Owatonna Public Schools

# OWATONNA ONLINE

## Course Registration Guide

Grades 7-8 | 2026-2027

# Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year!

Being set up for learning is a key part of your students' success! As we look ahead to the start of the year, be sure to think through the structures you'll have in place to ensure your learner has what they need to do their best each day. How will your learner plan to have their Chromebook charged and ready from day to day? Where will their designated space be for learning? Do you have high speed internet to minimize disruptions in their online work?

in addition to a focused work area, we recommend that the following items are available to support your learner in their online assignments: notebook, pencils, pens, scissors, glue, colored pencils, headphones, TI-30XS Multiview Calculator (optional)
**May be additional requirements dependent on elective choices

OWATONNA PUBLIC SCHOOLS Online

## Schedule Example:

| | 7TH GRADE | 8TH GRADE |
|---|---|---|
| Period 1 | Life Science 7 | Social Studies 8 |
| Period 2 | Social Studies 7 | Physical Science 8 |
| Period 3 | English 7 | (Semester 1) Computer Science<br>(Semester 2) Middle School Digital Art 1B |
| Period 4 | (Semester 1) Middle School Digital Art 1A<br>(Semester 2) Digital Citizenship | English 8 |
| | Lunch | Lunch |
| Period 5 | Study Hall | (Semester 1) Health 8<br>(Semester 2) Health & Physical Education 8 |
| Period 6 | Health & Physical Education 7 | Career Explorations I / Study Hall |
| Period 7 | Math 7 | (Semester 1) Study Hall<br>(Semester 2) Computer Science |
| Period 8 | (Semester 1) Study Hall<br>(Semester 2) Career Explorations II | Math 8 |

## Art

**Middle School Digital Art 1A**
**Course Length: All Year**
**Grade Level: 7**
Digital art and design involves everything from advertising to animation to photography and more. In this course, you'll learn about the evolution of art; the basic principles of art and design; the role of art in politics and society; and how to create digital art and make it come alive.

## Health & Physical Education

**Health and Physical Education 7**
**Course Length: All Year**
**Grade Level: 7**
In this course, students will reach new levels of fitness through sports, dance, aquatics, and more. Course characters will help guide and enhance their experience. Students will learn safety rules for exercises to improve their skills, how different activities target different parts of their body, and how to reach new goals.

## Language Arts

**Enriched Language Arts 7**
**Course Length: All Year**
**Grade Level: 7**
In this full-year seventh-grade course, students develop a mastery of reading, writing, and language arts skills. Engaging literary and informational reading selections prompt students to read critically, analyze texts, and cite evidence. Students sharpen their vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills through explicit modeling and ample practice. Students also take part in routine, responsive writing based on texts they have read. In more extensive, process based writing lessons, students write topical essays in narrative, informative, analytical, and argumentative formats. Students sharpen their vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills through explicit modeling and ample practice. Students also engage in routine, responsive writing based on an examination of the variety of texts they have read. In more extensive process-based writing lessons, students write topical essays in narrative, informative, analytical, and argumentative formats.

**Language Arts 7**
**Course Length: All Year**
**Grade Level: 7**
In this course, students develop a mastery of reading, writing, and language arts skills. Engaging literary and informational reading selections prompt students to read critically, analyze texts, and cite evidence. Students read poetry by Lewis Carroll and Danile Beatty, short stories, and informational texts on Rose Parks and Army Code. Students also take part in routine, responsive writing based on texts they have read. In more extensive, process-based writing lessons, students write topical essays in narrative, informative, analytical, and argumentative formats. Students sharpen their vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills through explicit modeling and ample practice. Students also engage in routine, responsive writing based on an examination of the variety of texts they have read. In more extensive process-based writing lessons, students write topical essays in narrative, informative, analytical, and argumentative formats.

## Mathematics

**Enriched Math 7**
**Course Length: All Year**
**Grade Level: 7**
In this course, students explore the properties of real numbers and apply this knowledge to equations, inequalities, and multi-step equations. Students learn to identify, write, and graph functions and equations, simplify radical expressions, and solve quadratic equations. They learn to factor and perform operations with binomials and polynomials. Students calculate slope and use slope-intercept form to graph linear equations. They also learn to solve systems of equations and inequalities both graphically and algebraically. This course is offered to qualified students.

**Math 7**
**Course Length: All Year**
**Grade Level: 7**
Students build on their knowledge of proportional relationships and operations with rational numbers. They solve real-world problems involving scale drawings, geometric constructions, area,
surface area, and volume. Students also draw inferences about populations based on samples.

## Science

**Enriched Life Science 7**
**Course Length: All Year**
**Grade Level: 7**
This science course enable students to engage actively in inquiry-based investigations and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) projects, as well as cross-disciplinary and cross-curricular activities. Students are encouraged to make connections, collaborate, and reflect on their learning as they work through the content.

