

Richards Middle School



Program of Study

Honor the Castle

Program of Study



Scheduling Overview

7th and 8th Grade Academic Course Offerings

Supported Academic Course Offerings

Elective Course Offerings

Updated 1/2026

Scheduling Overview

There are seven periods in a school day. Four periods will consist of the following Core Academic Classes.

*** Math * Language Arts**
*** Science * Social Studies**

Seminar will consist of one period.

The remaining two periods will consist of **Exploratory classes** and other required classes*.

All students must take Quest (20 weeks).*

Exploratory Classes:

Band (40 weeks) Physical Education (20 weeks)

2D or 3D Art (20 weeks) Choir (40 weeks)

Computer Literacy (20 weeks) Industrial Technology Exploration (20 weeks) Introduction to Health Science (20 weeks) Foods & Nutrition/ Sewing Exploration (20 weeks)

***Advanced PE, Drafting, Spanish, and Exploration II classes are typically 8th Grade courses.

- **Music students will take either Band or Choir, Quest, and a choice of either Physical Education or another exploratory class.**
- **Non-Music students will be scheduled into Quest, Physical Education, and two other exploratory classes.**

NOTE: If music students do not take Physical Education in 7th grade, it will be required in 8th Grade.

7th and 8th Grade Academic

Course Offerings

Course Name	Course Number	Description
LANG ARTS 7A LANG ARTS 7B	MS0700 MS0701	Seventh grade English studies a variety of fiction and informational texts using an integrated thematic approach that includes novels, short stories, drama, and informational articles. Deep comprehension, literary elements and techniques, vocabulary development and grammar are stressed. The writing process is utilized to help create summary, short essays, informative, and argumentative pieces.
Length of Course	1 Semester Each (A and B)	
Prerequisite	7th Grade Standing or Meet Advanced 6th Grade Criteria	
Course Notes and Materials	Course Materials Provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
LANG ARTS 8A LANG ARTS 8B	MS0800 MS0801	Eighth grade English studies a variety of fiction and information texts using an integrated thematic approach that includes novels, short stories, poetry, informational articles, and editorials. Critical thinking skills, deep comprehension, literary elements and vocabulary development are stressed. The writing process is utilized to produce narrative, informative and persuasive writing pieces that incorporate content, organization, proper grammar and appropriate writer’s craft.
Length of Course	1 Semester Each (A and B)	
Prerequisite	8th Grade Standing or Meet Advanced 7th Grade Criteria	
Course Notes and Materials	Course Materials Provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
READ 180 A READ 180 B	MS1814 MS1815	READ 180 is a structured literacy intervention course designed to support students in improving reading skills and comprehension. The course focuses on building foundational reading skills, vocabulary development, and fluency through personalized, data-driven instruction. Students engage in a combination of teacher-led instruction, independent reading, and adaptive digital learning to accelerate literacy growth and support success in core academic classes.
Length of Course	1 Semester Each (A and B)	
Prerequisite	7th or 8th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	Students are placed into the program based on District Benchmark Assessments and/or M-STEP scores. READ 180 focuses on intervention for the struggling reader. Students will further develop their skills in reading, writing, spelling, grammar, and vocabulary through a comprehensive program by use of rotations. These rotations include a whole group lesson, use of computer software, independent reading, and small groups in which students work directly with the teacher. Materials provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
MATH 7A MATH 7B	MS2702 MS2703	Envision is a proven effective math series used in math classes grades 7-12. Deep conceptual understanding is aided by visual models and personalized learning. Vertical alignment helps schools address the Common Core Mathematical State Standards. Envision is rooted in problem-based learning, cutting edge digital support, and family engagement resources. Additionally, Envision makes math relevant to students with new resources to encourage student choice and to support learning both in the classroom and at home. Canvas, student workbooks, lesson practice and problem-solving, topic assessments, and digital MathXL are utilized to meet the learning targets.
Length of Course	1 Semester Each (A and B)	
Prerequisite	7th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	Envision Math Resources	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
ACCELERATED MATH 7A ACCELERATED MATH 7B	MS2721 MS2722	Advanced Math 7 is an accelerated mathematics course for students ready for increased rigor and faster pacing. Using the Envision math series, instruction emphasizes deep conceptual understanding through visual models, problem-based learning, and real-world applications. Students engage with Canvas, workbooks, MathXL, collaborative problem-solving, and topic assessments to meet advanced learning targets aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Successful completion of Advanced Math 7 prepares students to enroll in Algebra in 8th grade.
