate and develop a set of core values that are evident in choices and behaviors. Earn and value others' trust and respect through honest, principled behaviors. Develop personal, civic, social, local, and global responsibility through ethical and empathetic behaviors.



LEARNER'S MINDSET

Embrace curiosity and creativity to experience new ideas. Possess the desire to seek new knowledge and understandings, and to refine and update current knowledge and understandings. Seek divergent perspectives in order to broaden and/or refine knowledge. Develop positive dispositions and beliefs about learning to power a lifelong attitude. Challenge untested assumptions.



PROBLEM SOLVING

Identify and analyze underlying causes of issues. Identify, evaluate, and prioritize creative responses to difficult or complex situations. Integrate multiple sources of data for informing issue understanding. Persevere and maintain curiosity to advance understanding of core issues to complex challenges. Reflect critically on successes and failures for further understanding original issues.



NKC Schools
Champions for all Students

Preparing for Life After High School

High School Redefined - College and Career Pathways

As we continued to “boldly redefine the high school experience” a partnership was developed to implement College & Career Pathways in our high schools. Starting with incoming 9th graders in the 2021-22 school year, each of our four high schools will offer students the opportunity to be a part of one of four “schools within a school” aligned with leading industry sectors – including health, business, technology/design, and human services. Each year, our high schools will add a new student cohort, making the Class of 2025 our leaders as the very first class of Pathways graduates.

In implementing College and Career Pathways, NKC Schools will foster a rigorous and relevant program of study that helps redefine what a high school education looks like. In partnership with our Portrait of a Graduate, this approach will afford students more options and opportunities to help guide them to a successful future post-graduation. More than simply being prepared to succeed, each of our students will graduate with an “edge” over their peers nationwide.

The following are the themes of our NKCS College & Career Pathways:

- School of Human & Public Service
- School of Health & Wellness
- School of Business, Leadership, & Entrepreneurship
- School of Design, Innovation, & Technology

Specific information about our College & Career Pathways, including information from each of our high schools, can be found by at: [College & Career Pathways - North Kansas City School District](#).

Contact your school's counseling center for additional assistance with educational and career planning.

North Kansas City Schools offers many opportunities to help students make informed decisions as they prepare for life after graduation.

Students complete Missouri Connections with the support of teachers and counselors. Missouri Connections helps students select

Career Paths and Clusters that match their interests and skills. Programs of Study provide guidance for high school course selection and opportunities to prepare for careers.

Personal Plans of Study are created by each student to personalize the educational experience to meet his or her needs.



Missouri Connections

Missouri Connections is an online resource (<http://www.missouriconnections.org/>) that takes career planning to a higher level. Sponsored by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Economic Development, Missouri Connections is available to students, parents, guidance counselors, educators, and job seekers at no charge.

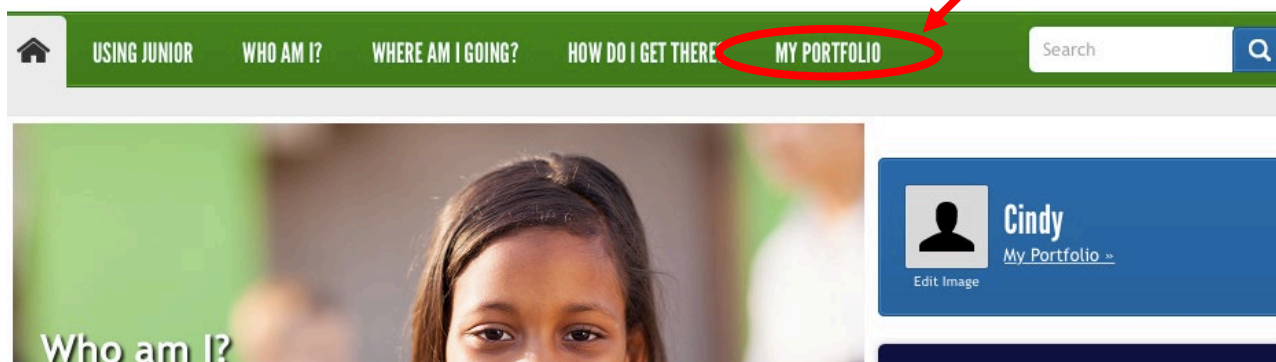
Students in North Kansas City Schools use Missouri Connections with the support of teachers and counselors. The results help students make decisions about Career Clusters that are a good match for the student's interests and skills as well as make educational decisions to prepare for specific occupations.

