



**LEE BURNESON  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
COURSE GUIDE**

[www.wlake.org](http://www.wlake.org)

**2026-2027**

**Educate for Excellence**

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# Letter from the Principal

## Welcome to the 2026-2027 Course Selection Process

Dear Students and Families,

As the school year progresses, we are already looking forward to the future! The 2026-2027 academic year will be here before we know it, and we are pleased to share a vital resource for your child's educational journey: the 7th and 8th Grade Course Guide.

### Exploring Your Options

The Course Guide is designed to help students and parents make informed decisions regarding course selections, educational pathways, and LBMS course requirements. It serves as a comprehensive overview of our curriculum, including:

- Detailed course descriptions
- Prerequisites for advanced tracks
- Potential academic pathways

We encourage you to review the Course Guide together with your child. This collaborative effort empowers students to take ownership of their academic plan and fosters a sense of responsibility for their learning.

### Scheduling Updates

Our spring scheduling process is now well underway. Teachers and counselors are currently working with families to develop schedules that balance academic challenge with the necessary support for each student's individual needs.

Please note the following regarding scheduling information:

- Grade level specific scheduling information webinar recordings were shared on ParentSquare and posted to the LBMS website on February 20th. These sessions provided grade level-specific expectations for incoming 7th and 8th graders. We highly recommend viewing the recordings to stay informed on the upcoming transition.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring the success of our students. We look forward to guiding your child toward a fulfilling and enriching experience this fall at Lee Burneson Middle School.

Demon Proud,



Brittany Meczka  
Principal, LBMS



# Office Staff

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**School Counselors:**

**Ms. Molly Pellerite** (*Class of 2032*)

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**Mrs. Saskia Romeo** (*Class of 2031*)

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**School Psychologist**

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**School-based Licensed Social Worker**

**Mrs. Alicia Singer**

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# WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS

## Portrait of a Lifelong Learner

### INTEGRITY

- Develops empathy and social awareness to understand how behaviors and actions impact others.
- Exhibits character development and demonstrates the ability to take action for the greater good.
- Listens to understand others' perspectives and contemplates problems through a variety of lenses, locally and globally.

### GLOBALLY-MINDED

- Explores differences and diversity in the world with sensitivity.
- Collaborates and works with others to reach a united goal.
- Contemplates how our actions impact the world and the people around us.

### RESILIENT

- Perseveres and adapts during times of adversity or stress - such as family or relationship problems, health problems and uncertainty.
- Exhibits courage and strength in the face of fear.
- Shows tenacity in the pursuit of goals despite obstacles and challenges that they may face.

### EMOTIONALLY INTELLIGENT

- Possesses self-awareness and is able to manage thoughts and feelings with maturity.
- Applies social skills and remains in tune with the feelings of others around them.
- Practices empathy for an understanding of others' perspectives.



### INNOVATIVE

- Engages in problem solving and remains resourceful while thinking critically.
- Promotes intellectual curiosity.
- Uncovers new ideas and forms solutions to contribute meaningful and impactful changes for themselves and others.

### BALANCED

- Expresses a connection between physical well-being and conscious decisions that lead to a healthy lifestyle.
- Establishes and maintains positive relationships by being mindful of others.
- Retains the ability to organize and self-regulate the demands of daily life.

### COMMUNICATOR

- Listens actively and responds to show understanding.
- Utilizes a variety of methods to effectively convey ideas.
- Formulates a well-crafted response that is rooted in well-researched ideas.

### PURPOSE

- Commits to future goals and pursues them vigorously.
- Displays determination in all aspects of life.
- Makes decisions that help to achieve self-fulfillment.



# Introduction

## Mission Statement

We Educate for Excellence... Empowering all students to achieve their educational goals, to direct their lives, and to contribute to society.

## Vision Statement

The Westlake City School District will provide a dynamic, student-centered, 21st Century learning environment. Our district will be characterized by high achievement, actively engaged learners, mutual respect, shared knowledge, pursuit of new skills and capabilities, collaborative learning, willingness to take action, a team commitment to data-driven continuous improvement, and tangible results.

## Board of Education

Mrs. Liz Pirnat  
Mr. Brad Lamb  
Mr. Alex Brown  
Mr. John Finucane  
Mr. Joseph Kraft

## Central Office

Dr. Scott Goggin, Superintendent  
Mr. Adam House, Director of Business Affairs  
Mrs. Amanda Musselman, Associate Superintendent of Instruction  
Mr. Paul Wilson, Director of Secondary Education  
Mrs. Jane Perry, Director of Student Services



# Grading Scale

Letter grades are assigned at the end of each quarter or semester.

