VALLEY VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRADES 6-8

Course Descriptions 2026-2027

TABLE OF CONTENTS

6th Grade Core Courses	3
7th Grade Core Courses	4
8th Grade Core Courses	6
Electives	9
Student Fees Chart	17
Schedule Change Information	17

6TH GRADE CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH

6th Grade English Language Arts This course covers the Ohio ELA Standards and focuses on the continued development of reading, writing, speaking, and language skills. Using the HMH Into Literature curriculum, students engage with a variety of literary and informational texts, including class novels, to strengthen comprehension, vocabulary, and critical thinking. Instruction emphasizes close reading, text analysis, and using evidence to support ideas. Vocabulary study includes words from course readings, as well as academic language. Writing instruction focuses on writing for varied purposes and lengths of time, including narrative, informational, and argumentative essays. Students also strengthen core grammar and language skills and participate in collaborative discussions to grow into confident communicators and thoughtful thinkers.

MATH

6th Grade Math This course is designed to incorporate and build upon students' previous understanding of rational numbers. Students are introduced to integers as well as foundational algebra concepts such as writing, interpreting, evaluating, and simplifying expressions and equations. In addition, this course provides students with the opportunity to connect their previous understanding of multiplication and division to proportional relationships such as ratios, rates, and percentages. Finally, in this course students will extend their understanding of geometric concepts and develop an understanding of statistical processes to represent data. All students will be provided with the rigorous practice they need to be college and career ready.

SCIENCE

6th Grade Science This science course features an integrated science curriculum that offers the student learning experiences in three major areas of study: Earth Science, Life Science, and Physical Science. Each area of study provides opportunities for gaining an understanding of standards based concepts through a variety of classroom activities and lab experiences. Students are given the opportunity to solve problems and extend their critical thinking skills, as well as to work cooperatively with their fellow students, in an inquiry and application setting.

SOCIAL STUDIES

6th Grade World History In grade six, students study the Eastern Hemisphere (Africa and Asia), its geographic features, early history, cultural development and economic change. Students learn about the development of river civilizations in Africa and Asia, including their governments, cultures and economic systems. The geographic focus includes the study of contemporary regional characteristics, the movement of people, products and ideas, and cultural diversity. Students develop their understanding of the role of consumers and the interaction of markets, resources and competition.

7TH GRADE CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH

7th Grade English Language Arts
This course will cover the Ohio English Language Arts Standards. Instruction will focus on continuing the development of reading skills and strategies to become critical readers and thinkers. Class novels, short stories, poetry and informational articles will be used as the sources for text analysis. Vocabulary acquisition will incorporate words from our texts as well as academic-related vocabulary which will be the basis of 8th and 9th grade vocabulary. Writing instruction will include writing for varied purposes and lengths of time and incorporate narrative, argumentative and expository essays. Students will also focus on core grammar skills throughout the year long course.

7th Grade Advanced English Language Arts This course will cover the same learning standards as Grade 7 Language Arts, which are centered around the Ohio English Language Arts Standards. The main components of the Grade 7 Language Arts course description applies here as well, however, this course is differentiated through pace, depth, and complexity. The curriculum provides academically talented students an enhanced and enriched learning experience by placing additional emphasis on independence of learning, critical thinking, and higher level texts. Students in this course will be encouraged to cultivate habits of independent thinking, creativity, collaboration, and advanced intellectual skills.

MATH

7th Grade Pre-Algebra This course bridges the gap between elementary school and high school mathematics. The focus of this course is on higher mathematical thinking and problem solving skills, with an emphasis on algebra. Topics of study include ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, geometry, area and volume, expressions and equations, probability, and statistics. Students are expected to be proficient in basic arithmetic skills (fraction and decimal operations) before entering seventh grade.

7th Grade Math This course is designed to incorporate and build on previous math skills including integers, fractions, decimals, and percentages. Students will receive introduction to algebra, geometry and probability through real-life situations, applying their understanding, and becoming more comfortable with problem solving skills. This course is developed around coherent progressions from 6th grade and gives students the rigorous practice they need to be college and career ready.

