Hixson Middle School

7th Grade Course Descriptions
and
Guide to Student Program Planning

2026- 2027

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RESPECT | POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS | TEAMWORK

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

The mission of Hixson Middle School is to develop confident and responsible citizens who contribute to a rapidly changing world by valuing diversity, education, and the pursuit of their personal passions. Because of this, we proudly offer challenging and interesting courses, programs, and activities that we are excited to share with you in the 2026-2027 school year!

The following *Course Description and Guide to Student Program Planning* is provided to all students to assist in planning course work for the next year. Inside you will find the course descriptions offered to Hixson students. In order to take advantage of this valuable tool, it is essential that both guardians and students thoroughly review the contents. **Please read the information thoroughly and make your selections carefully. All course requests are final.** Staffing and scheduling are based on your course selections; therefore, making your choices wisely is very important. Your choices are one of the most important factors that go into our planning for the upcoming school year, so we thank you in advance for thoughtfully selecting courses and taking this process seriously.

Your counselor will be happy to answer any further questions you may have. Please feel free to contact your grade-level counselor directly.

Mrs. Jeanine Young
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The teachers, counselors, administrators, and staff at Hixson Middle School are looking forward to next school year!

Sincerely,

Shenita Mayes

Dr. Shenita Mayes
Building Principal

Mr. Mike Hazelton
Grade Level Principal

******** We hire staff and build schedules based on course requests. As a result, all course requests are FINAL. ********

Schedule Planning Guidelines

The Webster Groves District secondary schools offer a balanced program of required and elective subjects designed to prepare students to satisfy their personal and social needs as well as to meet the economic, civic, and social demands of our complex world.

Some subjects are required of all students. These are subjects that provide basic understandings, knowledge, skills and attitudes that are the foundation of our social, civic, and economic life. These subjects constitute the base of the broad educational program essential for all students.

The elective subjects provide opportunities for the exploration and development of new fields of interest and for the further development of special interests and abilities already discovered in elementary school. The elective program, like the required program, contributes to the general education of students, enriching the educational experience and strengthening self-confidence and poise through satisfying academic achievement.

Sound guidance in planning your program of study is essential in both the middle and senior high schools. Among the elective subjects, select those that will contribute the most satisfaction to your personal goals.

Hixson Middle School provides special sections of some classes for the purpose of adjusting the program to the ability and interest of students. Students are assigned to these classes on the basis of examination, previous records, and staff recommendations. Teachers and counselors are available to help students plan their programs. Parents are encouraged to make an appointment to discuss any questions about program planning.

In planning a program, it is important to consider your non-academic workload when selecting your subjects. Music lessons, club activities, sports, and home responsibilities are all important factors to consider when planning your schedule.

Mathematics Course Placement

For more information on math placement, please visit: https://www.webster.k12.mo.us/learning/math/course-placement.

