

**Boyd W. Arthurs  
Middle School**

# **Curriculum Guide**

**2026-2027**



**Trenton Public Schools**

***Our Mission: Inspire Students Today for Their Success  
Tomorrow***

**STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW**

It is the policy of Trenton Public Schools that no discriminatory practices based on sex, race, religion, color, national origin, disability, height, weight, or any other status covered by federal, state, or local law be allowed in providing instructional opportunities, programs, services, job placement assistance, employment, or in policies governing student conduct and attendance. Any person suspecting a discriminatory practice should contact: The Director of Curriculum/Assistant Superintendent, Trenton Public Schools, 2603 Charlton Road, Trenton, MI 48183 Phone: (734) 692-4516.

**GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

The Director of Curriculum is appointed the Civil Rights Coordinator regarding complaints of disability/handicap discrimination involving educational services, programs and activities. The Director of Curriculum is also appointed the Civil Rights Coordinator regarding discrimination complaints made by students (grades Pre-K through 12) and/or their parent(s)/guardian(s), and involving sex, race, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, age, or marital status. The Superintendent is appointed the Civil Rights Coordinator regarding all other complaints of discrimination. In the event the complaint is against the Superintendent of Schools, the Vice-President of the Board of Education is appointed the Civil Rights Coordinator.

The Director of Curriculum Trenton Public Schools 2603 Charlton Road Trenton, Michigan 48183 Phone: (734) 692-4516	Superintendent of Schools Trenton Public Schools 2603 Charlton Road Trenton, Michigan 48183 Phone: (734) 692-451	The Vice-President of the Board of Education Trenton Public Schools 2603 Charlton Road Trenton, Michigan 48183 Phone: (734) 692-4510
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The Civil Rights Coordinators, as specified herein, are designated to receive and resolve complaints from any person who believes that he/she may have been discriminated against in violation of this policy. Any person who believes he/she has been discriminated against in violation of this policy should file a written complaint with the Civil Rights Coordinator within ten (10) calendar days of the alleged violation. The Civil Rights Coordinator will take the following action: First, cause an investigation of the complaint to be commenced. Second, arrange for a meeting to occur with the complainant, which may include School District staff who are knowledgeable of the facts and circumstances of the particular complaint or who have particular expertise that will assist in resolving the complaint. Third, complete the investigation of the complaint and provide, in writing, a reply to the complainant. If the Civil Rights Coordinator determines that a violation has occurred, he/she shall propose a fair resolution of the complaint and deliver the determination to the complainant and the Superintendent. In the event the complaint is against the Superintendent, a copy of the determination shall be delivered to the President of the Board of Education. The complainant may appeal the Civil Rights Coordinator's determination to the Superintendent, or, in the case of a complaint against the Superintendent, to the President of the Board, by so notifying the Superintendent or Board President in writing within the (10) calendar days of the Civil Rights Coordinator's determination. The Superintendent or Board President may conduct additional investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding the complaint.

The Board Vice-President or President may elect to secure the services of an outside party to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding any complaint against the Superintendent.

The Superintendent, or Board President in the case of a complaint against the Superintendent, shall affirm or reverse the Civil Rights Coordinator's decision and, if warranted, implement the Civil Rights Coordinator's proposed resolution or a modification thereof. The Superintendent or Board President's decision shall be final.

At any time a complainant has the right to file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, US Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20201. The complainant should first be directed to the following address:

Office for Civil Rights  
600 Superior Avenue, Suite 750  
Cleveland, OH 44114  
(216) 522-4970 phone  
(216) 522-2573 fax

# Arthurs Middle School Program

## Grade 6

### Core Courses – Required For ALL Students

- ✓ Language Arts
- ✓ Math
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Social Studies

### BAND STUDENTS

#### Focus Course

- ✓ Band

#### Exploratory Courses Required

- ✓ Educational Technology 6 #
- ✓ Physical Education
- ✓ Exploratory Art 1
- ✓ Language and Beyond

### NON-BAND STUDENTS

#### Focus Courses

- ✓ Physical Education
- ✓ Exploratory Art I
- ✓ World Language Exploration
- ✓ Educational Tech. 6 #
- ✓ Core Skills 6

#### Exploratory Courses Required

- ✓ Language and Beyond

### TEACHER RECOMMENDED AND REQUIRED ELECTIVES

- ✓ Guided Academics
- ✓ Jazz Band
- ✓ Leap Into Language 6
- ✓ Math Power 6

# Arthurs Middle School Program

## Grade 6

### Elective Courses – Available To ALL 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

- ✓ Advanced Team Sports
- ✓ Animation and Game Design w/Scratch #
- ✓ App Inventor #
- ✓ Art From Many Hands
- ✓ Book Club
- ✓ Brain Games
- ✓ Calligraphy
- ✓ Children’s Books
- ✓ Clue Crew
- ✓ Community Service And Leadership
- ✓ Computer Graphic Design
- ✓ Countries Around The World
- ✓ CSI: Numb3rs #
- ✓ Current Events
- ✓ Family History
- ✓ Financial Fitness #
- ✓ Forensic Science #
- ✓ Future Authors Club
- ✓ Get Into The Green Scene #
- ✓ Get Into the Groove
- ✓ Great Books
- ✓ Greek and Norse Mythology
- ✓ History Detectives
- ✓ I Hate To Read Club
- ✓ Independent Study
- ✓ Jazz Improvisation
- ✓ Jeopardy Jammers
- ✓ Life 101: Skills You Actually Need
- ✓ Life In A Jar & Other Balancing Acts#
- ✓ Mad Money #
- ✓ Mind, Body, And Spirit
- ✓ Music Time
- ✓ Outdoor Backyard Games
- ✓ Reel To Real
- ✓ Score! #
- ✓ Scrapbooking
- ✓ Sketch It Out
- ✓ Sports History
- ✓ Stories From My Life
- ✓ String Theory
- ✓ The Hunger Games and Roman Influence
- ✓ Theatre Arts
- ✓ Yearbook

*Please review course descriptions for possible teacher recommendations, requirements, and/or other criteria.*

STEM course offerings are noted with a '#' above.