SCIENCE

7th Grade Science This course features an integrated science curriculum where students will have exposure to physical, earth, and life sciences. Topics include the arrangements of atoms on the Periodic Table of Elements, conservation of mass and energy, transformation and transfer of energy, Earth's hydrologic cycle, patterns that exist in atmospheric and oceanic currents, the relative position and movement of the Earth, sun and moon, and the impact of matter and energy transfer within the biotic component of ecosystems. Students will gain an understanding of basic concepts through a variety of classroom activities, demonstrations, and laboratories. Students are given the opportunity to solve problems and extend their critical thinking skills, as well as to work cooperatively with their fellow students.

7th Grade Advanced Science This course features an integrated science curriculum where students will have exposure to physical, earth, and life sciences. Topics include the arrangements of atoms on the Periodic Table of Elements, conservation of mass and energy, transformation and transfer of energy, Earth's hydrologic cycle, patterns that exist in atmospheric and oceanic currents, the relative position and movement of the Earth, sun and moon, and the impact of matter and energy transfer within the biotic component of ecosystems. Students will gain an understanding of basic concepts through a variety of classroom activities, demonstrations, and laboratories. Students are given the opportunity to solve problems and extend their critical thinking skills, as well as to work cooperatively with their fellow students. There will be projects and other assignments that will be expected along the way to deepen the understanding of topics.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Seventh Grade Social Studies is an integrated study of world history that begins with ancient Greece and continues through the Scientific Revolution. The course incorporates all four social studies strands—history, geography, government, and economics—to examine how geographic, social, cultural, economic, and political factors influence historical events and societies. Students will explore major civilizations and movements, including ancient Greece and Rome, the Middle Ages, the rise of Islam, West African kingdoms, China, Japan, the Renaissance, the Reformation, the Age of Exploration, and the Scientific Revolution. Through this study, students will develop an understanding of how ideas, innovations, and events from the past have shaped cultures and the modern world.

8TH GRADE CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH

8th Grade English Language Arts This course will cover the Ohio English Language Arts Standards. Instruction will focus on continuing the development of reading skills and strategies to become critical readers and thinkers. Class novels, student choice novels, short stories, and informational articles will be used as the sources for text analysis. Vocabulary acquisition will incorporate words from our texts as well as academic-related vocabulary. Students will also write evidence-based informative and argumentative essays. There will be exposure to grammar conventions that will help them develop strong and accurately written sentences.

8th Grade Advanced Language Arts This course will cover the same learning standards as Grade 8 Language Arts, which are centered around the Ohio English Language Arts Standards. The main components of the Grade 8 Language Arts course description applies here as well, however, this course is differentiated through pace, depth, and complexity. The curriculum provides academically talented students an enhanced and enriched learning experience by placing additional emphasis on independence of learning, critical thinking, and higher level texts. Students in this course will be encouraged to cultivate habits of independent thinking, creativity, collaboration, and advanced intellectual skills.

English 9 Honors HS Credit: 1.0
Prerequisite: Student Qualifies for Subject Acceleration The English 9 Honors course is a course for students who have demonstrated advanced understanding of English and who want a more intense preparation for college. This English course is based on Ohio's Academic Standards for English Language Arts in Grade 9 and the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. English 9 is a study of language, literature, composition, and oral communication with a focus on exploring a wide-variety of genres and their elements. Students use literary interpretation, analysis, comparisons, and evaluation to read and respond to representative works of historical or cultural significance appropriate for Grade 9 in classic and contemporary literature balanced with nonfiction. Students write short stories, responses to literature, expository and argumentative compositions, research reports, and business letters. Students deliver grade-appropriate oral presentations and access, analyze, and evaluate online information. Students who are accepted into the Honors course must complete a summer reading assignment. Credit received for this class will be included on the high school transcript.