Length of Course	1 Semester Each (A and B)	
Prerequisite	7th Grade Standing or Meet Advanced 6th Grade Criteria	
Course Notes and Materials	Envision Math Resources	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
MATH 8A MATH 8B	MS2702 MS2703	Envision is a proven effective math series used in math classes grades 7-12. Deep conceptual understanding is aided by visual models and personalized learning. Vertical alignment helps schools address the Common Core Mathematical State Standards. Envision is rooted in problem-based learning, cutting edge digital support, and family engagement resources. Additionally, Envision makes math relevant to students with new resources to encourage student choice and to support learning both in the classroom and at home. Canvas, student workbooks, lesson practice and problem-solving, topic assessments, and digital MathXL are utilized to meet the learning targets.
Length of Course	1 Semester Each (A and B)	
Prerequisite	8th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	Envision Math Resources	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
ALGEBRA 1A ALGEBRA 2B	MS2141 MS2142	This course will focus on presenting problem-solving as its foundation, and introduce algebraic techniques as the tools of problem-solving. Algebra topics, as mandated by the National Common Core Standards, include fundamental operations, properties of real and complex numbers, factoring, solving and graphing functions (i.e. linear, quadratic, and exponential), inequalities, exponents, and ratio/proportion will be integrated with geometry, trigonometry, probability, statistics and data analysis. Algebraic modeling of meaningful real-world situations will be introduced, and functions will be used as a unifying theme. Technology (scientific and/or graphing calculators and computers) will be utilized, and reasoning, communication, and mathematical connections will be emphasized.
Length of Course	1 Semester Each (A and B)	
Prerequisite	Students must have successful completion of the Accelerated Math 7 course or 7th grade Assessment scores of at minimum of 90% on all modules, as well as successful completion of the RMS Math summer program.	
	SAAVAS Envision Math Resources	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
MATH 180 A MATH 180 B	MS2827 MS2828	Math 180 is a targeted mathematics intervention course designed to support students in building foundational math skills and confidence. The course focuses on strengthening number sense, problem-solving, and mathematical reasoning through personalized, data-driven instruction. Using adaptive digital tools, small-group instruction, and targeted practice, Math 180 helps students close learning gaps and make measurable progress toward grade-level math standards.
Length of Course	1 Semester Each (A and B)	
Prerequisite	7th or 8th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	Students are placed into the program based on District Benchmark Assessments and/or M-STEP scores. Math 180 focuses on intervention for the struggling mathematician. Students will further develop their skills in computation, fluency, problem-solving and graphing through a comprehensive program by use of rotations. These rotations include a whole group lesson, use of computer software, independent practice, and small groups in which students work directly with the teacher. Materials provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
SCIENCE 7A SCIENCE 7B	MS3700 MS3701	The seventh-grade science course is a course that revolves around the use of and understanding of application of our 6 Competencies which directly reflect the National Science and Engineering Practices. The Competency focus is on 1) Carrying out Investigations, 2) Developing Models 3) Applying Mathematical Thinking 4) Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions 5) Engaging in an Argument with Evidence 6) Communicating Information. We will use the Content Topics of (Chemistry, CER, Genetics, Body Systems, And Physics) to be able to teach and master the competencies listed.
Length of Course	1 Semester Each (A and B)	
Prerequisite	7th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	Course Materials Provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
SCIENCE 8A SCIENCE 8B	MS3820 MS3821	The eighth-grade science course is a course that revolves around the use of and understanding of application of our 6 Competencies which directly reflect the National Science and Engineering Practices. The Competency focus is on 1) Carrying out Investigations, 2) Developing Models 3) Applying Mathematical Thinking 4) Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions 5) Engaging in an Argument with Evidence 6) Communicating Information. We will use the Content Topics of (Physics, Earth Science) to be able to teach and master the competencies listed.
Length of Course	1 Semester Each (A and B)	
Prerequisite	8th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	Course Materials Provided	