“STEM” is the acronym of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

*STEM education is an interdisciplinary approach to learning where academic concepts are coupled with real-world lessons as students apply science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in contexts that make connections between school, community, work, and the global enterprise. (National Science Teachers Association)*

# Arthurs Middle School Program Grade 7

## Core Courses – Required For ALL Students

- ✓ Language Arts
- ✓ Math or Algebra I
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Social Studies

## BAND or SPANISH STUDENTS

### Focus Course

- ✓ Band
- ✓ Spanish 1AB

### Exploratory Courses Required

- ✓ Core Skills 7
- ✓ Physical Education

## NON-BAND/NON-SPANISH STUDENTS

### Focus Courses

- ✓ Core Skills 7 #
- ✓ Exploratory Art II
- ✓ Educational Technology 7 #
- ✓ Physical Education

### Exploratory Courses Required

- ✓ No Classes Required

## TEACHER RECOMMENDED AND REQUIRED ELECTIVES

- ✓ ELA Enrichment
- ✓ Guided Academics
- ✓ Jazz Band
- ✓ Leap Into Language 7
- ✓ Math Power 7
- ✓ Peer 2 Peer
- ✓ Science Project Based Learning (Enrichment)

# Arthurs Middle School Program

## Grade 7

### Elective Courses – Available To ALL 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

- ✓ Advanced Art Studio
- ✓ Advanced Team Sports
- ✓ Animation and Game Design w/Scratch #
- ✓ App Inventor #
- ✓ Art From Many Hands
- ✓ Book Club
- ✓ Brain Games
- ✓ Calligraphy
- ✓ Children’s Books
- ✓ Clue Crew
- ✓ Community Service And Leadership
- ✓ Computer Graphic Design
- ✓ Countries Around The World
- ✓ CSI: Numb3rs #
- ✓ Current Events
- ✓ Family History
- ✓ Financial Fitness For Life #
- ✓ Forensic Science #
- ✓ Future Authors Club
- ✓ Get Into the Green Scene #
- ✓ Get Into the Groove
- ✓ Great Books
- ✓ Greek and Norse Mythology
- ✓ History Detectives
- ✓ I Hate to Read Club
- ✓ Independent Study
- ✓ Jazz Improvisation
- ✓ Jeopardy Jammers
- ✓ Life 101: Skills You Actually Need
- ✓ Life In A Jar & Other Balancing Acts #
- ✓ Mad Money #
- ✓ Mind, Body, And Spirit
- ✓ Music Time
- ✓ Outdoor Backyard Games
- ✓ Paper Roller Coasters #.
- ✓ Reel to Real
- ✓ Score! #
- ✓ Scrapbooking
- ✓ Sketch It Out
- ✓ Sports History
- ✓ Stories From My Life
- ✓ String Theory
- ✓ Theatre Arts
- ✓ The Hunger Games and Roman Influence
- ✓ Yearbook

*Please review course descriptions for possible teacher recommendations, requirements, and/or other criteria.*

STEM course offerings are noted with a '#' above.

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# Arthurs Middle School Program

## Grade 8

### Core Courses – Required For ALL Students

- ✓ Language Arts
- ✓ Math or Algebra I or Geometry
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Social Studies

### BAND or SPANISH STUDENTS

#### Focus Course

- ✓ Band
- ✓ Spanish 1AB

#### Exploratory Courses Required

- ✓ Physical Education

### NON-BAND/NON-SPANISH STUDENTS

#### Focus Courses

- ✓ Educational Technology 8 #
- ✓ Exploratory Art III
- ✓ Physical Education
- ✓ Core Skills 8

### TEACHER RECOMMENDED AND REQUIRED ELECTIVES

- ✓ ELA Enrichment
- ✓ Guided Academics
- ✓ Jazz Band
- ✓ Leap Into Language 8
- ✓ Math Power 8
- ✓ Peer 2 Peer
- ✓ Science Project Based Learning (Enrichment)