Letter Grade	Percentage Grade	Point Value Regular Course	Point Value for High School Honors or College Credit Plus Courses (Honors Geometry or any CCP)
A+	97-100	4.33	5.33
A	93-96	4.00	5.00 Superior Rating
A-	90-92	3.67	4.67
B+	87-89	3.33	4.33
B	83-86	3.00	4.00 High Rating
B-	80-82	2.67	3.67
C+	77-79	2.33	2.33
C	73-76	2.00	2.00
C-	70-72	1.67	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33	1.33
D	63-66	1.00	1.00
D-	60-62	0.67	0.67
F	00-59	0.00	0.00



## Program Pathways

Subjects	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
<b>Math</b> (2 years required)	Mathematics 7 or Mathematics 7B/8A - Pre-Algebra or Algebra I * or Geometry * or Honors Geometry * or Honors Algebra II*	Mathematics 8 or Algebra I * or Geometry * or Honors Geometry * or Honors Algebra II*
<b>English Language Arts</b> (2 years required)	ELA 7 or Advanced ELA 7	ELA 8 or Advanced ELA 8
<b>Science</b> (2 years required)	Science 7 or Advanced Science 7	Science 8 or Advanced Science 8
<b>Social Studies</b> (2 years required)	World Studies 7 or Advanced World Studies 7	US Studies 8 or Advanced US Studies 8
<b>Physical Education</b> (Quarter)	Physical Education 7 (Quarter)	Physical Education 8 (Quarter)
<b>Health</b> (Quarter)	Total Wellness (Health) 7 (Quarter)	Health 8 (Quarter)
<b>World Languages</b>	French 7 (Semester) or Spanish 7 (Semester)	French 8 (Semester) or Spanish 8 (Semester) or French I* (Full Year) or Spanish I*(Full Year)
<b>Music</b>	Band 7 Choir 7 Orchestra 7	Band 8 Choir 8 Orchestra 8
<b>Art</b>	Art 7 (quarter)	Art 8 (quarter)
<b>STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering &amp; Math)</b>	Career Connections 7 (quarter) Automation & Robotics (quarter)	Career Connections 8 (quarter) App Creators (quarter)
<b>English as a Second Language</b>	ESL 7	ESL 8



\* Honors Algebra II, Honors Geometry, Geometry, Algebra I, French I, and Spanish I classes are offered for one high school credit. Enrollment in these classes will result in a grade on a high school transcript and a high school GPA. Accelerated placement into Algebra I provides a 30-day transition period. After the transition period is over, the student is “officially” placed into an above grade level course, this placement is final.

## Grade 7 Core Course Descriptions

### Language Arts 7

Language Arts 7 helps students develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Genres will include short stories, poetry, drama, nonfiction, and the novel. Writing will primarily center around the informative and argumentative essay. The course will also focus on grammar, mechanics, usage, and vocabulary.

### Advanced Language Arts 7

This course is an advanced ELA option open to students who meet our district’s qualification process. Students in Advanced Language Arts 7 should exhibit strong verbal ability, advanced writing skills, originality, high reading level, self-motivation, and classroom leadership. Students will continue to develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Genres will include short stories, poetry, drama, nonfiction, and the novel. Writing will primarily center around the informative and argumentative essay; students will need strong self-editing and self-reflection skills. The course will also focus on grammar, mechanics, usage, and vocabulary.

### Mathematics 7B/8A

This course is an advanced math option open to students who meet our district’s qualification process. In addition, students must possess strong math abilities and a sound work ethic capable of moving at a very quick instructional pace. The coursework for this class is presented through enrichment activities, as well as through traditional classroom experiences. The course will cover the Mathematics 7 course content as well as additional content covered in the Mathematical 8th grade curriculum. In addition to the Mathematics 7 content, these areas will be included: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations. (2) solving and graphing linear equations, while expanding the concept of slope. (3) understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. (4) calculating with exponents and real numbers.

*\*Successful completion of this course prepares students for Algebra I. Enrollment is contingent upon the district's acceleration approval process. To apply, parents/guardians must complete the Algebra I Acceleration application found in the Scheduling Google Form, linked in the student data letters and shared on ParentSquare.*

### Mathematics 7

In Grade 7, instruction time will focus on five critical areas: (1) developing and applying proportional relationships; (2) extending previous understandings of operations with fractions and decimals to other standards (3) use of properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions and solve equations and inequalities. (4) draw, construct, and describe geometric figures and the relationships between them while applying this knowledge to problems involving angles, circles, area, surface area, and volume (5) draw inferences about populations based on samples and investigate different probability models. Within each of these areas, application of real-world problems will be intertwined and analyzed.



## **Algebra I**

This course is an advanced math option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. Algebra I is a mathematical tool for problem solving. The students learn the general techniques for solving linear equations and systems of equations. They also learn to read and write mathematical sentences, reason in an orderly manner and choose the facts necessary for a solution to a problem. A TI-83 or TI-84 calculator is required, but the TI-84 is recommended.

