

# 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE 2026-27

## Holmes Middle School

### Course Selection Process, Descriptions and Deadlines

This is an exciting time of year for your child. Making informed decisions about next year is important for your child's educational journey. If you have any concerns or questions about classes or accessing the form, don't hesitate to reach out to your counselor: **Tara Falslev (Counselor)** Email: [tara.falslev@d11.org](mailto:tara.falslev@d11.org) Phone: 328-3808. **Please complete the form as soon as possible so your requests can be considered.**

#### Course Selection Process

1. **Review Courses:** Guardians and students should review the available course listings together.
2. **Online Form:** Course selections must be made using the online form. Guardians will receive an email with a link to this form. **Alternate Access:** The form can also be found on the Holmes Counseling web page.
3. **Students will need their Student ID Number found on their ID badges to complete the form.**

#### Important Scheduling Considerations

The course selection process is crucial in determining the classes offered in the upcoming academic year. **Students and parents should understand that while they may indicate interest in various courses, specific elective classes will only be scheduled based on sufficient student demand and available teaching staff. This means that not all requested classes are guaranteed, and final course offerings will depend on overall enrollment and resource availability.**

### REQUIRED CORE COURSES

#### Language Arts

Math 8 – Pre Algebra  
Science

#### Advanced Language Arts

Advanced Math - Algebra  
History – American Studies

Double Adv.- Geometry

You will need to select your Language Arts and Math Levels -typically math is one step up from what you are taking this year. All students will be enrolled in Science and History automatically.

Advanced class placement considers multiple factors such as student and parent input, test scores, and teacher recommendations. Advanced math allows students to work at a higher grade level, while advanced Language Arts provides a more challenging learning environment with more rigorous coursework and expectations.

### FULL YEAR ELECTIVES:

**Students who select a year-long course are expected to commit to the entire academic year.** For music classes, students should be aware that Concert Band, Orchestra, and Choir are scheduled during the same period, requiring them to choose only one. When selecting a music class, students will be asked to indicate their top two elective preferences, and the school will make every effort to accommodate at least one of their additional elective interests. **All music students are required to participate in scheduled performances as an integral part of their coursework.** These performances may include school concerts, community events, and potentially state music contests or festivals.

#### Concert Band 7/8

Concert Band offers students the opportunity to develop musical understanding and appreciation through instrumental performance. Students will learn to read music and explore various musical styles and techniques.

#### Jazz Band (8th Grade only – must tryout)

This advanced ensemble focuses on instrumental jazz performance. Instrumentation includes saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, electric guitar, and drum set. Students will develop advanced musical skills in jazz performance and style.

#### Advanced Orchestra 7/8

This provides students with opportunities to develop musical skills through string instrument performance. Students will explore various musical genres and techniques while enhancing their musical understanding and appreciation.

### **Intermediate Choir 7/8**

In Intermediate Choir, students learn fundamental choral singing techniques, music theory, ear training, sight-reading, and musical terminology. The course aims to develop vocal skills and appreciation for choral music performances.

## **SEMESTER ELECTIVE CLASSES (2 Quarters)**

### **Physical Education 8**

Our Physical Education program aims to enhance students' physical competence, health-related fitness, self-esteem, and lifelong enjoyment of physical activity. Students will engage in diverse learning experiences including fitness concepts, resistance training, fitness testing, and participation in team and individual sports. Students without a uniform from the previous year can purchase one for class participation.

### **Advanced Family & Consumer Sciences A (Home Economics)**

This comprehensive course explores multiple essential life skills and career preparation areas. Students will investigate personality traits, career pathways, nutrition, food preparation, meal management, and consumer skills. The curriculum also covers sewing, fabric care, childcare, and interpersonal communication. Technology integration occurs through teen topic and international cooking units, emphasizing problem-solving and practical academic skill application. Students will be required to provide some personal supplies for course activities.

### **Expanding the Visual Arts 1**

Designed to advance students' artistic skills, this course provides comprehensive art production techniques and processes. Students will create diverse artworks spanning two and three-dimensional mediums, including painting, drawing, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, and mixed media. The curriculum integrates cultural and appreciative art elements through art criticism, historical exploration, and aesthetic understanding.

### **PLTW Green Architecture (Wood Shop)**

This hybrid course combines Project Lead The Way (PLTW) architectural studies with woodshop skills. During the first semester, students explore sustainable architectural design, focusing on residential building systems, construction costs, site planning, and architectural documentation. Students will design innovative structures like tiny homes using recycled shipping containers and utilize 3D architectural software. The second semester transitions to practical construction skills using the Careers in Construction Colorado/Home Builders Institute curriculum, applying learned concepts in the Holmes Woodshop.

### **PLTW Automation Robotics (Computer Tech)**

Students will explore the fascinating world of automation and robotics, tracing their historical development and technological influence. The course covers mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using advanced robotics platforms, students design, build, and program real-world solutions, learning that programming extends beyond virtual environments. Students will creatively employ sensors and actuators, develop interactive systems, design algorithms, and use computational thinking to code microcontroller programs performing authentic tasks.

### **Adventure Education**

This is an active, hands-on outdoor learning experience that blends science, recreation, and teamwork. Students will explore the natural world through activities that may include geology investigations, environmental science, outdoor recreation, and guided exploration.

### **Drama Techniques**

In our middle school Theatre Arts program, students will explore the exciting world of performance, creativity, and self-expression. Through a progressive three-year curriculum, students will develop essential theatrical skills, build confidence, and learn the fundamental aspects of drama and performance.