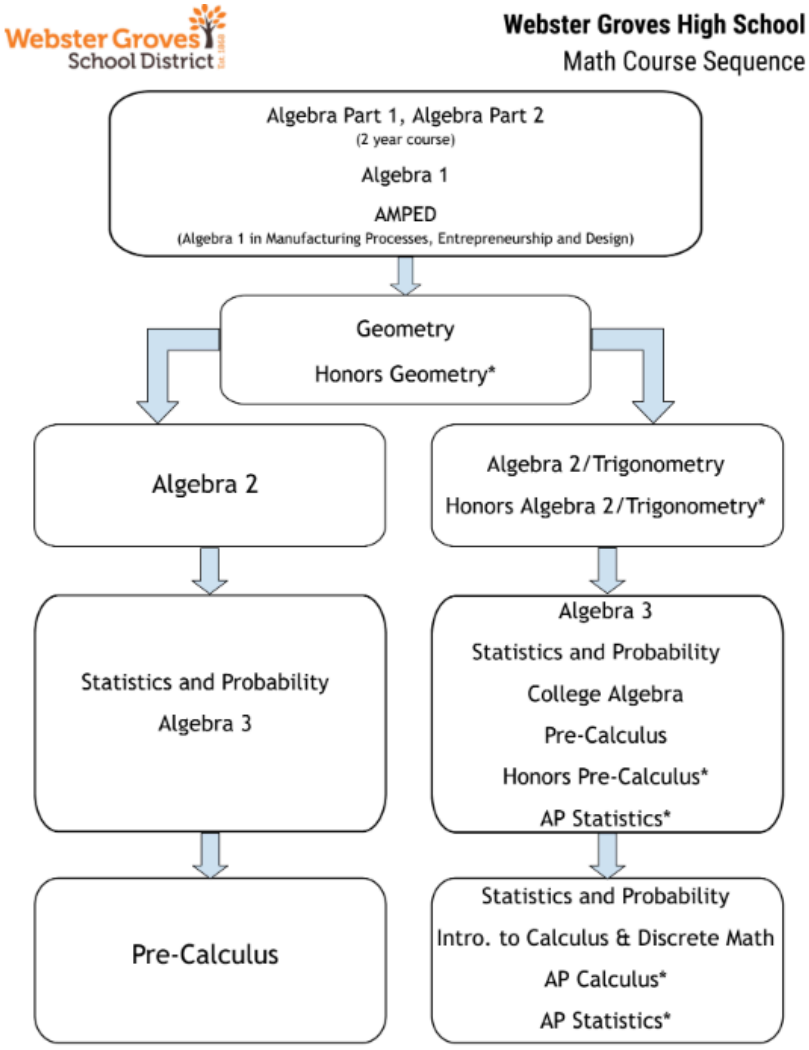
All students enrolled in Math 6 are assessed in the spring of 6th grade for 7th grade math course placement. The majority of 7th grade students will take Math 7. A very small number of 7th grade students who show proficiency of the Math 7 curriculum show a need for an alternative curriculum.

All Math 6 students will take a Math 7 End of Course Assessment. Students who show proficiency of the Math 7 curriculum will have the option to be placed in Math 8 as their core math class or be assessed further for possible Algebra 1 placement. Students who wish to be assessed further will take a Math 8 End of Course Assessment. Students who show proficiency of the Math 8 curriculum will have the option to be placed in Algebra 1.

Students who are placed in Math 7 and passionate about math have the option to choose Math 8 as an elective, taken in conjunction with Math 7. Students who are placed in Math 8 and passionate about math have the option to choose Algebra 1 as an elective, taken in conjunction with Math 8.

Algebra 1 is a high school level course, typically taken as a freshman. It is an intense course that requires a lot of hard work and perseverance in problem solving.

All 7th grade students taking Math 8 or Algebra 1 must maintain a 75% or higher average in order to remain in the course.



*denotes a weighted grade class

Seventh Grade Course Offerings

REQUIRED COURSES

The following courses are required and each make up one period of a student's seven-period schedule:

- English Language Arts 7
- Math 7, Math 8, or Algebra (based on District placement criteria)
- Physical Education/Health 7, Competitive PE/Health 7, or Lifetime Fitness
- Science 7
- Social Studies 7 or Gifted Social Studies 7 (based on District placement criteria)

ELECTIVE COURSES

Students may choose from the following courses to complete their schedule.

Fine Arts - Semester Courses

- Art 1
- Drama 1

Music - Full-Year Courses

- Beginning Band or Band 7
- Choir or Advanced Choir*
- Beginner, Intermediate, or Advanced Orchestra (based on District placement criteria)*

**Auditions for Advanced Choir and Intermediate or Advanced Orchestra may be required; choose the course you would like to take and the Choir or Orchestra teacher will contact you regarding auditions, if necessary.*

Practical Arts - Semester Courses

- Computer Science 1
- Gateway to Engineering
- Shop 1
- Digital Multimedia Arts
- Introduction to Robotics
- Sustainability
- FACS 1
- Thrive Jr.

World Languages - Full-Year Courses

- French 1A
- German 1A
- Spanish 1A

Gifted Fine Arts

Students who met district criteria for GFA may take this class as a semester or full-year elective.

Math 8 - Full Year Course

(Students who did not meet the placement criteria to enroll in Math 8 may take it as an elective course.)

Algebra - Full-Year Course

(Students who did not meet the placement criteria to enroll in Algebra may take it as an elective course.)