Parents are encouraged to talk to their student, request his or her username and password, view their student's assessment results, and talk about career options. Your student's username should be Nkclunch code number and their password should be their lunch code number. The following pages will help you navigate through the Missouri Connection website and help plan your student's future educational experiences.

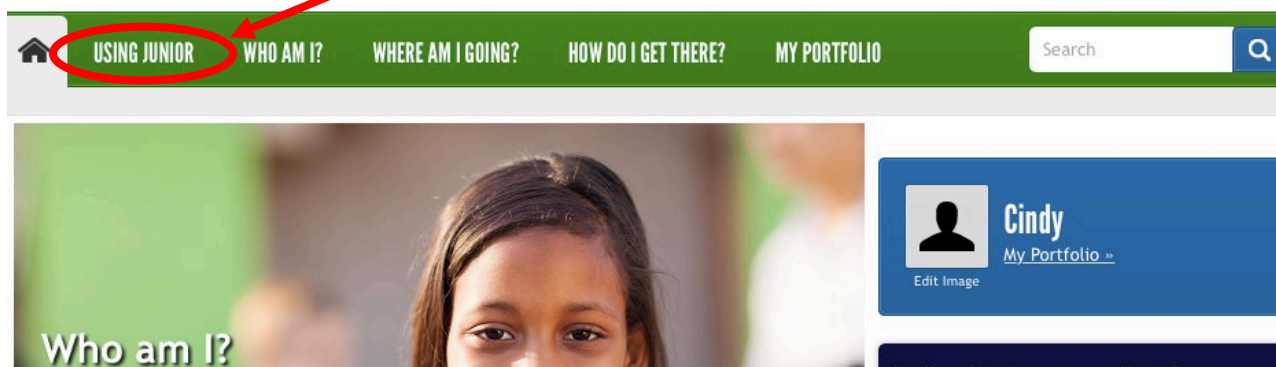
Go to the following URL: <https://mocis.intocareers.org/materials/portal/home.html>
Enter your student's User Name and Password (your counselor can help you with this).



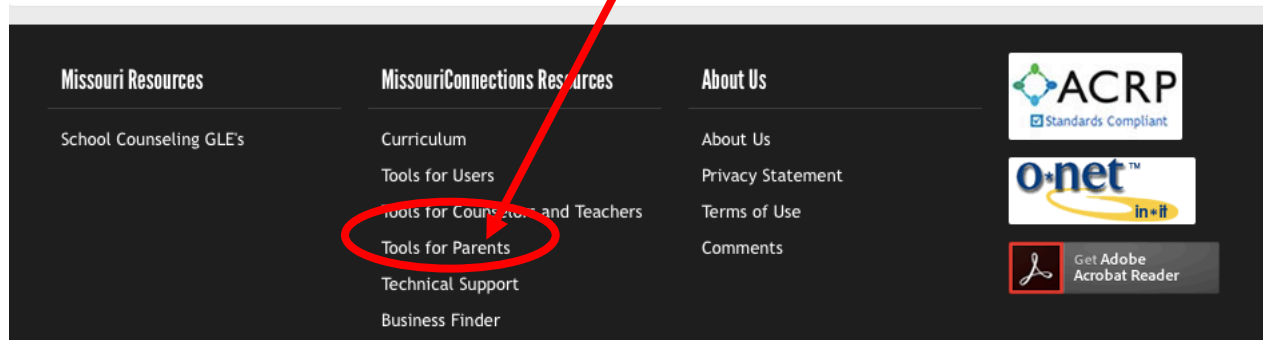
Hover over "My Portfolio" to see the work your student has done within the program. If there is nothing in there yet, that means your student will be completing assessments as they move through their middle school years.