**Life Science**
**Course Length: All Year**
**Grade Level: 7**
The Life Science course begins with a review of measurement skills and the scientific method. Then students learn to classify organisms based on taxonomy, domains, and kingdoms. Cell structure, function, and processes are covered next, along with DNA, heredity, and the theory of evolution. The systems of the human body are presented, followed by extensive coverage of biological ecosystems, habitats, organism populations, and environmental issues.

## Social Studies

**Social Studies 7**
**Course Length: All Year**
**Grade Level: 7**
Students study political, economic, and social changes from the fifth century to modern times. They utilize their critical-thinking skills by making connections between historical events, such as the rise and fall of empires and the rise of democracy, and by analyzing long-term changes and recurring patterns in world history. Students complete a comprehensive study of the history, geography, and cultures of nations in North and South America. Thinking as historians, they analyze timelines, read primary source documents, form hypotheses, and draw conclusions.

**Please select 2 electives from the last page of this guide.**

## Art

**Middle School Digital Art 1B**
**Course Length: 1.0 credit - 1 semester**
**Grade Level: 8**
Digital art and design involves everything from advertising to animation to photography and more. In this course, you'll learn about the evolution of art; the basic principles of art and design; the role of art in politics and society; and how to create digital art and make it come alive.

## Health and Physical Education

**Health and Physical Education 8**
**Course Length: All Year**
**Grade Level: 8**
This course will provide students practice in game strategy, sport skills and performance. Students will discover the diversity of sports, nutrition, and peer pressure, while learning how to make effective decisions.

## Language Arts

**Enriched Language Arts 8**
**Course Length: All Year**
**Grade Level: 8**
In this full-year eighth-grade course, students develop a mastery of reading, writing, and language arts skills. Engaging literary and informational reading selections inspire students to read critically, analyze texts, and cite evidence. Students sharpen their vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills through explicit modeling and ample practice. Students also take part in routine, responsive writing based on texts they have read. In more extensive, process-based writing lessons, students write topical essays in narrative, informative, analytical, and argumentative formats.

**Language Arts 8**
**Course Length: All Year**
**Grade Level: 8**
In this full-year eighth-grade course, students develop a mastery of reading, writing, and language arts skills. Engaging literary and informational reading selections inspire students to read critically, analyze texts, and cite evidence. Students sharpen their vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills through explicit modeling and ample practice. Students also take part in routine, responsive writing based on texts they have read. In more extensive, process-based writing lessons, students write topical essays in narrative, informative, analytical, and argumentative formats.

## Mathematics

**Enriched Math 8**
**Course Length: All Year**
**Grade Level: 8**
This course guides students through the exploration of geometric figures. They analyze plane figures and three-dimensional figures and apply formulas to calculate area, surface area, and volume. They learn how to use inductive and deductive logic to conduct formal proofs through predictions, counterexamples, and drawing conclusions. Students also conduct detailed analyses of the properties of parallel and perpendicular lines, triangles, polygons, quadrilaterals, and circles, including similarity and transformations.

**Pre-Algebra**
**Course Length: All Year**
**Grade Level: 8**
Students prepare for algebra as they expand their understanding of expressions and equations. They solve linear equations and systems of linear equations, use functions to describe quantitative relationships, and analyze two- and three-dimensional space and figures.

## Science

**Enriched Science 8**
**Course Length: All Year**
**Grade Level: 8**
This science course enable students to engage actively in inquiry-
based investigations and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) projects, as well as cross- disciplinary and cross-curricular activities. Students are encouraged to make connections, collaborate, and reflect on their learning as they work through the content. As students advance through the courses, they receive an internationally benchmarked science education that covers the topics listed below.

**Physical Science**
**Course Length: All Year**
**Grade Level: 8**
The Physical Science course includes an investigation of the elements of matter and their properties and states as well as a study of chemical compounds, chemical bonds, and reactions. Students also are engaged in the topics of motion, forces, and energy, followed by an investigation of magnetism and electricity, including semiconductors and digital devices. The course also incorporates a study of wave phenomena, including sound, light, and radio waves.

## Social Studies

**Social Studies 8**
**Course Length: All Year**
**Grade Level: 8**
In this course, students study the history of the North American continent. The course covers the early cultures that thrived in the Americas for thousands of years, the European exploration and colonization of the continent, and the subsequent rise of the United States. Students learn about the Civil War and the Reconstruction that followed. The course traces the advances made over the last century and a half and the role the United States has played in a changing world.

**Please select 2 electives from the last page of this guide.**

# Electives

## 7th and 8th Grade

**Career Explorations I**
**Course Length: 1 semester**
**Grade Level: 7, 8**
Career Explorations I is a semester-long course designed to give middle school students an opportunity to explore various CTE subjects. Specifically, students learn about careers involving human-related services. Each of the five units introduce one particular field and explains its past, present, and future. These units include: Career Management, Introduction to Careers in Health Sciences, Hospitality and Tourism Systems, Human Services, and Consumer Services. The goal is to whet students' appetites for these careers. Students can then explore that career in more detail as a high school student.