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special School District staff provide Special Education services for any student who currently has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Academic and/or behavioral services may be implemented in a variety of settings based upon the student's individual needs. Settings may include consultative monitoring, class-within-a-class or special education classes. Students who receive Special Education services may follow a modified schedule in order to maintain their individualized program. Scheduling is based upon each student's IEP.

Course Descriptions

REQUIRED COURSES

M1100 English Language Arts 7
Prerequisite: English Language Arts 6

The seventh grade English Language Arts class continues to develop the reading, writing, listening and speaking skills of students through the workshop model. Over the course of the year, students engage in the writing process to produce narrative, informational and argumentative writing pieces. In addition, students cultivate a reading identity and share their thinking with peers in a variety of ways. Targeted mini lessons aim to lift the level of students' reading and writing skills. Students use class time to independently apply skills and strategies in their reading and writing. Teachers actively confer with students about their individualized goals, which furthers students' growth as lifelong readers and writers.

M1200 Math 7
Prerequisite: Math 6

Instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

M4220 Math 8
Prerequisite: District Placement Criteria

Instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships and (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. At the end of first semester of Math 8, students who are performing at a 75% or below will be moved out of Math 8 and will be placed in Math 7.

M7220 Algebra
Prerequisite: District Placement Criteria

This is the beginning course in a sequence of college preparatory courses. Topics covered include solving formulas, graphing functions, analysis of linear functions, analysis of quadratic functions, analysis of basic exponential functions, solving inequalities, solving systems of equations, and sequences. At the end of first semester of Algebra, students who are performing at a 75% or below will be moved out of Algebra and will be placed in Math 7 or 8.

M1300 Science 7
Prerequisite: Science 6

Seventh grade science students will explore concepts related to the motions of objects in the Universe, cell structure and function, genetics, and factors that control weather and climate. Throughout the school year, students will practice identifying and solving problems, research related topics based on areas of interest, participate in hands-on activities, engineer solutions to identified problems, and evaluate the human impact on each topic of study.

M1400 Social Studies 7
Prerequisite: Social Studies 6

Students will continue their journey through the history of the United States from 1930 to present day. This course will delve into United States history through multiple cultural lenses. Students will investigate major events in American and world history that have affected the world we live in today. Students will engage in a number of activities that include compare/contrast analysis, identifying patterns (movement of people, goods, services, geography), and cause and effect relationships (people, government systems, environment). Learning will engage multiple modalities including inquiry learning, investigations of primary sources, and interpreting charts, graphs, and maps.

M0010 Gifted Social Studies 7

Prerequisite: District Placement Criteria

This course is for students who participate in the district's gifted program. Learning goals and targets for the class have been developed by incorporating the WGSD Social Studies and Gifted curricula, creating a unique class with content and teaching methods for this special population of students. Much of our Gifted curricular goals will be met through our social studies work, but we will also incorporate projects and activities during the year which will specifically address Gifted needs.

Physical Education - Full-Year Courses

All students are required to take one full-year Physical Education/Health class. Students in 7th and 8th grade may choose from the following options. PE classes must have adequate registration requests to become part of this year's school schedule. Students requesting courses that are not offered due to low enrollment will be notified by their counselor and assigned to the traditional PE/Health course.

M3600 Physical Education/Health 7
Prerequisite: Physical Education 6

Physical Education is designed to help students develop a love for physical activity and to instill in them the importance of a sound mind and body. Through Physical Education, students will obtain skills, abilities, and attitudes to participate successfully in lifetime activities. In this PE class, students will rotate through courses consisting of PE, fitness, and health.

M3595 Competitive PE/Health 7
Prerequisite: Physical Education 6

This PE class differs from the traditional PE/Health class in that gameplay is more intense and strategies are more advanced. Students will experience gameplay with an emphasis on strategies and concepts that apply to specific sports. More intensive training techniques will also be incorporated and students should expect to work at a more vigorous level as compared to the other PE classes. In this PE class, students will rotate through courses consisting of PE, fitness, and health.