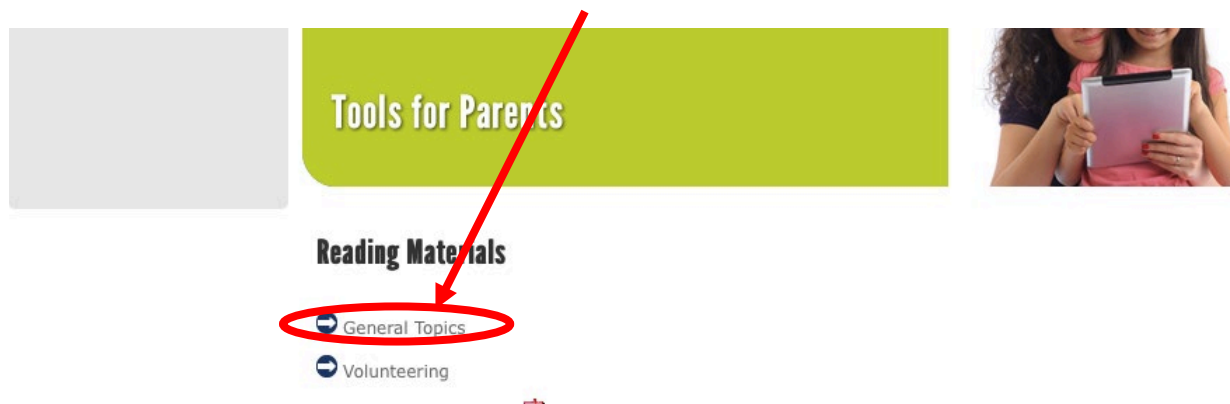
You can also look at "Using Junior" to learn about the many ways CIS Junior can help your child begin to plan their future.



There is a section at the bottom of the page called “Tools for Parents.” Here you will find reading materials about how you can make a difference in your child’s career development, how to build for your child’s future, as well as tips on how you can help your child be successful.



Simply click on the arrow titled “General Topics” to find all of this information.



Your student will have an opportunity to take a “Career Cluster Inventory.” Below is an example of what the results page looks like. The horizontal bars represent their interest levels for the 16 Career Clusters. You can click on the title to learn more about the Cluster itself and the occupations that fall under the Cluster.

<u>Career Clusters</u>		<u>Score</u>
<u>Human Services</u>		10
<u>Business Management and Administration</u>		8
<u>Arts, Audio/Visual Technology, and Communications</u>		6
<u>Education and Training</u>		6
<u>Government and Public Administration</u>		6
<u>Hospitality and Tourism</u>		6
<u>Health Science</u>		5
<u>Marketing</u>		4

SchoolLinks

SchoolLinks is a modern, college and career readiness platform to prepare students for what comes after graduation. For middle school students, SchoolLinks helps them begin to discover their interests and strengths, and begin to explore colleges and careers that match those interests and strengths. SchoolLinks at North Kansas City Schools is accessible in 7th & 8th grades by students and their parents.

All of the SchoolLinks features are designed with students in mind to help them become career, college, and life ready. SchoolLinks features are incredibly user-friendly and content can be easily comprehended by middle school students.

Using SchoolLinks, middle school students and their parents can:

- Access career interest, strength and mindset surveys
- Explore 2-year and 4-year colleges
- Take virtual reality college campus tours
- Explore traditional, fast-growing, and military career fields
- Start creating digital portfolios / resumes
- Communicate with counselors

Using SchoolLinks, 8th grade students will be able to *really* dive into post-secondary education and exploration by:

- Creating course plans based on College & Career Pathways
- Creating digital portfolios / resumes
- Learning about financial aid
- Searching for scholarships
- Build their ICAP

Student Login:

Students will login to SchoolLinks via Clever via [NKC Schools Clever Student Login](#)
Then select SchoolLinks logo

Guardian/Parents Login will be available through invitation from their student(s) Counselor.

If you want to learn more about SchoolLinks please visit hello.schoollinks.com



SchoolLinks