Supported Academic Course Offerings

Course Name	Course Number	Description
GENERAL ELA A GENERAL ELA B	MS0072 MS0073	This program is based on cumulative skill development in the targeted areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency. Students are instructed according to their appropriate skill level. Once skills are taught, students receive practice in applying those skills. The writing process is utilized through formal paragraph writing through the argument, persuasive, and narrative lens. The difficulty of material increases gradually but steadily throughout the course.
Length of Course	1 Semester Each (A and B)	
Prerequisite	7th or 8th Grade Approved Special Education Status	
Course Notes and Materials	Course Materials Provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
SUPPORTED ELA 7A SUPPORTED ELA 7B	MS0018 MS0019	This program is based on cumulative skill development in the targeted areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency. Students are instructed according to their appropriate skill level. Once skills are taught, students receive practice in applying those skills. The writing process is utilized through formal paragraph writing through the argument, persuasive, and narrative lens. The difficulty of material increases gradually but steadily throughout the course.
Length of Course	1 Semester Each (A and B)	
Prerequisite	7th Grade Approved Special Education Status	
Course Notes and Materials	Course Materials Provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
SUPPORTED ELA 8A SUPPORTED ELA 8B	MS0064 MS0065	This program is based on cumulative skill development in the targeted areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency. Students are instructed according to their appropriate skill level. Once skills are taught, students receive practice in applying those skills. The writing process is utilized through formal paragraph writing through the argument, persuasive, and narrative lens. The difficulty of material increases gradually but steadily throughout the course.
Length of Course	1 Semester Each (A and B)	
Prerequisite	8th Grade Approved Special Education Status	
Course Notes and Materials	Course Materials Provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
GENERAL MATH A GENERAL MATH B	MS0070 MS0071	This course is designed to address the individual needs of each student and prepare them to meet the Common Core Standards. Student’s progress is monitored to ensure mastery of concepts before advancing to the next level. This program emphasizes multiplication/division, fractions, integers, equations, geometry, and graphing.
Length of Course	1 Semester Each (A and B)	
Prerequisite	7th or 8th Grade Approved Special Education Status	
Course Notes and Materials	Course Materials Provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
SUPPORTED MATH I, II, III, IV A SUPPORTED MATH I, II, III, IV B	MS0078 - MS0079 (I) MS0080-MS0081 (II) <u>MS0082 - MS0083 (III)</u> MS0084-MS0085 (IV)	This course is designed to address the individual needs of each student and prepare them to meet the Common Core Standards. Student’s progress is monitored to ensure mastery of concepts before advancing to the next level. This program emphasizes multiplication/division, fractions, integers, equations, geometry, and graphing.
Length of Course	1 Semester Each (A and B)	
Prerequisite	7th or 8th Grade Approved Special Education Status	
Course Notes and Materials	Course Materials Provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
GENERAL SCIENCE A GENERAL SCIENCE B	MS0076 MS0077	This course is designed to expand the student's knowledge in the areas of biology, earth, and physical science. This curriculum is based on targeted areas and differentiated to meet the needs of the students. Areas of study include cells, plants, animals, invertebrates, vertebrates and lab work including identification of rocks and minerals, weather, matter, and electricity. Special materials are selected to accommodate the individual needs of the student.
Length of Course	1 Semester Each (A and B)	
Prerequisite	7th or 8th Grade Approved Special Education Status	
Course Notes and Materials	Course Materials Provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
GENERAL SOC. STUD A GENERAL SOC. STUD B	MS0074 MS0075	This course is designed to expand the student's knowledge in the areas of American History and Geography. In American History, students study Colonial America, the Revolutionary War, Government, and the Civil War. In Geography, students learn about major landforms, weather and climate, five themes of geography, population and cultures of eastern and western hemispheres. Special materials are selected to accommodate the individual needs of the student.
Length of Course	1 Semester Each (A and B)	
Prerequisite	7th or 8th Grade Approved Special Education Status	
Course Notes and Materials	Course Materials Provided	

