



Lake Orion Community Schools Middle Schools

Oakview – Scripps – Waldon

Dear Student,

This curriculum handbook is designed to explain our middle school program. You will find information that describes our required courses and elective opportunities for each grade level. Take some time to familiarize yourself with these courses so you can make appropriate decisions to achieve your goals.

The Lake Orion Community Schools Middle School program provides a structure for exploring academic areas of interest. As you progress through middle school, you will have increased opportunities to select various courses. We are committed to providing positive learning experiences for our students to develop a foundation for success in high school.

Please make thoughtful, well-informed choices because schedule changes are discouraged. If you need assistance, please contact the counseling office.

Sincerely,

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Welcome to 8th Grade

Course Availability

Courses described in this Curriculum Handbook are offered based upon sufficient student requests and teacher availability determined by administration.

Academic Information

- Report cards are available at the end of each semester in PowerSchool
- Parent Teacher conferences are scheduled each semester via PowerSchool

8th Grade Required Classes

- STAR (Student Teacher Affective Relationships)
- English Language Arts
- Science
- American History
- Math 8 or HS Algebra 1
- Technology & Computer Science for the Empowered Learner

Math Sequencing

Please note that students are placed in accelerated math using data from Star Math, common assessments, and classroom performance.

Grade	Regular	Advanced
6	Math 6	Advanced Math 6
7	Math 7	Accelerated Math 7
8	Math 8	High School Algebra 1

Elective Courses

Students need to select a combination of yearlong and semester classes based on the following guidelines: 1 yearlong class and 1 semester class OR 3 semester-long classes (Technology & Computer Science for the Empowered Learner is already accounted for on the schedule.)

Required Yearlong Course Descriptions

STAR The STAR program (Student Teacher Affective Relationships) is designed to meet the diverse needs of Lake Orion Community Schools' middle school students as they interact with peers and adults through their adolescent years. The goal of the STAR program is to build relationships between students and staff and for every student to have an adult advocate in the building.

English Language Arts 8 This course uses a reading and writing workshop model to study both fiction and informational texts. The course focuses on the development of a community of readers and writers with an emphasis on student choice. A combination of direct instruction, independent practice, and dynamic groupings provides a venue for comprehension, interpretation, and appreciation of literature. Additionally, students explore multiple writing genres in preparation for various kinds of academic writing. Students will also develop oral communication skills and become active listeners.

Science 8 Focuses on topics in Physical Science, Life Science, Earth & Space Science, and Engineering & Design. Science 8 will help prepare students for the 8th grade M-STEP and Physical Science, Biology, and Earth Science in high school. Students will engage in Science and Engineering Practices and use Cross-Cutting Principles to explore: Energy,

Earth Systems, the History of Earth, Weather & Climate, Human Impacts on Earth Systems, Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms, Natural Selection & Adaptations, and Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science.

American History The eighth-grade American History class covers the period from 1754-1877, with emphasis on the following: American Revolution, Constitution, and the New Nation, Expansion & Reform, Civil War & Reconstruction. Projects, films, reading & writing strategies, and simulation are utilized to stimulate thought and discussion.

Math 8 Students use concrete and abstract thinking skills to apply mathematics to real-world contexts. Formal and informal algebra methods are used to solve problems. Topics of study include rational numbers, reasoning about expressions and equations, linear equations and systems, function relationships, geometry, and bivariate data analysis. This course is designed to prepare students for Algebra 1 at the high school.

High School Algebra 1 This course thoroughly investigates the structures, techniques, and applications used in basic algebraic reasoning. Students will further the study of linear functions and their graphs. In addition, students will cover non-linear functions such as quadratic and exponential functions. Additional topics will include inequalities, polynomials, and systems of equations. This course is designed to prepare students for Honors Geometry in LOHS.

Technology & Computer Science for the Empowered Learner This semester-long course is designed to challenge students to become empowered learners through designing and managing technology. Students will explore and create innovative projects, emphasizing problem-solving skills, concept integration, and collaborative activities. Projects will incorporate engaging activities such as robotics, computer programming, and an introduction to 3D printing and CADD (computer-aided drafting and design). Students will gain the necessary skills for 21st-century careers through communication technology, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) concepts, software applications, and the design process.

Yearlong Elective Course Descriptions

Cadet Band This is a course for advanced musicians. To be placed in this course, students must demonstrate appropriate ability, skill, and commitment to accommodate a high degree of musical independence. All performances are required and graded. Band is a year-long commitment. Students are expected to remain in the course for the entire year. Students are also expected to have an instrument and provide supplies (book, reeds, oil, etc.). Band director approval is required to enroll.