# Arthurs Middle School Program

## Grade 8

### Elective Courses – Available To ALL 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

- ✓ Advanced Art Studio
- ✓ Advanced Team Sports
- ✓ Animation and Game Design w/Scratch#
- ✓ App Inventor #
- ✓ Art From Many Hands
- ✓ Book Club
- ✓ Brain Games
- ✓ Calligraphy
- ✓ Children’s Books
- ✓ Clue Crew
- ✓ Community Service And Leadership
- ✓ Computer Graphic Design
- ✓ Countries Around The World
- ✓ CSI: Numb3rs #
- ✓ Current Events
- ✓ Family History
- ✓ Financial Fitness For Life #
- ✓ Forensic Science #
- ✓ Future Authors Club
- ✓ Get Into the Green Scene #
- ✓ Get Into the Groove
- ✓ Great Books
- ✓ Greek and Norse Mythology
- ✓ History Detectives
- ✓ I Hate To Read Club
- ✓ Independent Study
- ✓ Jazz Improvisation
- ✓ Jeopardy Jammers
- ✓ Life 101: Skills You Actually Need
- ✓ Life In A Jar & Other Balancing Acts #
- ✓ Mad Money #
- ✓ Mind, Body, And Spirit
- ✓ Music Time
- ✓ Outdoor Backyard Games
- ✓ Paper Roller Coasters #
- ✓ Reel To Real
- ✓ Remember The Holocaust
- ✓ Score! #
- ✓ Scrapbooking
- ✓ Sketch It Out
- ✓ Spanish 1A
- ✓ Spanish 2A
- ✓ Sports History
- ✓ Stories From My Life
- ✓ String Theory
- ✓ Theatre Arts
- ✓ The Hunger Games and Roman Influence
- ✓ WEB
- ✓ Yearbook

*Please review course descriptions for possible teacher recommendations, requirements, and/or other criteria.*

STEM course offerings are noted with a '#' above.

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# Special Education Courses

## All Grade Levels

### **\*\*\*Based on Student IEP Team Meeting**

- ✓ Language Arts
- ✓ Math
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Social Studies
- ✓ Guided Academics
- ✓ Co-Taught
- ✓ See Elective Courses that are available to your Grade Level

## **Grade 6 Core Courses (Required For All Students)**

### **Language Arts 6**

**Full year**

Our Sixth Grade Language Arts units provide students with a critical foundation in reading and writing narratives, informational, and argument texts. Through analysis and production of texts in these three modes, students become more adept readers, thinkers, and writers. Across the year, they come to understand the distinctions between narrative, informational, and argument texts by studying fiction and nonfiction in a variety of formats and developing a more thorough understanding of audience and purpose when both reading and writing.

### **Science 6**

**Full year**

As with all middle school science courses, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade program is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The middle school performance expectations blend the core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing usable knowledge to explain real-world phenomena in the physical, biological, and earth and space sciences. Performance expectations at the middle school level focus on students developing an understanding of several scientific practices. These include developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, and constructing explanation; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas. Students are also expected to demonstrate understanding of several engineering practices, including design and evaluation.

## **Grade 6 Core Courses (Required For All Students)**

### **Social Studies 6**

**Full year**

Sixth Grade Social Studies explores the foundations of World Geography. Throughout the year, the Five Themes of Geography will be integrated into discussions of various aspects of the world in spatial terms, population and migration, culture, world trade, government, and global politics. The framework for all students to become emerging global citizens will be established by engagement in hands-on experience through project-based learning that incorporates content-specific vocabulary.

### **Math 6**

**Full year**

Sixth Grade Math provides students with the opportunity to enhance their problem-solving skills. Students will increase their knowledge of whole numbers and fractions. The course will introduce students to integers, rational numbers, exponents, and percentages. These topics lay a foundation for the exploration of algebraic concepts, which include variables, writing simple equations and expressions, and graphing linear relationships. In geometry, students continue to expand their repertoire of knowledge about shapes and their properties.

## **Grade 6 Focus Course (Band Students)**

### **Band 6**

**Full year**

Sixth Grade Concert Band is a yearlong, graded course of study that offers instruction on flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, baritone, French horn, trombone, tuba, and percussion. Generally made up of 2nd year band students, but new students are welcome to join! Sixth graders will perform at the Winter Concert and Spring Concert. Sixth graders are encouraged to audition for Jazz Band in the fall.

# **Grade 6**

## **Exploratory Courses**

### **(Required For Band Students)**

#### **Educational Technology 6**

**10 weeks**

Problem Solving and Computing is a highly interactive and collaborative introduction to the field of computer science. Students will practice using a problem-solving process to address a series of puzzles, challenges, and real-world scenarios. Next, students learn how computers input, output, store, and process information to help humans solve problems. Students will learn how to create and share content on web pages. Students will learn how to structure and style pages using HTML and CSS. Students will also practice valuable programming skills such as debugging and commenting. By the end of the course, students will have published a website.

#### **Exploratory Art I**

**10 weeks**

In Exploratory Art I, students will expand their knowledge of art techniques and media. To better understand the arts, students will learn to analyze art using the Elements of Art vocabulary. Students will express individual ideas while increasing skills in many areas. They will use a variety of materials such as clay, markers, watercolors, tempera paints, and color pencils to construct, draw, and paint original artwork.

#### **Physical Education 6**

**10 weeks**

Students will experience a variety of aquatic, recreational, sport, and fitness activities. Students will learn the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to enjoy an active lifestyle. Attention will be paid to the components of physical fitness and the development of students' knowledge and skill in this area.

#### **Language and Beyond**

**10 weeks**

The course is required for all 6th graders. Language and Beyond will enhance the 6th Grade Language Arts curriculum by offering further instruction on reading comprehension strategies and writing skills. In addition, the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support program will be introduced through direct instruction. The instruction will focus on behaviors that are appropriate in different places throughout the school.