MATH

8th Grade Math/Pre-Algebra

This course prepares students for the year-long Algebra I course in high school by giving students a foundation for exploring and understanding algebra and geometry. This course will concentrate on basic operations and properties of real numbers, measurement on a plane and in space, data analysis, linear equations, graphing, problem solving, functions, and deductive reasoning. This relates to the following common core domains: 8.NS The Number System, 8.EE Expressions and Equations, 8.F Functions, 8.G Geometry Principles (as applied to Algebra), 8.SP Introduction to Bivariate Statistics.

Algebra I
Length: year
HS Credit: 1.0
Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

This course develops the reasoning tools that students need to understand the abstract concepts of algebra. Students solve interesting problems that have many forms and formats. Lessons promote experimenting, conjecturing, discovering, and writing about mathematics. Geometry, data analysis, and number theory are woven into the algebra content. The mathematics in these courses are applicable to real world situations and studies beyond high school. Students will learn to use variables, solve equations, explore properties, and be introduced to functions and graphs by working in the real number system. Students receiving a grade of C or lower are strongly recommended to retake the course at the high school level. Credit received for this class will be included on their high school transcript.

SOCIAL STUDIES

8th Grade Early American History

Eighth Grade American History provides students with a comprehensive study of the political, economic, social, and geographic development of the United States from the colonial period through Reconstruction. Using the Discovery Education digital textbook and learning platform as the primary instructional resource, students engage in interactive, inquiry-based learning aligned to Ohio's Learning Standards for Social Studies.

This course focuses on how the United States developed its identity, institutions, and democratic ideals. Students will examine key historical themes including colonization, revolution, constitutional government, expansion, conflict, and reform. Special emphasis is placed on how American ideals such as liberty, equality, justice, and self-government have been debated and shaped over time..

SOCIAL STUDIES

Pre-AP World History and Geography

1 period, year-long course, High School Credit, Teacher/Admin Recommendation

The Pre-AP World History and Geography areas of focus prioritize the skills fundamental to the study of history and geography in high school, AP, and beyond. This gives students multiple opportunities to think and work like historians and geographers as they develop and strengthen these disciplinary reasoning skills throughout their education in history and the social sciences. Students will be evaluating evidence, explaining historical and geographical relationships and incorporating evidence.

SCIENCE

8th Grade Science

This science course features an integrated science curriculum that offers the student learning experiences in three major areas of study: earth science, life science, and physical science. Each area of study provides opportunities for gaining an understanding of standards based concepts through a variety of classroom activities and lab experiences. Students are given the opportunity to solve problems and extend their critical thinking skills, as well as to work cooperatively with their fellow students, in an inquiry and application setting.

Physical Science for High School Credit

1 period, year-long course, High School Credit, Prerequisite: Assessments from multiple data points, including science pre-test.

This course is designed to present and work with the fundamental concepts of earth and space science, chemistry and physics. Scientific investigation and problem solving will also be emphasized. This is a rigorous course intended to prepare four-year college-bound students for biology, chemistry, physics and other upper level science courses.

ELECTIVES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

All Elective Courses are one semester (½ year) with the exception of Band and Choir

Art I (Grades 6/7)

Semester Course

This course is designed for students and introduces students to creative thinking, skill development, and artistic expression. Students explore elements of art and principles of design through drawing, painting, mixed media, and ceramics. Emphasis is placed on clay techniques such as hand-building, texture, and glazing while learning proper studio habits and safety. Students analyze and discuss artwork from diverse cultures and time periods, connecting art to history and real-world experiences. Through guided practice and creative projects, students develop problem-solving skills, craftsmanship, and confidence in expressing ideas visually.

Art II (Grade 7/8)

Semester Course

This course is designed for students interested in a variety of media and tools. Students will explore art that connects to their community and self expression through drawing, painting, and ceramics. Emphasis is placed on techniques in the production of art, learning vocabulary, art criticism, and history. Students will build on vocabulary with the creation of sketchbooks and explore the Elements and Principles of Art through drawing. In this course, students will be given the opportunity to explore basic ceramics (clay) as a medium for art expression. Ceramics will focus on learning multiple hand-built construction techniques, vocabulary, art history, and criticism. Students will explore ceramics as a fundamental form and work with glaze and kiln firing.