M3602 Lifetime Fitness/Health
Prerequisite: Physical Education 6

This PE class differs from the traditional PE/Health class in that gameplay is intended for people with less interest or experience. Strategies and gameplay are more fundamental. This class includes a mix of lower-intensity activities: walking for fitness, outdoor sports and games, mindfulness activities, community service, time to practice social skills, and time to practice stress reduction strategies. In this PE class, students will rotate through courses consisting of PE, fitness, and health. Please note that this class will most likely be a mix of 7th and 8th grade students.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Elective classes must have adequate registration requests to become part of this year's school schedule. Students requesting courses that are not offered due to low enrollment will be notified by their counselor and assigned their alternate elective choice.

Fine Arts - Semester Courses

M8410 Art 1
Prerequisite: None

This is a semester-long studio course where students learn to work and behave like artists. Students will make sketchbooks and learn basic skills in drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking and sculpture. We practice a creating process that helps students go from developing an idea to completing original works of art. In addition to the creation of art, students will also learn to critique a work of art. By the end of the course, students will turn in a portfolio presentation to showcase their work.

M8450 Drama 1
Prerequisite: None

Drama 1 is a course that explores several aspects of drama that will enhance or develop the foundational basics of theater including scriptwriting, basic theater terminology, basic theater history, vocal and physical warm-ups, reflective writing, exploration of voice and body, ensemble building, pantomime, improvisation, and reader's theater.

Music - Full Year Courses

M6002 Beginning Band - Woodwind Instruments

This course is for sixth/seventh grade students interested in playing a woodwind instrument (flute and clarinet). Students start with the basics of becoming familiar with their musical instruments (assembly, proper finger placement, tone production and breathing). Students progress in their knowledge of reading music, beginning with basic note/pitch identification and ending with more complex compositions of music. Daily practice is required. Clarinet students have the opportunity to audition for saxophone after the Winter Concert in December.

M6004 Beginning Band - Brass Instruments

This course is for sixth/seventh grade students interested in playing a brass instrument (Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone). Students start with the basics of becoming familiar with their musical instruments (assembly, proper finger placement, tone production and breathing). Students progress in their knowledge of reading music, beginning with basic note/pitch identification and ending with more complex compositions of music. Daily practice is required.

M7000 Band 7
Prerequisite: Band 6 or Beginning Band

Band 7 is open to all students who have successfully completed Band 6. Students who are new to the district may join the Band if they have had a comparable experience in another school and complete a brief audition for the Hixson Band Directors. Seventh-Grade Band members will continue to learn new fingerings and rhythms, and will concentrate on proper tone production. Students will complete lessons in music theory, music history, music technology and will perform a variety of middle school band music. The Hixson Band will give three concerts during the school year.

M8105 Choir
Prerequisite: None

Choir is open to all students. Students in this course will study different styles of choral singing, and languages, develop vocal independence, sing in two, three, or four-part harmony, learn how to sight-read level-one and two music, and learn how to perform as an ensemble. There are also mandatory performances in the Fall and Spring semesters. Students interested in performing with the WGHS choir are strongly encouraged to take this course.

M8106 Advanced Choir
Prerequisite: District Placement Criteria

Advanced Choir is offered to students who exhibit advanced skill levels in music literacy and vocal technique. Students who have taken 6th or 7th grade Choir or have worked with a licensed voice teacher may audition for Advanced Choir. The content of the course is designed to develop the student's technical, musical, and performance skills. The music studied by this choir is challenging and requires a desire for excellence on the part of its members. Students are required to perform in the winter and spring concerts, local and district choral festivals, and other performance opportunities. Music performed covers a wide range of historical periods and musical styles. In addition to the regular class period, Advanced Choir students often practice one day per week after school.

M6900 Beginning Orchestra
Prerequisite: None

Beginning Orchestra is a first year orchestra class offered to students who have little to no experience playing a stringed instrument. Students who are interested in playing violin, viola, cello, or stand-up bass will learn to read and play music on their instrument of choice at a beginner level. Students will be required to rent or purchase their own instrument and music book for the class. Students who choose violin or viola will bring their own instrument to class to use every day and take home for home practice. Students who choose cello or stand-up bass will use a school instrument for class and keep their personal instrument at home for home practice. Regular practice outside of class is required as homework. Orchestra students will work as a team to successfully perform three concerts a year. Students will learn how their performance literature relates to music theory, music history, and current global cultures.