*\*Students in this course, upon successful completion, will proceed into Honors Geometry the following year.*

*\*\*Enrollment in this class will result in a grade and credit on a high school transcript for Algebra I.*

## **Honors Geometry**

**Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra I**

This course is an advanced math option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. Geometry Honors is an accelerated course designed for the superior mathematics student. The course content is plane geometry with some solid geometry integrated into the program. Emphasis is placed on using direct and indirect methods of proof. Students who plan to progress in the Pre-Calculus Honors/AP Calculus track should take this course. A TI-83 or TI-84 calculator is required, but the TI-84 is recommended.

*\*Students in this course, upon successful completion, will proceed into Algebra II or Honors Algebra II the following year.*

*\*\*Enrollment in this class will result in a grade and credit on a high school transcript for Honors Geometry.*

## **World Studies 7**

World Studies 7 is an integrated study of world history beginning in Ancient Greece and continuing through global exploration (750 B.C. to 1600 A.D.). Students understand how historical events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic and political factors. This course will foster understanding of how ideas and events from the past have shaped the world today. Multiple resources and activities will be used to help students develop their abilities in content reading, note taking, essay writing and study skills.



## **Advanced World Studies 7**

This course is an advanced World Studies option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. Advanced World Studies 7 is an integrated study of world history beginning in Ancient Greece and continuing through global exploration (750 B.C. to 1600 A.D.). Students understand how historical events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic and political factors. This course will foster understanding of how ideas and events from the past have shaped the world today. Multiple resources and activities will be used to help students develop and extend their abilities in content reading, note taking, essay writing and study skills. This rigorous and fast-paced course will require additional research, student-led discussions and assignments, and incorporate higher-level reading and writing skills.

## **Science 7**

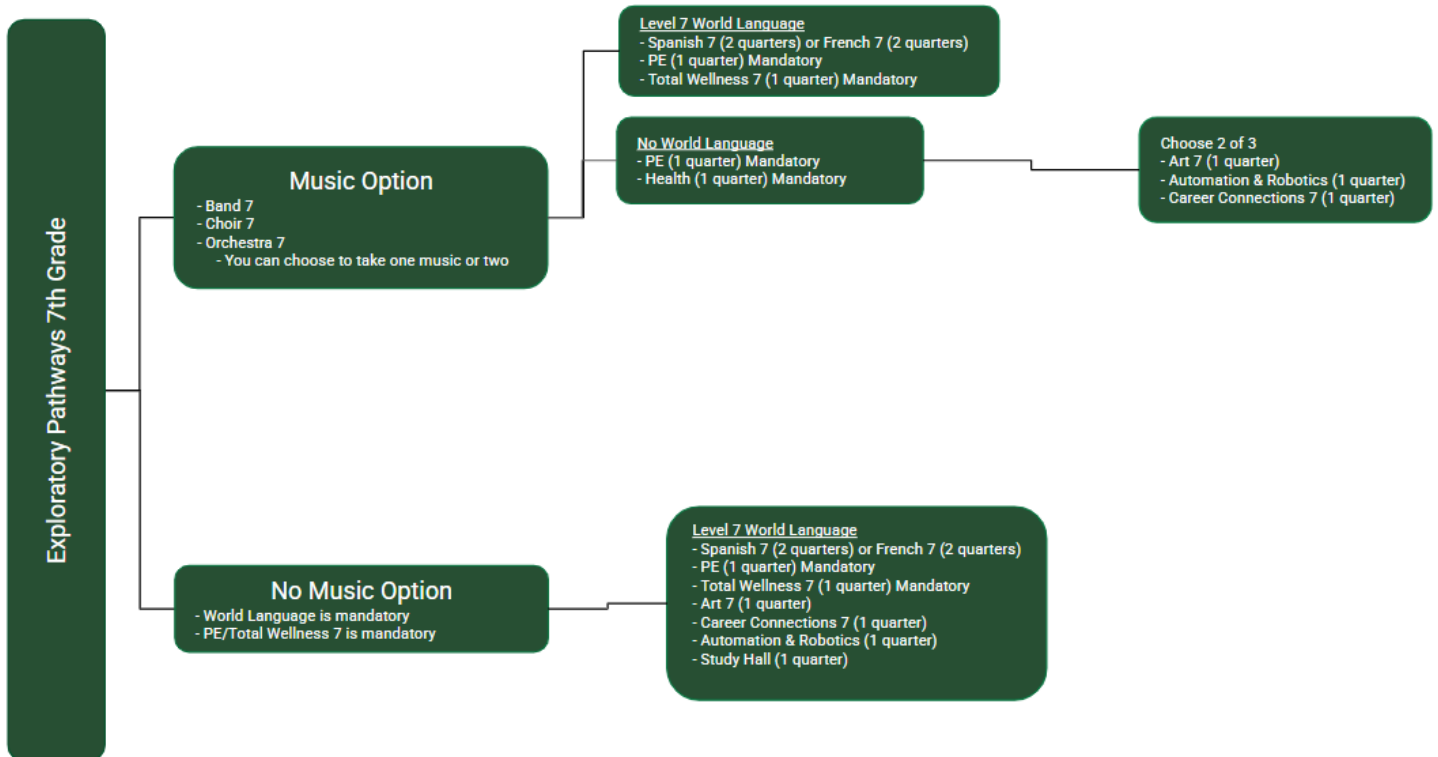
The Science 7 curriculum covers Earth, Physical and Life Sciences. Engaging in scientific inquiry and discovery investigating the following content areas: Astronomy, Energy Transformations, Properties of Matter, Environmental Factors, Climate and Weather. Development of 21st century skills will be encouraged through the use of technology and scientific tools.