## **Grade 6 Focus Courses (Non-Band Students)**

### **Core Skills 6**

**5 weeks**

This course helps students strengthen math and reading skills through a focus on data analysis, reading, writing, and communication. Students will work with data by creating and interpreting graphs, using averages and ranges, and clearly explaining their thinking. They will also read and discuss informational texts, build comprehension, and improve writing, grammar, and vocabulary. By the end of the course, students will be better prepared to think critically, communicate confidently, and apply their skills across subjects.

### **Exploratory Art I**

**5 weeks**

In Exploratory Art I, students will expand their knowledge of art techniques and media. To better understand the arts, students will learn to analyze art using the Elements of Art vocabulary. Students will express individual ideas while increasing skills in many areas. They will use a variety of materials such as clay, markers, watercolors, tempera paints, and color pencils to construct, draw, and paint original artwork.

### **World Language Exploration**

**5 weeks**

This course provides an introduction to world languages and global cultures. Emphasis is placed on the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures, as Spanish is the program sequence available to students in grades 7 and 8 at AMS and may lead to high school credit. Additional units introduced students to the languages and cultures associated with German, French, and Mandarin.

### **Educational Technology 6**

**5 weeks**

Problem Solving and Computing is a highly interactive and collaborative introduction to the field of computer science. Students will practice using a problem-solving process to address a series of puzzles, challenges, and real-world scenarios. Next, students learn how computers input, output, store, and process information to help humans solve problems. Students will learn how to create and share content on web pages. Students will learn how to structure and style pages using HTML and CSS. Students will also practice valuable programming skills such as debugging and commenting. By the end of the course, students will have published a website.

## **Grade 6 Focus Courses (Non-Band Students)**

### **Physical Education 6**

**20 weeks**

Students will experience a variety of aquatic, recreational, sport, and fitness activities. Students will learn the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to enjoy an active lifestyle. Attention will be paid to the components of physical fitness and the development of students' knowledge and skills in this area.

## **Grade 6 Exploratory Courses (Required For Non-Band Students)**

### **Language and Beyond**

**10 weeks**

The course is required for all 6th graders. Language and Beyond will enhance the 6th Grade Language Arts curriculum by offering further instruction on reading comprehension strategies and writing skills. In addition, the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support program will be introduced through direct instruction. The instruction will focus on behaviors that are appropriate in different locations throughout the school.

# **Grade 6**

## **Elective Courses**

### **(Teacher Recommended or Required)**

**Jazz Band**  
***Audition Required***

**20 weeks**

The Arthurs Jazz Band is open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students who are currently enrolled in a concert band class. All members of the Arthurs Jazz Band are selected by audition. Arthurs Jazz Band gives various performances throughout the year. Students must be able to commit to before and after school rehearsals approximately twice a week. The Arthurs Jazz Band is inclusive with regard to instrumentation. Generally, Jazz Band is comprised of saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, electric bass, drum set, and guitar, but we also include flute, clarinet, baritone horn, French horn, violin, oboe, and vocalist. Jazz improvisation is a featured aspect of our performances, and all members of the Jazz Band are instructed and encouraged to improvise. A detailed approach to jazz music interpretation will be emphasized, as well as focusing on individual and group performance.

**Leap Into Language 6**  
***Staff Assigned Only***

**10 weeks**

Students having difficulty achieving grade-level expectations for Reading, Writing, Spelling, and Grammar may be required to take this class. Formal and informal assessments will be used to place students in this class. Students will be given additional help so they may attempt to attain grade-level expectations by filling in the gaps and work completion.

**Math Power 6**  
***Staff Assigned Only***

**10 weeks**

Math Power is designed to help and encourage students to improve core math skills. The focus of this course will be to fill gaps in learning based on students' standardized test results. This course will center on games, manipulative activities, drills, and extra practice. The teacher will also assist students with math homework. The goal is to help students gain the required skills necessary to be successful in mathematics and to encourage them to enjoy math in a relaxed setting.

**Guided Academics**  
***Staff Assigned Only***

**10 weeks**

A teacher will guide a small group of students to promote student success. This course will focus on work completion, organization, and academic skill building.

# Grade 6

## Elective Courses

### (Available to All Students)

#### **Advanced Team Sports**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Physical Education***

This course is appropriate for students who want to take their knowledge and skills of team sports to the next level. Students will work on offensive/defensive strategies, advanced drills to accelerate skill levels, game situations, and tournament play. The importance of being a good team member will also be emphasized. Depending on the season, the following sports will be covered: Basketball, Volleyball, Football, Tennis, Soccer, Pickleball, Hockey, as well as non-traditional sports/activities.

#### **Animation & Game Design with Scratch**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Technology***

Unleash your creativity and dive into the world of animation and game development with Scratch, a user-friendly visual programming language developed by MIT. This course introduces students to the fundamentals of coding through hands-on projects that bring ideas to life.

Designed for beginners, the course covers essential programming concepts such as loops, conditionals, variables, and event handling in a playful, engaging environment. Students will create interactive animations, design fun games, and learn how to incorporate sound, motion, and visual effects to enhance their projects.

#### **App Inventor**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Technology***

Students will learn how to build mobile apps and test them using the web-based program *MIT APP Inventor*. Important programming concepts and terminology will be discussed. Apps created will be able to be tested on an Android device and iOS (Apple) devices. Students will have access to Kindle Fires as well as the Emulator on the computer to test their apps.