Chorale Focuses on the voice's continued development while promoting self-confidence and musicianship. No previous experience is necessary. Students will develop proper singing techniques and proficiency in music theory, harmony, and choreography. Chorale students will be given an opportunity to sing a repertoire of music, including choral, popular, Broadway, world, and jazz selections. Along with attending regional choral workshops and MSVMA events, Choral members will be given the opportunity to audition for honors choirs and take a culminating choir trip. This ensemble will perform at least 4 times during the year. Participation in all performances is required and part of student evaluations. Special concert attire may be required.

High School Spanish I Students will speak, read, write, and understand basic Spanish using greetings and courtesy, applying numbers to tell time, quantity, and dates. They will become comfortable describing their interests and surroundings, themselves, family, and friends. They will discover and analyze Hispanic culture and values. Students will acquire geographic knowledge of the Spanish-speaking world. Dynamic, multi-faceted activities will promote real-world application of the language. This class is not appropriate for native Spanish speakers. Successful completion of this course will result in earning *1.0 high school credit*.

High School Spanish II Students will speak, read, write, and understand basic Spanish using locations, events, family members and celebrations, restaurant etiquette, household items and chores, clothing, shopping, and colors. They will become comfortable describing their interests and surroundings, themselves, and others. They will discover and analyze

Hispanic culture and values in the context of their own. Students will acquire a deeper knowledge of the Spanish-speaking world. Dynamic, multi-faceted activities will promote real-world application of the language. Successful completion of this course will result in earning 1.0 high school credit.

Publications/Yearbook Publications is a yearlong elective course for 8th graders that focuses on the creation and development of the Middle School yearbook. Students who apply to this class should have a strong ability to work independently, good organizational skills, quality writing skills, and basic computer skills. Students will learn to take quality pictures, develop concepts, create yearbook pages, work with others, and develop a true publication. Student laptops will be used daily to access a web-based publishing program. (Also available as a semester long class)

Semester Elective Course Descriptions

Media Productions In this class, students write, direct, and produce a news program that is broadcast every week. This broadcast will include school announcements, special reports, sports, concerts, and other school and/or community events. Students will communicate information to the students and staff by making use of television and video technology.

Physical Education This is an elective course designed for 8th grade students who desire to increase their fitness awareness as well as develop their skills in a variety of team and individual sports. Students are exposed to concepts, strategies, rules, and basic movement skills. Emphasis will be placed on individual improvement through goal setting, development of teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect for self and others which will encourage life-long participation in physical activity.

Personal Fitness This class is designed to help students develop lifelong habits that promote overall health, stamina, and endurance. This class will focus on improving fitness, muscular strength, flexibility, and endurance through a variety of physical activities and exercises. Students will participate in structured workouts, team challenges, and individualized goal-setting to enhance their personal fitness levels. ****Available only at Waldon****

Creative Art Creative Art students will explore their artistic potential through hands-on experiments with various materials and advanced techniques. Emphasis is on creative enjoyment, individual expression, and skill development in preparation for higher-level art. The curriculum enhances self-esteem, fosters discovery, and provides creative outlets while integrating art history and cultural awareness.

Positivity Project This elective provides time and opportunities for students to dive into character strengths, leadership skills, reflective practices, and student-driven projects with an emphasis on individual student growth in those areas. Whether the projects are intended for individual, school, or community growth, students will engage in positive leadership practices that require peer collaboration. ****Available only at Scripps & Waldon****

WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) This class has a goal of making the school a better place, especially for our 6th graders. As a member in WEB you'll be a leader at Oakview Middle School, you'll gain leadership experience, learn about different leadership styles, and practice leadership skills like public speaking, active listening, asking important questions, and developing a vision for how to help others. Application is required. ****Available only at Oakview****

Forensic Science In this engaging and hands-on course, students will explore the fascinating world of forensic science and crime scene investigation. Through scientific inquiry, critical thinking, and problem-solving, students will learn how forensic experts analyze evidence to solve mysteries. Topics include fingerprint analysis, DNA profiling, forensic anthropology, blood spatter analysis, and crime scene reconstruction. Students will conduct lab experiments, analyze case studies, and work collaboratively to solve simulated crimes. ****Available at Waldon****

Theater Step into the spotlight with this exciting class designed to ignite your passion for theater! Discover the fascinating world of drama while diving into fun, hands-on activities that build leadership, teamwork, and creativity. You'll explore every aspect of theater, including acting, set design, costume design, improvisation, storytelling, and scriptwriting.

Whether you're an aspiring star or simply curious about the magic of the stage, this class promises to inspire, entertain, and unleash your creativity! ****Available at Waldon****

Math Lab Math Lab focuses on providing students with a variety of essential skills and experiences to support and enrich their mathematics development. It is designed to help students improve their mathematics work, by improving mathematics reasoning and number sense. This course includes computational and problem-solving skills, the number system, ratios and proportional relationships. Math Lab is available to students based on student data and teacher recommendations only.