7th and 8th Grade Elective

Course Offerings

Course Name	Course Number	Description
2D Art	MS7900	Discover the fundamentals of 2D art in this creative middle school course! Students will explore drawing, painting, collage, and printmaking while learning techniques in line, shape, color, texture, and composition. Through hands-on projects, experiment with a variety of materials and methods to express creativity and develop artistic skills. No prior experience is needed—just bring your imagination!
Length of Course	1 Semester	
Prerequisite	7th or 8th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	Course Materials Provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
3D Art	MS7901	In this one semester course, students in the 3D Art course will explore the exciting world of sculpture through both additive and subtractive techniques. Using diverse materials such as clay, fibers, plaster, wood, wire, and more, students will bring their creative visions to life. The course includes the study of renowned artists known for their 3D works, blending hands-on art production with engaging lessons in art history, criticism, and aesthetics. This highly experimental class encourages innovation and will occasionally require students to provide some of their own materials.
Length of Course	1 Semester	
Prerequisite	7th or 8th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	Course Materials Provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
Boys' Physical Education	MS4900	The program is centered around team sports with a major emphasis placed on basic skills. Units in the activities listed below range from two weeks to four weeks. It is expected that each student will gain a basic understanding of physical fitness and its value in everyday life. Activities included flag football, slow pitch softball, track and field, basketball, volleyball, co-ed volleyball, team handball, co-ed week, and physical fitness. In all of the sports that are offered, students will learn the origin and development of the sport, use of equipment, basic rules, techniques and fundamentals, playing strategy, safety, and etiquette of the contest. Students should provide a combination lock, towel, athletic shoes, socks, shorts, and t-shirts and sweat clothing for outdoor activities.
Length of Course	1 Semester	
Prerequisite	7th or 8th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	Special Equipment Provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
Girls' Physical Education	MS4901	The program is centered around team sports with a major emphasis placed on basic skills. Units in the activities listed below range from two weeks to four weeks. It is expected that each student will gain a basic understanding of physical fitness and its value in everyday life. Activities included flag football, slow pitch softball, track and field, basketball, volleyball, co-ed volleyball, team handball, co-ed week, and physical fitness. In all of the sports that are offered, students will learn the origin and development of the sport, use of equipment, basic rules, techniques and fundamentals, playing strategy, safety, and etiquette of the contest. Students should provide a combination lock, towel, athletic shoes, socks, shorts, and t-shirts and sweat clothing for outdoor activities.
Length of Course	1 Semester	
Prerequisite	7th or 8th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	Special Equipment Provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
Advanced Physical Education	MS4902	The Advanced Physical Education class focuses on two main areas: fitness and the development/refinement of sports skills. The fitness component emphasizes building muscular strength, endurance, flexibility, and overall physical wellness. Students will learn proper form and safety techniques to develop lifelong healthy habits. The sports skills component allows students to explore a variety of team sports and learn more in-depth fundamentals and techniques. Through drills, practice sessions, and gameplay, students will enhance their skills and understanding of strategies unique to each sport. Team sports activities will emphasize collaboration, communication, and leadership. Group challenges and cooperative exercises encourage students to build social skills, support their peers, and develop a strong sense of teamwork.
Length of Course	1 Semester	
Prerequisite	Boys' or Girls' PE - 8th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	Special Equipment Provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
Introduction to Health Science	MS4905	Introduction to Health Science introduces students to the healthcare system and explores the five major healthcare service clusters. Students will learn about career opportunities, required skills, and the responsibilities of healthcare professionals, helping them understand how the healthcare system works and how individuals contribute to patient care. Students will participate in hands-on labs to practice basic healthcare skills. This course builds foundational knowledge for students interested in pursuing health-related careers.
Length of Course	1 Semester	
Prerequisite	7th or 8th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	Course Materials Provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
QUEST 7	MS0074	Quest is a one semester required class that focuses on the health and well being of our young people. It strives to help students develop a respect for life, for themselves, and for others. This class develops important life and citizenship skills in young people. The following seven major themes are covered in this class: understanding changes during adolescence, self-confidence, managing feelings, friendships and peer pressure, getting along with family, decision making, and drug and AIDS/HIV awareness. The AIDS curriculum will be taught in Quest class. Parents who wish to have their child excluded from this unit of instruction may request so in writing to the principal. A service-learning project will be included in the program. A parent text that correlates with the classroom units will be available upon request.