**Art From Many Hands****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

This class is for art students who want to gain confidence in their own abilities while expanding their knowledge of art from many cultures. Just like today, people of ancient times were using every conceivable material to bring beauty and interest into their lives. Students will try a variety of their techniques to solve design problems. This will increase the students' technical skills as well as help them value the skills of artisans from around the world.

**Book Club****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Students will participate in book clubs focused on novels about overcoming challenges, bullying, and personal growth. Through reading, discussion, one-pagers, and reflection, students will build comprehension, empathy, and communication skills while exploring how characters respond to adversity and make positive choices.

**Brain Games****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Life Skills***

This course allows students to play games while improving their mathematical and critical thinking skills. Students learn gaming strategies in a fun, competitive, and friendly environment. Games include chess, Blokus, Rush Hour, Sequence, Sudoku puzzles, Othello, and a chance to solve the Rubic's cube. No prior experience is necessary. All grade levels are welcome.

**Calligraphy****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

In this course, students will be introduced to the art and history of handwriting. Students will learn several different styles of writing, including italics, cursive, cursive italics, and different styles of calligraphy. Students will learn how to formally sign their names. Students will explore different types of writing tools, including pencils, pens, broad-edged markers, broad-edged pens, pointed nib pens, dip pens, and brush-tip pens. This class would also be a great assistance for students who want to improve their handwriting and fine motor skills.

## **Children's Books**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Do you enjoy reading children's books? In this course, you will create your very own! You will learn about authors and the techniques they use to craft engaging stories. Then, you will write and illustrate your own picture book from start to finish. You will also design a game that connects to your story. As a final activity, we will take a field trip to Hedke, where you will share your book and game with a small group of students.

## **Clue Crew**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts***

Love a good mystery? Interested in figuring out how or why something happened? Clue Crew sets students on a course to solve short mysteries through a series of matrix puzzles and short stories. Students will look for clues and use deductive reasoning to draw conclusions and find answers. Students will even have the opportunity to create their own mystery.

## **Community Service and Leadership (CSL)**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Leadership, Social Studies***

Interested in making a difference and gaining leadership skills? Then take this class! Students will be asked to plan and participate in special activities such as athletic pre-game activities, spirit week activities, and school and community service projects. **Students will be required to perform 10 hours of community service outside the regular school day.**

## **Computer Graphic Design**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Technology***

In this course, students are introduced to the basics of computer graphic design. They will study the history of graphics and computer graphics. Students develop their understanding of computer graphic design by using the software package Canvas™. They learn a variety of tools in Canvas to create their own graphics using different shapes, textures, and styles. As a final project, they can transfer their computer graphics onto a T-shirt. They also examine career opportunities in the area of computer graphics design.

## **Countries Around the World**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies***

Students will learn continents and countries of the world. Geography skills will be highlighted. Map game tournaments will be conducted. Countries in the news will be highlighted.

**C.S.I.: “Numb3rs”****10 weeks****Do NOT Repeat****Curriculum Focus: Math, Technology**

Students will be learning how to solve crimes using mathematics integrated with technology. This course offers students an opportunity to explore career paths in crime investigation as well as learn how math and math theory play a critical role. The program is based on the popular television series titled “Numb3rs”. Students will watch episodes as they relate to math to solving crimes. Students will be involved in collecting and analyzing data, graphing, and predicting trends.

**Current Events****10 weeks****Course May Be Repeated****Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts**

In this class, students will explore the current news events around the world. We will discuss news topics that include world news, science, history, sports, and entertainment, among other topics.

**Family History****10 weeks****Do NOT Repeat****Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts**

Students will examine their family history, create a family tree, and explore possible lineage based on surnames in their family. Students will discuss traditions and important events, or talk about significant people within their family, through presentations and other class activities. They will also have an opportunity to study their probable country of origin and share in the heritage of different countries presented by classmates. This is a great class where students can learn more about themselves and the world!

**Financial Fitness for Life****10 weeks****Do NOT Repeat****Curriculum Focus: Math, Social Studies**

Financial Fitness for Life will introduce students to the consumer world. Students will be involved in a real-life simulation where they apply the basic principles of economics, create a budget, open a checking account, and explore saving, spending, and credit.

**Forensic Science****10 weeks****Do NOT Repeat****Curriculum Focus: Science**

Students will be introduced to Forensic Science, which is a branch of science that focuses on criminal investigation to provide physical evidence to solve criminal cases. Students will learn a brief history of the subject, discuss the many occupations related to this study, practice the system of identifying criminals, and experience the exactness of fingerprinting.

**Future Authors Club**  
**Course May Be Repeated**  
**Curriculum Focus: Language Arts**

**10 weeks**

Future Authors Club is a creative writing class where students get to write what they want. Whether you love stories, poems, comics, scripts, or wild ideas that don't fit a category yet, this class gives you time, space, and support to create. When possible, you will even connect with real authors to hear about their creative process and ask questions about writing. Students choose their genres, experiment with different styles, and try out new ideas without pressure.

**Get Into the Green Scene**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
**Curriculum Focus: Science**

**10 Weeks**

Get ready to hug a tree and play in the dirt! "Get into the Green Scene" is an environmental science class that will introduce students to a variety of issues and topics. Students will study topics of plants and trees, sustainable development, recycling, hybrid cars, water/wetlands, pollution, climate change, and Earth Day.