Advanced Art (Grade 8)

Semester Course Prerequisite: Art I and Art II

This 8th Grade Advanced Art course is designed for students seeking deeper artistic challenge and independence. Students refine skills in drawing, painting, mixed media, and ceramics while applying the elements of art and principles of design with intention. Advanced clay techniques such as slab construction, surface design, and glazing are explored. Students analyze, interpret, and critique artworks from diverse cultures and historical periods. Emphasis is placed on creative problem-solving, craftsmanship, studio safety, and personal artistic voice through sustained projects and reflective practice. Both Art I & II are prerequisites for Advanced Art Grade 8.

Band (Grade 6)

This is a performance course composed of students who have had at least one year of instruction and have attained an average or above level of proficiency on their instrument. These students have developed a good background in rhythms, music reading, and playing fundamentals necessary for performing more advanced material. Class work will include reviewing, reinforcing, and expanding music fundamentals and techniques through concert literature and the class text. Students are required to purchase the band method book. Written assignments and tests, as well as performance tests, will be administered throughout the year. Practice outside of the classroom is expected. All bands will perform at least two concerts during the school year. A portion of the students' grades will be derived from performances. Therefore, each student is expected to participate in all concerts. *Special concert attire may be requested by the director.*

Band (Grade 7/8)

This is a performance course composed of students who have had at least one year of instruction and have attained an average or above level of proficiency on their instrument. These students have developed a good background in rhythms, music reading, and playing fundamentals necessary for performing more advanced material. Class work will include reviewing, reinforcing, and expanding music fundamentals and techniques through concert literature and the class text. Students are required to purchase the band method book. Written assignments and tests, as well as performance tests, will be administered throughout the year. Practice outside of the classroom is expected. All bands will perform at least two concerts during the school year. A portion of the students' grades will be derived from performances. Therefore, each student is expected to participate in all concerts. *Special concert attire may be requested by the director.*

Chamber Choir (Grades 7/8)

The seventh and eighth grade Chamber Choir, is a section auditioned ensemble for 7th and 8th grade students. This is a year-long performance-based ensemble, working to develop vocal fundamentals while working on literature that spans music history. Such literature includes both sacred and secular repertoire in many languages. As it is a performance-based ensemble, all participants are required to attend all after school performances, including both school and community concerts.

Note: *Attendance at all concerts, performances, and rehearsals is mandatory unless the absence is excused by the school attendance policy or a music director. Unexcused absences from ANY concerts, performances, or practices will result in lower grades, possible course failure, and possible removal from the group.*

Computer Technology I (Grade 6/7)

Semester Course

In today's world, information increases at a high rate. Students are expected to develop and use decision-making and critical-thinking skills. Digital tools enhance middle school students' emerging abilities to synthesize, analyze, and evaluate information. The integration of technology systems expands and raises their ability to use information and to collaborate and communicate with diverse individuals. This class is designed for students that have an interest in enhancing their knowledge of computer based technology while increasing their knowledge of internet safety, acceptable use, copyright, and plagiarism rules. This class also allows for identifying and assessing the capabilities and limitations of emerging technologies. In addition, students work with various multimedia and presentation tools including Docs, Sheets, Tables, Slides, Painting, Drawing Tools, etc. All assignments are project based that relate to real world situations.

Computer Technology II (Grade 7/8)

Semester Course

In this class, students will continue to improve and demonstrate their ability to use technology for research, critical thinking, decision making, communication, collaboration, creativity, and innovation. Students will also use content-specific tools, software, and simulations to support learning and research and will explore into video creation platforms that let users easily make professional-looking videos from photos, video clips, and music. Advanced Google Suite (Docs, Sheets, Slides, etc.) is also addressed and taken to a higher level and used throughout the semester. Additionally, students will collaborate with peers and others using collaborative tools to investigate curriculum-related problems, issues, and information, and develop solutions or products for audiences inside and outside the classroom. As with Computer Technology I, all assignments are project based that relate to real world situations.