M6901 Intermediate Orchestra
Prerequisite: District Placement Criteria

Intermediate Orchestra is a second level orchestra. It is open to all students who have successfully completed at least one year of experience on their instrument in an orchestra class or private lessons with a certified orchestra teacher. Students are required to audition for this class with approval from the Hixson orchestra director to register. New techniques and concepts will be introduced that build on the foundational skills and knowledge previously learned in the beginning stages. Students will be required to rent or purchase their own instrument and music book for the class. Students who play violin or viola will bring their own instrument to class to use every day and take home for home practice. Students who play cello or stand-up bass will use a school instrument for class and keep their personal instrument at home for home practice. Regular practice outside of class is required as homework. Orchestra students will work as a team to successfully perform three concerts a year. Students will learn how their performance literature relates to music theory, music history, and current global cultures. Orchestra members are also invited to audition for the Hixson Honors Orchestra, an after school group that collaborates with Wind Ensemble and Choir for two Sounds of Hixson concerts per year.

M6902 Advanced Orchestra
Prerequisite: District Placement Criteria

Advanced Orchestra is an upper level orchestra. It is open to all students who have successfully completed at least one year of experience on their instrument in an orchestra class or private lessons with a certified orchestra teacher. Students are required to audition for this class with approval from the Hixson orchestra director to register. New techniques and concepts will be introduced that continue to build on skills and knowledge previously learned at an intermediate playing level. Students will be required to rent or purchase their own instrument and music book for the class. Students who play violin or viola will bring their own instrument to class to use every day and take home for home practice. Students who play cello or stand-up bass will use a school instrument for class and keep their personal instrument at home for home practice. Regular practice outside of class is required as homework. Orchestra students will work as a team to successfully perform three concerts a year, in addition to an orchestra tour around the district. Students will learn how their performance literature relates to music theory, music history, and current global cultures. Orchestra members are also invited to audition for the Hixson Honors Orchestra, an after school group that collaborates with Wind Ensemble and Choir for two Sounds of Hixson concerts per year.

Practical Arts - Semester Courses

M8510 Family and Consumer Science 1
Prerequisite: None

FACS 1 is designed to give students an introduction to Family and Consumer Sciences. Topics covered include food prep,nutrition ,hand & machine sewing, and child development/babysitting.

M8610 Shop 1
Prerequisite: None

This semester course is designed to allow students to gain hands-on experiences with power tools as well as hand tools. In the lab setting, this course will involve drafting, measurement, safety, and constructing projects. Students must pass a safety final, with 80% proficiency, before working with power tools/equipment in the lab. Project choices in this class may include plastic keychain, 3x5 memo box, triangle game, and paper towel rack.

M0074 Computer Science 1
Prerequisite: None

In this experiential learning class, students with little to no circuitry or programming experience necessary will explore the foundations of Computer Science. They will learn the basics of computer hardware, software and networking, data, user centered design, physical computing, and programming with artificial intelligence. Students will create websites, apps, games, and create electronic projects with micro computers. They will learn how to complete more advanced projects using HTML & CSS, Python, and JavaScript coding languages.

M0044 Gateway to Engineering
Prerequisite: None

Gateway to Engineering is a 7th and 8th grade experiential learning course covering a wide spectrum of Engineering disciplines including Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical. Topics include Design and Modeling, Automation and Robotics, Flight and Space, Magic of Electrons, and Medical Detectives.

M0080 Sustainability: Helping Others and the Environment
Prerequisite: None

This experiential learning course will take an interdisciplinary approach in helping students understand inequities in our society relating to reducing environmental impact, food insecurity, and distribution of resources. Students will create environmentally sustainable solutions to community-based problems by auditing our environmental impact (ie: energy, waste, consumption etc), determining the needs of the community, and addressing those needs through community outreach. In addition, students will continue to develop the sustainable outdoor courtyard, build and maintain raised garden beds and engage in urban gardening to grow food that can be distributed within the Hixson community and/or donated to local organizations to support others in need.

M0048 Introduction to Robotics
Prerequisite: None

This experiential learning class uses a hands-on approach to introduce the basic concepts of robotics, focusing on the construction and programming of autonomous mobile robots. Course information will be tied to lab experiments; students will work in groups to build and test increasingly more complex mobile robots, culminating in an end-of-semester robot contest. We will be using LEGO® Education SPIKE™ Prime as our platform. This will allow students with both previous and no coding experience to access the curriculum. Students will be divided into groups and complete a variety of robot construction and programming activities within the confines of these groups.