**Get Into the Groove**  
**Course May Be Repeated**  
**Curriculum Focus: Physical Education**

**10 weeks**

Dance-based class featuring Zumba, line dances, movement to music, and Just Dance with Wii. Students will be given the opportunity to create dances and learn the latest dance moves by searching the internet.

**Great Books**  
**Course May Be Repeated**  
**Curriculum Focus: Language Arts (Advanced)**

**10 weeks**

In this Great Books class, students read *Prisoner B-3087* and *Projekt 1065* by Alan Gratz, powerful World War II novels that explore courage, resilience, and moral choices during the Holocaust. Through close reading, discussion, and written analysis, students examine how characters respond to injustice and survive under extreme conditions. The unit builds skills in textual evidence, inference, and theme analysis while deepening students' understanding of historical context and human perseverance.

**Greek and Norse Mythology**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
**Curriculum Focus: Language Arts**

**10 weeks**

Explore the fascinating myths and legends of ancient Greece and Norse cultures! Students will learn about iconic gods, heroes, monsters, and epic adventures while discovering how these stories shaped ancient civilizations and influence modern pop culture.

Through creative projects, storytelling, and discussions, students will meet figures like Zeus, Athena, Thor, and Loki and explore themes like bravery, loyalty, and betrayal. By

the end, they'll gain a deeper appreciation for these timeless tales and their lasting impact on today's world.

### **History Detectives**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts***

Who killed JFK? Was King Tut murdered? Who invented the Alphabet? What happened to Roanoke's lost colony? Who really discovered the Americas? Were there witches in Salem? History Detectives examines some of World History's most intriguing and thought-provoking unsolved mysteries. Students will be engaged in higher-order thinking through independent and group projects while exploring primary source materials, diary entries, newspaper articles, and photographs in an attempt to solve some of History's greatest mysteries.

### **I Hate to Read Club**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

This course is for the student who claims they hate to read. This class is guaranteed to change their mind. Students will be introduced to fun, high-interest books in a teacher-led, relaxed environment. Students will read *The Loser List* and *Freak the Mighty*.

### **Independent Study**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Life Skills***

Independent Study is an elective course designed to give middle school students extra time to complete assignments, homework, and assessments. Students may also use this time to pursue other academic interests.

### **Jazz Improvisation**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

Want to learn how to be the star soloist in the band? Use this opportunity to learn the tools for improvising on your instrument. During this class, students will study classic jazz, rock, and blues solos. Students will learn how to read chord symbols, create melodies from scales, and improvise in all types of styles. With these tools, students will be able to play anything!

### **Jeopardy Jammers**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies***

Can't remember what you ate for breakfast this morning, but somehow remember every word to the hit song of 2009? Do you LOVE trivia questions – right or wrong – and learning the answers? Then sign up for Jeopardy Jammers! Watch famous trivia shows and participate in classroom based trivia games such as Kahoot, Quizzizz, Internet Jeopardy, Live Jeopardy, Pictionary and more!

**Life 101: Skills You Actually Need****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Life Skills***

This hands-on course teaches middle school students essential everyday skills they don't always learn in the classroom. Over 10 weeks, students will practice real-world tasks such as writing in cursive, filling out forms, sending letters, wrapping gifts, and more. The final project involves planning a vacation, which practices budgeting, research, and planning. By the end of the course, students will gain confidence, independence, and the skills they need to navigate daily life successfully.

**Life in a Jar & Other Balancing Acts****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Science***

Students will discover that the living and non-living parts of an ecosystem change until it becomes stable. One of the main projects is designing and conducting a scientific investigation. Students will set up a freshwater aquarium. Their goal is to set up a balanced ecosystem. The plants and animals in the container will be studied during the course. Students will be responsible for monitoring and maintaining their aquariums. Additional microscopic and hand lens activities will enhance this experience.

**Mad Money****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Math, Social Studies***

Mad Money introduces students to the investment power of the Stock Market. Students will develop an understanding of market history, how to research companies, select and follow stocks of interest, and assess team portfolios. The students will utilize online resources, including the national Stock Market Game.

**Mind, Body, and Spirit****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Life Skills***

Students will be able to manage stress through exercise, self-reflection, journaling, and nutrition. Students will learn how stress can affect their bodies and will be given strategies to overcome stressful situations. Students will take part in yoga, meditation, stretching, de-stressing crafts, and nutrition lessons. Students will leave the classroom feeling healthy and refreshed!

**Music Time****10 weeks*****Course May Be Repeated******Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

Music Time is the opportunity for students to play musical instruments. If the student has never played an instrument before, this is their chance to start. If the student is already in band and wants to try something new, this is their chance to add another instrument to their skill set. If the student is in band and wants more time to practice and develop on their current instrument, this class is for taking skills to the next level. Whether the student is a complete beginner or has years of experience, students in Music Time will receive private lessons and group instruction in instrumental musicianship.

**Outdoor Backyard Games****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Physical Education***

This course is appropriate for students who want to expand their knowledge and skills in backyard sports/games. Students will be introduced to new and ongoing backyard sports/games. The focus of the class will be on developing and mastering different sport-specific skills in relation to multiple outdoor sports/games. As always, sportsmanship, teamwork, and fair play will be a top priority. Some of the sports/games involved will be cornhole, ladder golf, paddle ball, bottle smash, kan jam, spikeball, washers, bocce ball, and cross net.