## **Advanced Science 7**

This course is an advanced science option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. Advance Science 7 will cover Earth, Physical and Life Sciences. Students will engage in scientific inquiry and discovery investigating the following content areas: Astronomy, Energy Transformations, Properties of Matter, Environmental Factors, Climate and Weather. Development of 21st century skills will be encouraged through the use of technology and scientific tools. This rigorous and fast-paced course will require additional research, advanced labs, and incorporate higher-level mathematical and writing skills.



# Grade 7 Exploratory Pathways & Course Descriptions



## **French 7 / Spanish 7**

French 7 / Spanish 7 is designed to help students understand the nature of the French / Spanish language. The purpose of this course is to focus on the development of pronunciation, building vocabulary and learning the basics of the grammatical structure of the target language. Students will master common vocabulary terms and phrases; initiate and continue simple conversations, and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts; and generate language incorporating basic vocabulary and a limited range of grammar patterns. The process of developing basic communication is done through listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the target language, while encouraging a respect for cultures and beliefs. Students may be required to purchase a workbook.

## **Band 7**

**Prerequisite: Beginning Band Fundamentals (Grade 6)**

Band 7 is available to students who have had prior band experience or by an audition with the director. Focus is on continuing the development of basic skills of large group performance through a variety of repertoire and concert band experiences. Essentials of good musicianship and the development of technique are stressed. Students may also participate in strings and choir along with their band participation. School “color” instruments are provided to interested students to fill out the band instrumentation. Concert attendance is a course requirement. New students who are not currently enrolled in 6th grade band should contact the director when signing up for 7th grade band. Director approval is required for new students to join.

## **Choir 7**

Choir 7 is designed to teach choral skills to new and returning students. Students will sing three-part music using correct vocal technique that will serve as a foundation for their future choir experiences. Students are required to participate in two concerts throughout the school year. The primary focus of this class is to give students the singing and music theory skills they will need to continue singing at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level. Concert attendance is a course requirement. New students who are not currently enrolled in 6th grade choir should contact the director when signing up for 7th grade choir. Director approval is required for new students to join.



## **Orchestra 7**

**Prerequisite: Beginning Strings Studies (Grade 6)**

Orchestra 7 is available to students who have had prior string experience on the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students enrolled in 7th grade strings continue to advance their string playing skills by playing various string positions, 2-octave scales, complex rhythms, and more. Students are encouraged to participate in small group ensembles. Music history and theory is through the use of music samples and exercises. Music from various time periods and cultures are performed. Several concerts will be scheduled throughout the school year with attendance being mandatory. Students must furnish instruments. New students who are not currently enrolled in 6th grade orchestra should contact the director when signing up for 7th grade orchestra. Director approval is required for new students to join.

## **Art 7**

This course introduces the students to the fundamental uses of varied art materials, principles and elements of design. The course actively engages the students in an art studio environment. Evaluations are based on the students meeting the daily lesson goals for creating art, using controlled choices in craftsmanship, engagement in independent problem solving and supporting a positive studio environment.

## **Career Connections 7**

Students will explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math and Medicine (STEAMM) topics. This STEAMM centered course will focus on three units: engineering technology, health science technology, and innovation and design. This course utilizes a project-based learning instructional method. Each unit will provide opportunities for students to learn more about careers in engineering, health science while integrating technology. We hope students discover how STEAMM fields impact our global society. This course meets the State requirement for middle school career-technical education programming. Each unit provides an introduction to courses taught at Westlake High School and our partner, West Shore Technical District.