Middle Level Special Education LRC Course Descriptions

LRC ELA The Learning Resource Center (LRC) English Language Arts (ELA) class is designed to support middle school students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) in developing essential reading, writing, and communication skills. Instruction is individualized and aligned with Common Core state standards, while also targeting each student's IEP goals and objectives to ensure meaningful progress. Eligibility for this class is determined by the IEP team, which considers the student's individual needs, strength, and goals when making Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) placement decisions.

This class counts as Resource Program time per student's IEP. Students will engage with diverse texts, including fiction, nonfiction, and informational materials, to strengthen reading fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary. Writing instruction will focus on key state standards, such as producing clear and coherent writing, using appropriate grammar and conventions, and developing ideas effectively. Activities are tailored to meet IEP objectives while also addressing grade-level expectations outlined in Common Core state standards.

The course incorporates technology, hands-on activities, and collaborative projects to create an engaging and supportive learning environment. Regular progress monitoring and feedback ensure students are meeting their IEP goals and advancing toward state-standard benchmarks, empowering them to achieve academic success and build lifelong literacy skills.

LRC Math Math class is designed to support middle school students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) who require additional assistance in building math skills. Eligibility for this class is determined by the IEP team, which considers the student's individual needs, strength, and goals when making Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) placement decisions. This class counts as Resource Program time per student's IEP. This class focuses on helping students achieve their IEP goals and objectives while aligning instruction with Common Core state standards. Students will develop skills in foundational and grade-level math concepts, including number system, expression and equations, functions, geometry, as well statistics and probability. Instruction is personalized and delivered through a combination of small-group lessons, hands-on activities, and technology to provide meaningful learning experiences. Progress monitoring and regular feedback ensure that students make measurable progress toward their IEP goals and Common Core benchmarks. The LRC Math class fosters confidence, independence, and success in mathematics by addressing each student's unique learning profile.

Middle School Team-Taught Class The Middle School Team-Taught class provides a supportive and inclusive learning environment where students of all abilities work toward mastering grade-level content. This class is co-taught by a general education teacher and a special education teacher, who collaborate to deliver differentiated instruction that meets the diverse needs of all learners. Using a combination of whole-group, small-group, and individualized instruction, the course emphasizes active participation, skill development, and academic success. Lessons are aligned with Common Core state standards and curriculum, ensuring that all students have access to rigorous and meaningful learning opportunities. Students who receive special education services have their Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals supported within the general education setting, fostering growth in both academic and functional skills. With a focus on collaboration, technology integration, and real-world applications, the team-taught class encourages student engagement, builds confidence, and promotes success in a shared learning environment. This class counts as Resource Program time per student's IEP.

Middle School LRC Lab The Learning Resource Center (LRC) Lab class is designed to provide middle school students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) targeted support in achieving their IEP goals and objectives. This class focuses on addressing each student's specific academic, organizational, and functional needs in a structured and supportive environment. Eligibility for this class is determined by the IEP team, which considers the student's individual needs, strength, and goals when making Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) placement decisions. This class counts as Resource Program time per student's IEP. Students will receive individualized and small-group instruction tailored to their IEP goals, which may include improving skills in reading, writing, math, study strategies, and executive functioning. Instruction is aligned with the students' IEP objectives and provides opportunities for skill reinforcement, remediation, and enrichment. The LRC Lab integrates technology, hands-on learning, and progress monitoring to ensure students make measurable growth toward their individual goals. This class emphasizes building confidence, self-advocacy, and independence. It equips students with the tools and strategies they need to succeed in their academic and personal endeavors.

Middle Level Special Education ASD/CI Course Descriptions

Middle School Essential Math: Essential Elements Curriculum (IEP-Driven) This course is designed to support middle school students with individualized learning needs, following the Essential Elements curriculum and aligned with each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals. The course focuses on building essential math skills through hands-on activities, visual aids, and specially designed instruction to meet the unique strengths and challenges of each student. This class counts as ASD/CI program time per a student's IEP.

Students will work on foundational math concepts, including number sense, operations, fractions, decimals, geometry, measurement, and basic algebraic reasoning. Instruction will be differentiated to ensure that students can develop fluency in basic math operations while gaining a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts. A variety of tools, such as manipulatives, visual supports, and interactive exercises, will help students build confidence and skills at their own pace.

Through a combination of individual and group activities, students will strengthen problem-solving skills, learn to apply math in real-world contexts, and make connections between mathematical concepts. Instruction will be personalized based on IEP goals, with targeted support to address each student's specific learning needs and challenges. Frequent feedback and ongoing assessment will guide student progress and instruction while ensuring that each student is achieving their personal learning objectives.