**Reel to Real****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Enjoy getting “real” about the latest movie? This class is for interested students who enjoy watching movies. “Reel to Real” is designed to challenge students to become thoughtful, active viewers and provide them an opportunity to talk and write about films in new and exciting ways. Students will examine movies that portray real life stories that will inspire them to “Dream it, Believe it, Achieve it”. The movies selected focus on young adult themes of families, belonging, moral dilemmas, and fulfilling dreams.

**Score!****10 weeks*****Course May Be Repeated******Curriculum Focus: Math***

Love Sports? Interested in players’ stats and each season’s wins and losses? Take this class! Students will choose real-life football/basketball/baseball players, follow their statistics, calculate their team’s total points, and compete with one another in class. Each week, students will review and practice middle school math concepts with a heavy focus on fractions and decimals. Boys and girls are welcome!

**Scrapbooking**  
**Do NOT Repeat**

**10 weeks**

**Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts**

Scrapbooking will focus on self-discovery. The students will make a scrapbook of themselves at the end of this 10-week course. Students will make connections between personal experiences and books read in class. Students must be able to bring in several photographs from home for this class.

**Sketch It Out**  
**Do NOT Repeat**

**10 weeks**

**Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts**

For students who love to draw and oftentimes find themselves drawing or doodling throughout the day-- this class is for you! Students will explore Anime, portrait drawing, and additional sketch art forms in this 10-week course. In addition, students will support school-wide projects. At the end of the course, students will have created a portfolio of their best work.

**Sports History**  
**Do NOT Repeat**

**10 weeks**

**Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts**

This history course will examine the development of sports in the United States. The historical study will focus on helping students gain a better understanding of the inner relationship that sports have on social, economic, cultural, and political forces that are at work in the United States as well as the world. Students will explore the historical context as well as the significance of gender, race, ethnicity, and social class. The historical investigation will consist of readings, primary sources, and visual materials as well as class discussions.

**Stories From My Life**  
**Do NOT Repeat**

**10 weeks**

**Curriculum Focus: Language Arts**

This elective class will help the students write and appreciate stories of their lives. The student will write about life events and create their own personal story. Possible topics could include: What I like Best About My Family, Traditions, A Time I Will Never Forget, The Best Vacation, and What is Special to Me. Along with the personal stories, the student will use pictures to assist them with their storytelling. By the end of the course, students will create a "lifebook" to take home and appreciate throughout the years.

**String Theory****10 weeks*****Course May Be Repeated******Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

String Theory is the opportunity for students to learn to play guitar or bass. Students will start with the fundamentals – string names, tuning, strumming, picking and hand placement. This course will take the students as far as they can go in learning instrument technique through learning songs. The focus of this class will be acoustic guitar, electric guitar, acoustic bass and electric bass. Instrument is **NOT** provided.

**The Hunger Games and Roman Influence****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Students will read the novel “The Hunger Games”. Students will take notes on the study of the tributes and the country of Panem. As they read, students will be introduced to the allusions of Roman Culture and Mythology that are implemented by the author with the novel.

**Theatre Arts****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

Theatre Arts introduces the students to the art of physical and vocal expression through pantomime, acting, and improvisation. Students will explore character movement, voice, attitude, and motivation as they develop improvisational skills and learn the techniques of acting. Students will create, participate in, and reflect on small and large group performances. Class participation is a must.

**Yearbook****10 weeks*****Course May Be Repeated******Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

Yearbook is a combination of journalism, photography, and graphic design. Student staff members are expected to have a high level of maturity and the ability to work independently, in pairs, and in groups. Students will assist in the production, design, and promotion of the school yearbook. Creating the yearbook is a fun process, and the end result of all the effort is a product that the students can be proud!

# **Grade 7**

## **Core Courses**

### **(Required For All Students)**

#### **Language Arts 7**

**Full year**

7th Grade ELA uses *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: Into Literature*, a comprehensive literacy program designed to build strong readers, writers, and critical thinkers. The curriculum is organized into six thematic units guided by Essential Questions that connect texts to unit themes and students' real-world experiences. Lessons center on age-appropriate, authentic texts that serve as mentor texts for reading and writing across narrative, informational, and argument genres, representing diverse perspectives and formats. Students study the core novels *Holes* by Louis Sachar and *Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan, analyzing character development, theme, conflict, and author's craft to strengthen comprehension and discussion skills. Spiraling instruction and supportive tasks help students strengthen skills and build confidence as independent learners throughout the year.

#### **Science 7**

**Full year**

Seventh Grade students will develop their science problem-solving skills and explore scientific argumentation. Course content includes: Geology on Mars, Plate Motion, Rock Formations, Phase Changes, Chemical Reactions, Populations & Resources, and Matter & Energy in Ecosystems.

#### **Social Studies 7**

**Full year**

Seventh Grade World History is an introductory course to global human history from the origins of humankind to approximately the year 1450 CE. Throughout the year, students will become familiar with the development of and interactions between people, states, civilizations, and empires. Among the topics we will examine are the rise of cities, the evolution of technology and navigation, the development of communication methods, the importance of agriculture, the rise and fall of empires, the evolving conduct of warfare, and the emergence of intellectual thought and local and world religions.