## **Automation & Robotics**

Students are given the opportunity to combine mechanisms with input and output devices to automate the mechanisms. Construction and programming skills are layered, and projects and the problem provide students the opportunity to connect their learning throughout the lessons in the unit. Students take on the role of interns, and work in teams to identify design requirements and create prototypes to meet the needs of clients. They also explore different aspects of automation and robotics, and experience how solving real-life problems involves the teamwork of mechanical engineers, software developers, and electrical engineers.



## **Total Wellness 7**

Total Wellness 7 is designed to promote responsible decision-making resulting in healthy lifestyle choices. The areas of emphasis are social/emotional health; the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other drugs. The class addresses all aspects of health and well-being including: physical health, social/emotional health, and family-social health.

## **Physical Education 7**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Education focuses on basic skills and general rules required for individual and team sports and activities. We emphasize correct form, technique and general knowledge of the sport or activity. Each unit provides a culminating game or event designed to motivate the student while providing authentic participation opportunities that promote enjoyment, success, and lifelong learning opportunities. The units covered may include: volleyball, badminton, ping pong, floor hockey, general fitness, basketball, group games, soccer, and flag football.

# **Grade 8 Core Course Descriptions**

## **Language Arts 8**

Language Arts 8 helps students develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Genres will include short stories, poetry, drama, nonfiction, and the novel. Writing will primarily center around the informative and argumentative essay. The course will also focus on grammar, mechanics, usage, and vocabulary. Students are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.

## **Advanced Language Arts 8**

This course is an advanced ELA option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. Students in Advanced Language Arts 8 should exhibit strong verbal ability, advanced writing skills, originality, high reading level, self-motivation, and classroom leadership. Students will continue to develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Genres will include short stories, poetry, drama, nonfiction, and the novel. Writing will primarily center around the informative and argumentative essay; students will need strong self-editing and self-reflection skills. The course will also focus on grammar, mechanics, usage, and vocabulary. Students are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.



## Math 8

The Math 8 course is an in-depth introduction to Algebra. Topics include solving multi-step equations/inequalities, graphing linear functions, solving systems of equations, and rules with exponents. The course also includes further exploration of Geometry topics such as the Pythagorean Theorem, volume, transformations, and similar shapes. A mastery of numbers (operations, including roots and exponents, number sense, and the real number system) will prepare students for high school math. Logic and problem solving skills are emphasized to solve real-world problems. A scientific calculator is required.

## Algebra I

This course is an advanced math option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. Algebra I is a mathematical tool for problem solving. The students learn the general techniques for solving linear equations and systems of equations. They also learn to read and write mathematical sentences, reason in an orderly manner and choose the facts necessary for a solution to a problem. A TI-83 or TI-84 calculator is required, but the TI-84 is recommended.

*\*Students in this course, upon successful completion, will proceed into Geometry or Honors Geometry the following year.*

*\*\*Enrollment in this class will result in a grade and credit on a high school transcript for Algebra I.*

## Honors Geometry

**Prerequisite: At least a "B" average in Algebra I and/or a teacher recommendation**

This course is an advanced math option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. Geometry Honors is an accelerated course designed for the superior mathematics student. The course content is plane geometry with some solid geometry integrated into the program. Emphasis is placed on using direct and indirect methods of proof. Students who plan to progress in the Pre-Calculus Honors/AP Calculus track should take this course. A TI-83 or TI-84 calculator is required, but the TI-84 is recommended.

*\*Students in this course, upon successful completion, will proceed into Algebra II or Honors Algebra II the following year.*

*\*\*Enrollment in this class will result in a grade and credit on a high school transcript for Honors Geometry.*



## **Honors Algebra II**

**Prerequisite: “A” or “B” average in Honors Geometry and/or a teacher recommendation**

Course will be taught at WHS (transportation from WHS to LBMS will be provided)

This course is an advanced math option open to students who meet our district’s qualification process. Honors Algebra II presents a more intensive study of the materials than in the regular Algebra II class. Topics include: linear relationships, quadratic functions, graphing, logarithmic functions, and trigonometry. The course is designed for students who plan to take Calculus and utilizes techniques suitable for students with very special interest and ability in mathematics. A TI-83 or TI-84 calculator is required, but the TI-84 is recommended. \*Enrollment in this class will result in a grade and credit on a high school transcript for Honors Algebra II.

## **US Studies 8**

US Studies 8 continue the historical focus with the study of European exploration and early years of the United States (1492-1877). All four social studies strands are incorporated into a chronological view of the development of the United States. Students will examine how historical events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic, and political factors. In order to develop the knowledge and skill needed for economic success in the future, topics related to financial literacy will be incorporated into the course. Multiple resources and activities will be used to help students develop their abilities in content reading, note taking, essay writing and study skills.