**Career Explorations II**
**Course Length: 1 semester**
**Grade Level: 7, 8**
Career Explorations II is a semester-long course designed to give middle school students an opportunity to explore various CTE subjects. Specifically, students learn about careers involving various technical fields from computers to agriculture. Each of the five units introduces one particular field and explains its past, present, and future. These units include: Information Technology, Introduction to Information Support and Services, Introduction to Network Systems, Introduction to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, and Introduction to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). The goal is to whet students' appetites for these careers. Students can then explore that career in more detail as a high school student.

**Career Explorations III**
**Course Length: 1 semester**
**Grade Level: 7, 8**
Career Explorations III is a semester-long course designed to give middle school students an opportunity to explore various CTE subjects. Specifically, students learn about careers from business to hands-on career paths. Each of the five units introduces one particular field and explains its past, present, and future. These units include: Introduction to Business and Finance, Introduction to Manufacturing, Introduction to Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics, Introduction to Architecture and Construction, and Introduction to Marketing. The goal is to whet students' appetites for these careers. Students can then explore that career in more detail as a high school student.

**Digital Literacy**
**Course Length: 1 semester**
**Grade Level: 7, 8**
This semester-long elective provides a foundation to understanding key applications, computing fundamentals, and online living. This course focuses on describing technology basics including finger placement on the keyboard and the differences between hardware and software. Students describe the functions of operating systems and their utilities, identify computer networks, how they work, and computer and internet safety. Students identify different communications industries and how to use email, Microsoft Word®, PowerPoint®, and Outlook®, describe how to create spreadsheets, enter data, create graphs, and use formulas and shortcuts in spreadsheets. Additionally, students will identify the functions of PowerPoint®, digital media, intellectual property law, workplace crimes, privacy concerns, digital citizenship, and how to stay safe on social media.
Required materials:
Students must have access to MS Office or Office 365, including Access, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, and Word

**Keyboarding and Applications**
**Course Length: 1 semester**
**Grade Level: 7, 8**
Keyboarding and Applications is a semester-long course that teaches students keyboarding skills, technical skills, effective communication skills, and productive work habits. Students learn proper keyboarding techniques. Once students have been introduced to keyboarding skills, lessons include daily practice of those skills.
Students gain an understanding of computer hardware, operating systems, file management, and the Internet. In addition, students apply their keyboarding skills and create a variety of business documents, including word processing documents and electronic presentations.
Required Materials:
Word-processing software (e.g., MS Word)
Presentation software (e.g., MS PowerPoint)

**Middle School Computer Science**
**Course Length: 1 year**
**Grade Level: 7, 8**
Middle School Computer Science is a full-year course designed to introduce students in grades 6-8 to computer science as a vehicle for problem solving, communication, and personal expression. This course focuses on the visible aspects of computing and computer science centering on the immediately observable and personally applicable elements of computer science while also asking students to look outward and explore the impact of computer science on society. Students will explore the design process with creative, hands-on learning opportunities to create programs and collaborate with peers while learning specific aspects of computer science including problem solving, programming, physical computing, user-centered design, and data.
Required Materials:
Access to the Microsoft Office suite or similar product line
Python and Scratch
Recommended for devices running Windows 10 or higher or MacOS

**Online Learning and Digital Citizenship**
**Course Length: 1 semester**
**Grade Level: 7, 8**
This one-semester course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to online learning, including how to work independently, stay safe, and develop effective study habits in virtual learning environments. Featuring direct-instruction videos, interactive tasks, authentic projects, and rigorous assessments, the course prepares students for high school by providing in-depth instruction and practice in important study skills such as time management, effective note-taking, test preparation, and collaborating effectively online. By the end of the course, students will understand what it takes to be successful online learners and responsible digital citizens.

**Spanish IA (Middle School)**
**Course Length: .5 Credit / Semester 1**
**Grade Level: 7, 8**
These courses introduce students to Spanish language and culture. Student guides share information on topics such as family and friends, home, food, clothing, and neighborhoods. Culture is presented throughout the courses to help students make connections between their culture and the culture of people in the Spanish-speaking world. Opportunities for students to communicate with native speakers throughout these courses provide a real-world context.

**Spanish IB (Middle School)**
**Course Length: .5 / Credit Semester 2**
**Grade Level: 7, 8**
These courses introduce students to Spanish language and culture. Student guides share information on topics such as family and friends, home, food, clothing, and neighborhoods. Culture is presented throughout the courses to help students make connections between their culture and the culture of people in the Spanish-speaking world. Opportunities for students to communicate with native speakers throughout these courses provide a real-world context.

**Elective courses are subject to change depending on course requests, student enrollment numbers, and staffing assignments.**