M0090 Digital Multimedia Arts
Prerequisite: None

Digital Multimedia Arts is a project-based course that allows students to creatively express themselves through digital graphics, print media, computer animation, and other newly emerging forms of digital media. This experiential learning class will allow students to explore a wide range of programs while considering their audience, mode of expression, and editing skills. Students will also be given the ability to facilitate meetings, serve as team leaders, manage project timelines, and produce professional products like our weekly school show, the Hixson Happenings.

M0058 Thrive Jr
Prerequisite: None

This project-based course guides 7th and 8th grade students through the experience of becoming entrepreneurs to solve a problem. As students reach milestones throughout this experiential learning class, they create a portfolio that documents their journey from problem/solution ideation through evaluation of sales. Students evaluate the world around them, identify a problem to solve, create a product concept, sell this product in an e-commerce marketplace, evaluate the performance of their business idea, and iterate to incorporate learnings. With involvement of local mentors and volunteers, students experience authentic learning, providing them an opportunity to be entrepreneurs.

World Languages - Full Year Courses

M8211 French 1A
Prerequisite: None

French 1A offers middle school students their first formal introduction to the French language using the same curriculum as French at the high school level. Through immersive instruction conducted predominantly in French, students acquire language naturally via comprehensible input, stories, and interactive activities. The course emphasizes listening and reading comprehension while gradually building basic speaking and writing skills. By the end of the year, students are expected to reach **Novice-High** proficiency, per ACTFL guidelines. At the conclusion of this course, students who have demonstrated a **Novice-High** proficiency will have the choice to advance to French 2.

M8401 German 1A
Prerequisite: None

German 1A offers middle school students their first formal introduction to the German language using the same curriculum as German 1 at the high school level. Through immersive instruction conducted predominantly in German acquire language naturally via comprehensible input, stories, and interactive activities. The course emphasizes listening and reading comprehension while gradually building basic speaking and writing skills. By the end of the year, students are expected to reach **Novice-High** proficiency, per ACTFL guidelines. At the conclusion of this course, students who have demonstrated a **Novice-High** proficiency will have the choice to advance to German 2.

M8301 Spanish 1A
Prerequisite: None

Spanish 1A offers middle school students their first formal introduction to the Spanish language using the same curriculum as Spanish I at the high school level. Through immersive instruction conducted predominantly in Spanish, students acquire language naturally via comprehensible input, stories, and interactive activities. The course emphasizes listening and reading comprehension while gradually building basic speaking and writing skills. By the end of the year, students are expected to reach **Novice-High** proficiency, per ACTFL guidelines. At the conclusion of this course, students who have demonstrated a **Novice-High** proficiency will have the choice to advance to Spanish 2.

Gifted Fine Arts - Semester Course

M8477 Gifted Fine Arts

Prerequisite: District Placement Criteria

This course offers eligible students the opportunity to explore fine arts in three areas: visual art, music and drama. Students develop skills in communication and perception, cultural and historical awareness, response and evaluation, creative expression and performance, and leadership. If electing to take GFA for a full-year, students will select the class twice when entering their elective requests into the Student Information System.

Math Electives - Full Year Courses

Students who did not meet the placement criteria to enroll in Math 8 or Algebra may elect to take it in place of an elective course. ***(Students who enroll in Math 8 or Algebra as an elective will take two math classes.)***

M4220 Math 8
Prerequisite: Math 6

Instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships and (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. At the end of first semester of Math 8, students who are performing at a 75% or below will be moved out of Math 8 and will be placed in Math 7.

M7220 Algebra
Prerequisite: Math 6 and Math 8 placement

This is the beginning course in a sequence of college preparatory courses. Topics covered include solving formulas, graphing functions, analysis of linear functions, analysis of quadratic functions, analysis of basic exponential functions, solving inequalities, solving systems of equations, and sequences. It is highly recommended that students complete Math 8 prior to enrolling in Algebra. At the end of first semester of Algebra as an elective, students who are performing at a 75% or below will be moved out of Algebra and will be placed in a different elective course.