## **Advanced US Studies 8**

This course is an advanced US Studies option open to students who meet our district’s qualification process. Advanced US History 8 continues the historical focus with the study of European exploration and early years of the United States (1492-1877). All four social studies strands are incorporated into a chronological view of the development of the United States. Students will examine how historical events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic, and political factors. In order to develop the knowledge and skill needed for economic success in the future, topics related to financial literacy will be incorporated into the course. Multiple resources and activities will be used to help students develop and extend their abilities in content reading, note taking, essay writing and study skills. This rigorous and fast paced course will require additional research, student led discussions and assignments, and incorporate higher level reading and writing skills.



## **Science 8**

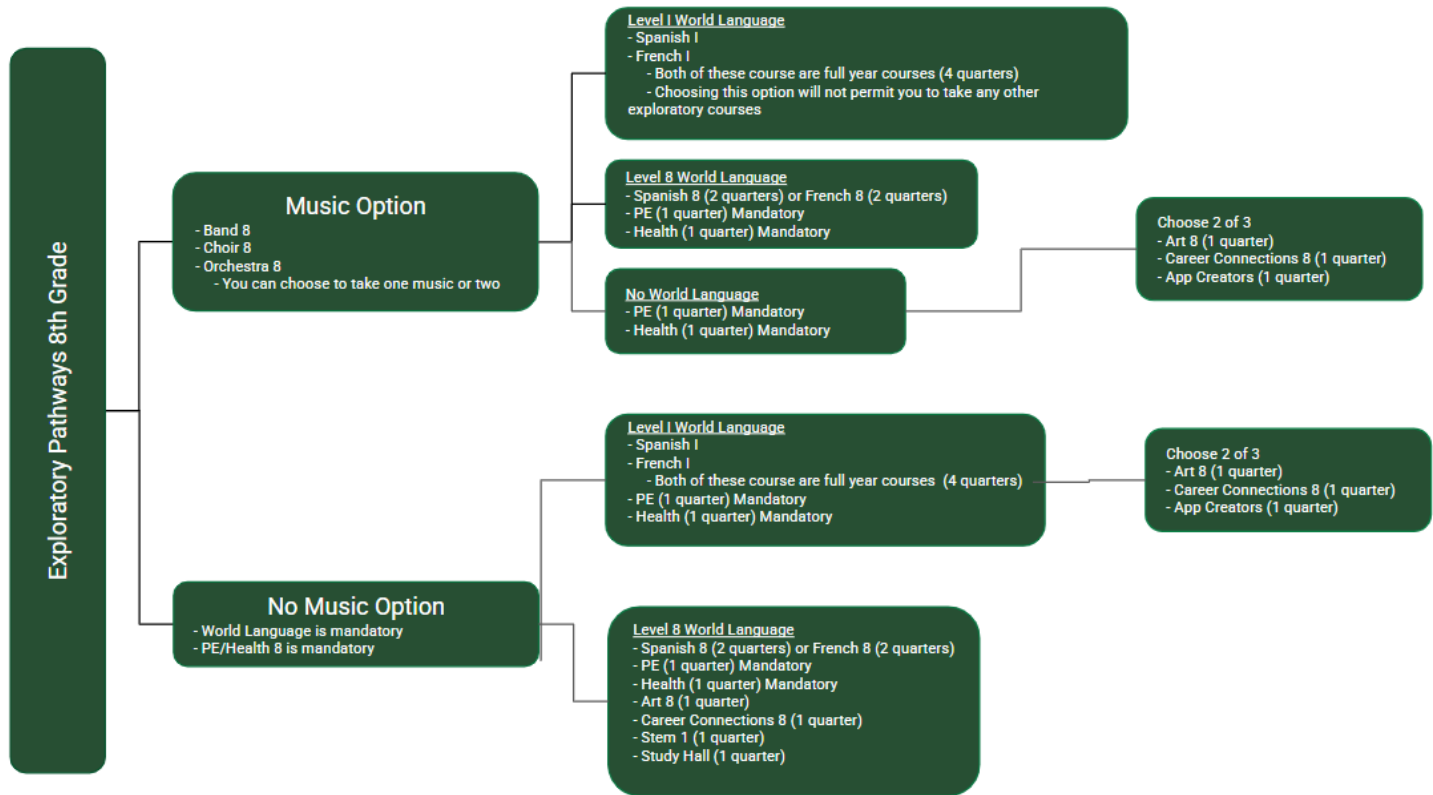
8th Grade Science engages students in scientific inquiry with a focus on the study of Earth, Life, and Physical Sciences. They will gain an appreciation of the relationships between energy and matter building on the foundational knowledge gained in 6th and 7th grade science courses. Topics of study included plate tectonics, the rock and fossil record, geologic time, living things, interactions between fields, potential, and kinetic energy and forces. Discovery labs and technology will be utilized while exploring these topics.