Advanced Computer Technology (Grade 8)

Semester Course Computer Technology I or II are prerequisites for this course

This class builds upon Computer Technology I and/or II and is for those that want to continue to increase their knowledge of computer based technology with more emphasis on advanced multimedia and presentation tools. Students will work with basic web design skills including HTML, layout design, and computer hardware and software that can be used in the web site creation process, and coding with JavaScript. In addition, students will apply strategies to demonstrate knowledge of current changes in information technologies and the effect those changes have on the workplace and society, exhibit legal and ethical behaviors when using information and technology, and discuss consequences of misuse. They will apply productivity/multimedia tools and peripherals to support personal productivity, group collaboration, and learning throughout the curriculum. In addition, they will design, develop, publish, and present products using technology resources that demonstrate and communicate concepts to audiences inside and outside the classroom.

Directed Study Hall (Grade 7/8)

Semester Course

Students requesting a study hall will be provided with support in executive functioning skills such as organization, time management, and goal setting. Study hall provides students with more time to process learning and access help. Students are expected to use the time for academic work or reinforcement/extension activities.

Health (Grade 7)

***Required for 7th Grade**

This semester-long course will provide comprehensive education on the key components of maintaining a balanced and well-rounded lifestyle aligned with the Ohio state health standards. Topics include nutrition, physical activity, stress management, sleep hygiene, and preventative health practices, empowering students to make informed choices to improve their overall health and well-being.

Music Technology (Grades 7/8)

Semester Course

This course will use technology to explore, create, and perform music. Students will learn about digital audio recording, audio editing, music software (software instruments, editing, looping, mixing, and mastering), publishing, and scoring for video. The Internet, electronic musical instruments, and computer software/hardware provide students with the opportunity to study music in many ways including researching, practicing skills, composing, and arranging musical works. Students who have an interest or background in music are encouraged to take this class.

Music Exploration (Grade 6)

Semester Course

Music Exploration will not only investigate musical instruments, composers, styles, and concepts, but also explore how it's used all around the world! Students will learn about how musical genres have developed throughout time and in different places, and you'll dig into how music is created, performed, and experienced.

Physical Education (Grades 6/7/8)

Semester Course

This course stresses development of skills in a wide variety of individual, dual, and group activities. Students will learn and practice responsible social behaviors in a physical activity setting. At the end of this course, students will be able to find ways to enjoy physical activity throughout their lifetime. Physical Education is an integral part of our total school curriculum. Participating in physical activities aids in the development of cognitive skills, gross motor and fine motor skills, solving problems peacefully, teamwork as well as self-confidence, social skills, and an appreciation of individual differences. Getting on B.A.S.E (Behavior, Attitude, Sportsmanship and Effort) are vital to a students success in PE. Having good behavior, a good attitude, understanding sportsmanship, and putting forth your best effort are the characteristics that are needed to succeed in PE as well as everyday life. Through exercise we stimulate and develop the use of mental and physical skills, physical fitness, participation in various games and sports, plus knowledge of the rules. These skills show students the importance of mental and physical skills throughout one’s lifetime.

Piano Lab (Grades 6/7/8)

Throughout the course, students will:

- **Develop Fundamental Techniques:** Learn proper posture, hand positioning, and finger dexterity to play with ease and expression.
- **Build Creative Skills:** Practice basic improvisation and music theory concepts to understand the "how" and "why" behind the music. This course offers a hands-on introduction to the piano, designed specifically for middle school students to develop musical literacy and performance skills. Whether a student is a complete beginner or has some prior experience, the curriculum focuses on building a solid foundation in a supportive, collaborative environment.
- **Master Music Literacy:** Gain the ability to read and interpret pitch, rhythm, and dynamics through standard musical notation.
- **Explore Diverse Repertoire:** Perform a variety of musical styles, ranging from classical masterpieces to contemporary pop and jazz.