Length of Course	1 Semester	
Prerequisite	7th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	<u>Changes and Challenges</u>	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
Industrial Technology Exploration I	MS5803	Industrial Technology Exploration 1 is a twenty-week class where students will explore various technology careers. You will receive safety and skills knowledge and then apply that in a lab designed for that field. After the exploration of each, you will spend time diving deeper into careers that interest you with woodworking, welding, mechanical design, electronics, and engine technology.
Length of Course	1 Semester	
Prerequisite	7th or 8th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	Course Materials Provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
Industrial Technology Exploration II	MS5804	Industrial Technology Exploration 1 is a twenty-week class where students will explore various technology careers. You will receive safety and skills knowledge and then apply that in a lab designed for that field. After the exploration of each, you will spend time diving deeper into careers that interest you with woodworking, welding, mechanical design, electronics, and engine technology.
Length of Course	1 Semester	
Prerequisite	Industrial Technology Exploration I	
Course Notes and Materials	Course Materials Provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
Drafting	MS5810	The primary purpose of the middle school drafting program is to expose the student generally to as many aspects of mechanical drawing as possible. The objective is not to develop a draftsman, but to allow the students to be aware of the many varied methods of graphic illustration used in the area of drafting. The student will get a brief look at: 1. Proper use of drafting instruments and equipment 2. Dimensioning and lettering 3. Drawing to scale 4. Orthographic projection 5. Pictorial drawing a. Isometric b. Oblique 6. Geometric construction 7. Basic architectural drawing
Length of Course	1 Semester	
Prerequisite	8th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	<u>Exploring Drafting</u>	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
Foods, Nutrition/Sewing Exploration I	MS6702	This Family and Consumer Science class focuses on two units: Foods and Sewing. The Foods unit provides an introduction to safety and sanitation practices, basic kitchen math skills, nutrition through the lifespan, and international cooking. Each of these topics allows for hands-on experience directly in the kitchen through cooking labs. In the Sewing Unit, students gain knowledge in caring for their clothing properly, based on the fiber. Students also gain experience on a sewing machine through understanding of the proper uses of the machine and by creating a project. Students also gain experience in hand sewing by creating a project.
Length of Course	1 Semester	
Prerequisite	7th or 8th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	<u>Young Living</u>	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
Foods, Nutrition/Sewing Exploration II	MS6703	In this Family and Consumer Science course (Foods, Nutrition, and Sewing II) consist of four units that teaches students to analyze real-life situations and apply what they learn through hands-on cooking and sewing labs. Students evaluate kitchen safety and sanitation practices, analyze nutrition information and food labels, and apply cooking skills such as measuring, knife skills, and different cooking methods. Students also apply problem-solving and teamwork during kitchen labs, explore foods from different cultures, and use sewing machines to complete beginner projects. Throughout the course, students analyze how these skills connect to careers in the Family & Consumer Sciences pathway and everyday life.
Length of Course	1 Semester	
Prerequisite	Foods Nutrition/Sewing Exploration I	
Course Notes and Materials	<u>Today's Teen</u>	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
Computer Literacy	MS2710	Students will improve their technology proficiency using 21st century resources in a hands-on and performance-based environment. This class will prepare the students to communicate, solve problems, evaluate, and create information to improve learning in all subject areas. Computer Literacy will utilize International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standards to develop these skills. Online collaborative communication, and the use of digital media, will enhance student learning. Digital citizenship is emphasized throughout the course.
Length of Course	1 Semester	
Prerequisite	7th or 8th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	Course Materials Provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
Introduction to Computer Science	MS2836	In this one semester course, students will explore the fundamentals of coding. They will strengthen their computational thinking skills, be exposed to multiple coding languages, and learn basic coding vocabulary. Students will spend time exploring career paths for coding and computer science. They will be able to program on Swift, the programming language used to create apps for Apple products. Students will also explore animation as it relates to coding, be able to program Sphero robots, and work with Tinkercad as they utilize our 3D printers.
Length of Course	1 Semester	
Prerequisite	8th Grade Standing/Staff Member Recommendation. Meets all technology usage expectations and AUP.	
Course Notes and Materials	Course Materials Provided and MacBook	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
SPANISH 1A SPANISH 2B	MS2834	A beginning course, which introduces the basic structure of Spanish. Students will study the Spanish language and culture, concentrating on listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Cultural studies will include Spanish cuisine, schools, family life, leisure time activities, and geography.
Length of Course	1 Semester	
Prerequisite	8th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	Course Materials Provided	

ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES MAY BE OFFERED

Course Name	Course Number	Description
<u>CHORUS A</u> <u>CHORUS B</u>	MS8740 MS 8741	This is a beginning vocal class for middle school students. No experience is required. The fundamentals of good vocal production, diction and pitch are stressed. Students will learn the basics of reading music, which include but are not limited to rhythm, key signatures, time signatures and beginning sight-reading. There are two major performances each semester in which students are required to participate. Specific dress for concerts is required. An opportunity to attend Solo and Ensemble Festival is available to students who enroll in the full-year choir class.
Length of Course	1 Semester Each (A and B)	
Prerequisite	7th or 8th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	Music Provided	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
BAND 71AA BANDN 71AB	MS8020 MS8021	Seventh grade band is a continuation of the instrumental music program, which began in the fifth/sixth grade. This class, which meets daily and for the entire year, stresses the technical development of the individual student on their respective instrument. Music theory is also an important aspect of the class. Emphasized are key signatures, major scales, and rhythms. By the end of the school year each student is expected to attain proficiency in these three areas. Playing proficiency requirements for the year consist of all major scales. The class is open for any student already playing an instrument, or to new students, with the instructor's approval. The band currently gives two major performances each year in addition to performing at other school functions. Attendance at all programs is mandatory. A concert dress code is in effect for all band members.
Length of Course	1 Semester Each (A and B)	
Prerequisite	7th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	Essential Elements 200 Book I & II and students must have individual instrument.	

Course Name	Course Number	Description
BAND 81AA BANDN 81AB	MS8020 MS8021	Eighth grade band expands on those skills which were developed in seventh grade band in both performance and music theory. Emphasis this year begins to include the musical qualities of performance along with furthering each student's technical abilities. Playing proficiency requirements for the year consist of all major, minor, and chromatic scales. The class is open to any students continuing in the band program, and to any other students with the instructor's approval. The band currently gives two major performances each year in addition to performing at other school functions. Attendance at all programs is mandatory. A concert dress code is in effect for all band members.
Length of Course	1 Semester Each (A and B)	
Prerequisite	8th Grade Standing	
Course Notes and Materials	Music and Materials provided. Students must have individual instrument.	