## **Advanced Science 8**

This course is an advanced science option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. Advanced 8th Grade Science engages students in scientific inquiry with a focus on the study of Earth, Life, and Physical Sciences. They will gain an appreciation of the relationships between energy and matter building on the foundational knowledge gained in 6th and 7th grade science courses. Topics of study include plate tectonics, the rock and fossil record, geologic time, living things, genetics, interactions between fields, potential, and kinetic energy and forces. Discovery labs and technology will be utilized while exploring these topics. This rigorous and fast paced course will incorporate higher level mathematical and writing skills, additional research, analysis of case studies, and advanced labs.



# Grade 8 Exploratory Pathways & Course Descriptions



\* Please Note – Students who select one or two music classes and choose a level I world language (French I or Spanish I), will be required to participate in some parts of the Health curriculum by state law. A plan for this instruction will come next year.

## French 8 / Spanish 8

This introductory course is for students who would like to continue learning world language and cultures in middle school. The course allows students to perform basic functions of the language being studied using slightly more in-depth grammatical structures than 7th grade French / Spanish, as the student becomes more familiar with some detailed elements of the target language and culture. The emphasis is placed more on the culture while still including an ongoing progressive development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Light grammar is integrated throughout the course and is based on thematic units. Students may be required to purchase a workbook.

\*French 8 / Spanish 8 is not a high school credit course or a World Language prerequisite.

## **French I**

This course is an advanced world language option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. French I presents conversational expressions, basic vocabulary, syntax, and grammar for use in both oral and written communications. A foundation in basic pronunciation is established. French culture is presented at appropriate times during the year. Oral proficiency is emphasized. Students may be required to purchase a workbook.

*\*Students in this course, upon successful completion, will proceed into French II the following year.*

*\*\*Enrollment in this class will result in a grade and credit on a high school transcript for French I.*

## **Spanish I**

This course is an advanced world language option open to students who meet our district's qualification process. The linguistic goal for this course is to develop the four language skill areas: listening, reading, speaking, and writing, as well as refine thinking skills. An accumulation of vocabulary words and grammar are used in the content of the material presented from the text. Students may be required to purchase a workbook.

*\*Students in this course, upon successful completion, will proceed into Spanish II the following year.*

*\*\*Enrollment in this class will result in a grade and credit on a high school transcript for Spanish I.*

## **Band 8**

### **Prerequisite: Beginning Band Fundamentals (Grade 7)**

Band 8 is available to students who have had prior band experience or by an audition with the director. Focus is on continuing the development of basic skills of large group performance through a variety of repertoire and concert band experiences. Essentials of good musicianship and the development of technique are stressed. Students may also participate in strings and choir along with their band participation. School "color" instruments are provided to interested students to fill out the band instrumentation. Concert attendance is a course requirement. New students who are not currently enrolled in 7th grade band should contact the director when signing up for 8th band choir. Director approval is required for new students to join.

## **Choir 8**

This course is designed to teach choral skills that will prepare students for choir at the high school level. Students will sing three-part music using correct vocal technique and be required to participate in two concerts throughout the school year. Students will learn music theory and sight reading skills as well as further their vocal abilities. Concert attendance is a course requirement. New students who are not currently enrolled in 7th grade choir should contact the director when signing up for 8th grade choir. Director approval is required for new students to join.



## **Orchestra 8**

### **Prerequisite: Beginning Strings Studies (Grade 7)**

Orchestra 8 is available to students who have had prior string experience on the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students enrolled in 8th grade strings continue to advance their string playing skills by playing various string positions, 2-octave scales, complex rhythms, and more. Student are encouraged to participate in small group ensembles. Music history and theory is through the use of music samples and exercises. Music from various time periods and cultures are performed. Several concerts will be scheduled throughout the school year with attendance being mandatory. Students must furnish instruments. New students who are not currently enrolled in 7th grade orchestra should contact the director when signing up for 8th grade orchestra. Director approval is required for new students to join.

## **Art 8**

This course builds upon the skills learned in 7th grade as well as introduces new art skills to support future art class needs in the high school. The students explore the fundamental uses of varied art materials, principles and elements of design. The course actively engages the students in an art studio environment. Evaluations are based on the students meeting the daily lesson goals for creating art, using controlled choices in craftsmanship, engagement in independent problem solving and supporting a positive studio environment.

## **Career Connections 8**

In this hands-on course, students explore exciting topics in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math, and Medicine (STEAMM). Focused on three core units—Engineering Technology, Computer Science, and Health Science Technology—this course utilizes project-based learning where students learn by designing, building, and creating. Throughout the semester, students develop coding and robotics skills using Ozobots and the LEGO® Education SPIKE™ curriculum. By building and programming robots to solve real-world challenges, students gain firsthand experience in how technology shapes our future. Each unit highlights high-demand career fields such as computer programming, robotics, and healthcare technology. By working through engineering design challenges, students develop essential problem-solving, creativity, and computational thinking skills, seeing clearly how innovation drives modern industry.