- **Perform with Confidence:** Participate in individual and group performances to showcase progress and build stage presence.

By the end of this class, students will have the tools necessary to continue their musical journey and enjoy the piano as a lifelong outlet for creativity.

Spartan Expedition (Grade 7/8)

Semester Course

This semester-long course serves as a strategic launchpad for high school and beyond. Students will gain an understanding of Ohio's sixteen career fields and complete an in-depth exploration of personal aptitudes and interests that align with their strengths. Students will focus on advanced organization and study skills and explore high school pathway options. Our "Portrait of a Graduate" competencies will be emphasized including critical thinking and goal setting.

STEM I (Grade 6/7)

Semester Course

STEM I (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) introduces students to the practices used by scientists and engineers through structured, hands-on learning experiences. Instruction emphasizes asking questions, defining problems, and exploring possible solutions within clearly defined criteria and constraints. Students are guided through early stages of the engineering design process as they learn how problems are identified, solutions are planned, and ideas are tested and improved.

Course activities support students in developing and using simple models, carrying out basic investigations, and communicating their thinking using appropriate STEM vocabulary. Design challenges often focus on forces, motion, and simple systems, helping students understand cause-and-effect relationships and how structure influences function. Environmental and societal contexts are introduced to help students recognize how engineering solutions can reduce human impact and improve quality of life.

At this level, students are primarily supported in developing confidence, curiosity, and an understanding that redesign and iteration are expected and valuable parts of learning.

STEM II (Grade 7/8)

Semester Course

STEM II (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) incorporates builds on prior experiences by placing greater emphasis on applying scientific knowledge through collaborative engineering challenges. Students are expected to engage more independently in the engineering design process, using evidence and data to inform decisions and improve designs. Instruction focuses on planning investigations, analyzing results, and using mathematics and technology to compare solution effectiveness. Students work in teams to test multiple design approaches, collect and interpret data, and justify design choices using evidence. Projects often involve energy transfer, system interactions, or ecological considerations, reinforcing the idea that engineering solutions must balance performance, constraints, and real-world impact. Students are encouraged to engage in respectful argumentation, refine designs through multiple iterations, and communicate outcomes clearly.

This course strengthens analytical thinking, collaboration, and persistence while revealing how scientific disciplines work together to address complex problems.

STEM III (Grade 8)

Semester Course

Prerequisite: STEM I and II

STEM III (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) emphasizes independent problem solving and advanced application of the engineering design process. Students are challenged to manage open-ended design problems that require planning, modeling, testing, and refining solutions with limited scaffolding. Instruction highlights the use of quantitative data, system-level thinking, and trade-off analysis to optimize performance.

Students are expected to develop and use models to generate data, analyze the impact of design modifications, and defend decisions using evidence-based reasoning. Projects often connect engineering solutions to broader societal, environmental, or technological systems, helping students understand scale, proportion, and long-term consequences of design choices. Communication, documentation, and reflection are integral to demonstrating learning and readiness for high school STEM coursework.

By the end of the course, students demonstrate confidence, independence, and a strong understanding of how engineering and science intersect to solve real-world problems.

STUDENT FEES

Course	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Core Classes (Math, Science, History, English)	$20 for all courses	$20 for all courses	$20 for all courses
Art (per class)	$10	$10	$10
STEM	$10	$10	$10
Technology	**6th Grade**	**7th Grade**	**8th Grade**
Rent to Own (One to World Program)	n/a	$55	$55
Lease	$30	$30	$30

Schedule Changes

Students will have up to five (5) days to make schedule changes at the beginning of first semester. For courses beginning second semester, students again have five (5) days. After the five-day grace period, schedule changes may only be initiated by teachers, counselors, or an administrator. Courses dropped after the permitted time period may result in a failing grade (unless drop requested by the teacher).

Students Taking Classes for High School Credit

Credit received for high school courses while enrolled in the Middle School will be included on the high school transcript but not included in the GPA.