The course will also focus on building functional math skills that students can apply in daily life, preparing them for future academic challenges and real-world situations. By using differentiated strategies, interactive activities, and a supportive learning environment, this course ensures that all students have the tools and opportunities they need to succeed in math.

By the end of the course, students will have made progress toward their IEP goals, developed foundational math skills, and gained confidence in their ability to approach and solve math problems.

Middle School Essential English Language Arts: Essential Elements Curriculum (IEP-Driven) This course is designed to support middle school students with individualized learning needs, following the Essential Elements curriculum and aligned with their Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals. It focuses on building foundational skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening, with an emphasis on specially designed instruction to meet each student's unique strengths and challenges. This class counts as ASD/CI program time per a student's IEP.

Students will engage with a variety of accessible texts, including fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, while working on key skills such as identifying main ideas, understanding text structure, and drawing conclusions. Differentiated instruction and hands-on activities will help students develop reading comprehension and listening strategies, including the ability to make inferences, summarize key points, and connect ideas across texts.

In writing, students will focus on producing clear and organized responses, with an emphasis on developing their ability to express ideas using correct grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary. Writing assignments will be tailored to student's unique levels, and they will receive frequent feedback to build confidence and improve their written communication skills.

The course also includes speaking and listening activities that encourage students to participate in discussions, share ideas, and practice active listening. Students will have opportunities to present their thoughts in a variety of formats, from one-on-one conversations to group discussions. IEP goals will be incorporated into all aspects of the curriculum, ensuring that students receive targeted support and accommodations to foster success. Through continuous assessment, collaborative learning, and individualized support, students will develop critical language arts skills at their own pace, preparing them for future academic achievements.

By the end of the course, students will have made progress toward their IEP goals, strengthened their literacy skills, and gained confidence in their ability to communicate effectively.

Middle School Essential Life Skills: Essential Elements Curriculum (IEP-Driven) This course is designed to help middle school students develop essential life skills, with personalized instruction based on the Essential Elements curriculum and aligned with each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals. The focus is on practical, real-world skills that will help students become more independent, responsible, and prepared for everyday life. This class counts as ASD/CI program time per a student's IEP.

Students will engage in activities that promote functional skills in areas such as personal care, communication, social interactions, time management, money management, safety, and basic job readiness. Lessons will incorporate hands-on learning, role-playing, and interactive exercises to reinforce key concepts and provide opportunities for students to practice these skills in a supportive, structured environment.

The curriculum is tailored to meet the diverse needs of students, with instruction that adapts to each individual's strengths and areas for growth. Students will receive targeted support to achieve their IEP goals while working on skills like decision-making, problem-solving, organization, and self-advocacy. Additionally, students will work on building self-esteem and confidence through positive reinforcement, feedback, and real-life applications of their learning.

Throughout the course, students will also practice communication skills, including how to express needs and interact appropriately with peers and adults. Life skills related to health and safety, such as understanding healthy habits, recognizing dangerous situations, and knowing how to seek help when needed, will also be integrated into the curriculum.

By the end of the course, students will have made progress toward their IEP goals and gained practical skills that will support their personal development, independence, and success in everyday life. This course equips students with the tools they need to navigate the world around them with confidence and competence.

Middle School Essential Science and Social Studies: Essential Elements Curriculum (IEP-Driven) This course is designed to provide middle school students with a comprehensive understanding of science and social studies concepts, following the Essential Elements or modified Common Core Curriculum standards and aligned with each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals. The class focuses on building foundational knowledge in both subjects while providing hands-on, engaging activities that are tailored to meet the diverse learning needs of students. This class counts as ASD/CI program time per a student's IEP.

In science, students will explore basic concepts in physical science, earth science, and life science. They will engage in experiments, investigations, and interactive lessons that allow them to explore the natural world, understand scientific principles, and develop critical thinking skills. Emphasis will be placed on inquiry-based learning, encouraging students to ask questions, make observations, and draw conclusions based on evidence.

In social studies, students will study key historical events, geography, and the principles of civics. Lessons will explore topics such as American history, world geography, government systems, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Activities will include examining maps, discussing historical events, and exploring the cultural diversity that shapes our

society. Real-world connections will be made to help students understand how history and geography influence the present world around them.

The course is designed to meet each student's individual IEP goals through differentiated instruction, targeted support, and hands-on activities that reinforce learning. Students will receive personalized attention to build their understanding of core concepts, improve their reading comprehension, and develop communication skills related to both science and social studies topics. Frequent assessments and feedback will ensure that progress is tracked and individualized support is provided.

By the end of the course, students will have made progress toward their IEP goals and gained a foundational understanding of scientific and social studies concepts. They will develop the skills needed to think critically, analyze information, and apply their knowledge to real-world situations, laying the groundwork for future academic success.