## **App Creators**

This unit will expose students to computer science by computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development, and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society. Students will customize their experience by choosing a problem that interests them from the areas of health, environment, emergency preparedness, education, community service, and school culture. Because problems in the real world involve more than one discipline, the unit will introduce students to biomedical science concepts as they work on solutions for the specific problems they choose to tackle.



## **Health 8**

This course is designed to build upon the foundations taught in Total Wellness 7 to continue to promote responsible decision-making resulting in health lifestyle choices. The areas of emphasis are mental/ emotional health; healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, dating violence, sex education; nutrition and lifetime fitness; and body systems. The class goes into more depth on aspects of health and well-being including: physical health, social/emotional health, and family-social health.

## **Physical Education 8**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Education focuses on building on the student's prior learning experiences for a particular sport or activity. Basic skills are reviewed and more advanced skills for the particular sport or activity are encouraged and practiced. We adhere more closely to the rules so that play is parallel to the actual game or activity. Correct technique and form are emphasized as is the specific rules for the sport or activity. Each unit will provide several days of games or activities that are designed to emphasize movement and continue to engage and motivate students in an authentic learning environment which promotes the enjoyment, success and lifelong learning opportunities for each student. The units covered may include volleyball, badminton, ping pong, floor hockey, general fitness, basketball, group games, soccer, and flag football.

## **Learning Resource Services**

Services for all students are provided in the classroom so that assistance can be directly related to instruction content covered by the classroom teacher. Methods of delivering these services include intervention, collaborative teaching, consultation or enrichment. In addition to direct instruction, Learning Resource Services include diagnosing and prescribing activities to meet individual student needs, sharing instructional materials and strategies with classroom teachers, and conferring with parents and students.

## **Intervention & Enrichment (IE) 7/8**

Intervention & Enrichment (IE) is a daily, scheduled opportunity for students to complete work and receive additional assistance from team teachers and peer tutors. Additional help is provided in developing organizational skills and study habits necessary to successfully complete classwork and homework.

## **English Language Learners 7/8**

The ESL class scaffolds students whose functional language is other than English to meet the linguistic, cultural, and academic demands of middle school. English Learners acquire social and academic language through reading, writing, listening and speaking activities.



## Advanced Course Placement

The Westlake City School District annually convenes a district committee to determine seventh and eighth grade math, science, ELA, and social studies placements. As a part of that process, the district administers the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test (IAAT) to many sixth and seventh grade students (not currently enrolled in Algebra I) and the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) science and social studies assessments to all sixth graders. This data is used to inform math and science placement recommendations. The IAAT measures conceptual understanding of number skills and concepts, interpretation of mathematical information, functional relationships, and application of symbolic representation. The ITBS assesses the student's knowledge of scientific principles and information as well as the methods and processes of scientific inquiry.

In an effort to ensure your child is placed in challenging and academically appropriate seventh and eighth grade courses, the district Acceleration Committee will review multiple criteria once IAAT and ITBS testing is complete. The committee will consider such factors as:

- Teacher input
- Current and past performance
- Maturity
- Work habits and organizational skills
- Social and emotional readiness for advanced coursework
- Progress through the learning standards
- MAP scores (fall and winter)
- Performance on Ohio's State Tests, if available
- IAAT testing results
- ITBS testing results

The IAAT and ITBS tests serve as only two data points used by the committee to identify the most appropriate eighth grade math and science placement. At the end of this process, one of the following courses from each subject will be recommended for your student:

### **7th grade:**

Math 7, Math 7B/8A

Algebra I is considered an accelerated placement and will require additional paperwork and procedures

Science 7 or Advanced Science 7

ELA 7 or Advanced ELA 7

World Studies 7 or Advanced World Studies 7



**8th grade:**

Math 8

Algebra I is considered an accelerated placement and will require additional paperwork and procedures

Science 8, Advanced Science 8

ELA 8 or Advanced ELA 8

US Studies 8 or Advanced US Studies 8

Algebra I is considered an accelerated placement and will require the completion of an application form once the individual student data letters have been sent home. Algebra I is a high school credit course which impacts high school GPA and the final grade on a student's official transcript. Additionally, per Ohio Revised Code, students enrolled in a high school level course are required to take the associated End-of-Course exam. The acceleration window will be open in March of 2026.

## **How to Apply for Acceleration**

On Friday, February 27th, a Google Form will be sent to all families. Use this single form to select your student's preferred Exploratory Courses and to officially apply for Algebra I Acceleration.

Also, detailed information along with our Board Policies for the acceleration process can be found on our website here <https://www.wlake.org/departments/academic-services/acceleration>