# Grade 7 Core Courses (Required For All Students)

## **Math 7**

**Full year**

In Math 7, students will enhance their number and operation skills, including fractions and integers. These topics build a foundation for the study of the other concepts, such as ratio, proportion, statistics, measurement, and rational numbers. This sets the foundation for algebraic concepts, including writing and solving equations, and graphing of linear relationships. In geometry, students will explore the properties of similar figures and perform basic geometric constructions.

## **Algebra I** *Staff Assigned Only*

**Full year**

Students must qualify for this course. Eligibility is determined by grades, State Assessment proficiency, and percentile rank on the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test. Students enrolled in this course receive high school credit. Course topics include family of functions (linear, power, polynomial, exponential, and quadratic), expressions, equations, inequalities, and the study of bivariate data.

# Grade 7

## Focus Courses

### (Band OR Spanish Students)

#### **Band 7**

**Full year**

Seventh Grade Concert Band is a year-long, graded course of study that offers instruction on flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, baritone, French horn, trombone, tuba, and percussion. Generally made up of 3rd year band students, new students are welcome to join! Seventh graders will perform at THS Marching Band Invitational, Trenton Christmas Parade, Winter Concert, Band & Orchestra Festival, and Spring Concert. Seventh graders have their first opportunity to perform at the MSBOA Solo & Ensemble Festival (strongly encouraged!).

-OR-

#### **Spanish 1AB (Pre-selection sheet required)**

**Full year**

Spanish 1AB is an in-depth introductory focus course that introduces students to the Spanish language and the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Through extended instructional time and meaningful, real-world contexts, students develop foundational proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing while deepening their understanding of the products, practices, and perspectives of diverse Spanish-speaking communities. This course emphasizes sustained communication, skill development, and preparation for continued language study.

**Successful completion of this course will earn 1.0 high school credit. *Seventh graders electing Spanish 1A & 1B will automatically be placed in year-long Spanish 2A in eighth grade. Spanish 2A will be offered during Electives and will equal four choices.***

# **Grade 7**

## **Exploratory Courses**

### **(Required For Band/Spanish Students)**

#### **Physical Education 7**

**10 weeks**

Students will experience a variety of aquatic, recreational, sport, and fitness activities. Students will learn the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to enjoy an active lifestyle. Attention will be paid to the components of physical fitness and the development of students' knowledge and skill in this area.

# **Grade 7**

## **Focus Courses**

### **(Non-Band/Non-Spanish Students)**

#### **Core Skills 7**

**6 2/3 weeks**

This course helps students strengthen math and reading skills through a focus on data analysis, reading, writing, and communication. Students will work with data by creating and interpreting graphs, using averages and ranges, and clearly explaining their thinking. They will also read and discuss informational texts, build comprehension, and improve writing, grammar, and vocabulary. By the end of the course, students will be better prepared to think critically, communicate confidently, and apply their skills across subjects.

#### **Educational Technology 7**

**6 2/3 weeks**

Students will learn about computer science and coding as you program animations, interactive art, and games in Game Lab. Students will start with simple shapes and build up to more sophisticated sprite-based games using the programming concepts and design process computer scientists use daily. Students will work through a series of design challenges to better understand the needs of others while developing a solution to a problem.

#### **Exploratory Art II**

**6 2/3 weeks**

In Exploratory Art II, students will refine perceptual and technical skills by creating and analyzing art. Students will explore and plan for better composition. They will incorporate a more sophisticated theory of the elements of art and principles of design while working on projects, which may include drawing, painting, cartooning, clay, and metal tools.

#### **Physical Education 7**

**20 weeks**

Students will experience a variety of aquatic, recreational, sport, and fitness activities. Students will learn the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to enjoy an active lifestyle. Attention will be paid to the components of physical fitness and the development of students' knowledge and skill in this area.

**Grade 7**  
**Exploratory Courses**  
**(Required For Non-Band/Non-Spanish Students)**

**No Classes Required**

# **Grade 7**

## **Elective Courses**

### **(Teacher Recommended or Required)**

**ELA Enrichment**  
***Staff Assigned Only***

**10 weeks**

Are you often reading ahead in class? Do debate and creative writing both hold the same intrigue for you? ELA Enrichment offers a deep dive into novels, a platform for student-centered writing, and the ability to enhance grammatical skill sets. ELA Enrichment is a course available to students who have tested on or above grade level on the iReady assessment and have maintained a grade of B+ or higher in their ELA class.

**Guided Academics**  
***Staff Assigned Only***

**10 weeks**

A teacher will guide a small group of students to promote student success. This course will focus on work completion, organization, and academic skill building.

**Jazz Band**  
***Audition Required***

**20 weeks**

The Arthurs Jazz Band is open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students who are currently enrolled in a concert band class. All members of the Arthurs Jazz Band are selected by audition. Arthurs Jazz Band gives various performances throughout the year. Students must be able to commit to before and after school rehearsals approximately twice a week. The Arthurs Jazz Band is inclusive with regard to instrumentation. Generally, Jazz Band is comprised of saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, electric bass, drum set, and guitar, but we also include flute, clarinet, baritone horn, French horn, violin, oboe, and vocalist. Jazz improvisation is a featured aspect of our performances, and all members of the Jazz Band are instructed and encouraged to improvise. A detailed approach to jazz music interpretation will be emphasized, as well as focusing on individual and group performance.

**Leap Into Language 7**  
***Staff Assigned Only***

**10 weeks**

Students having difficulty achieving grade level expectations for Reading, Writing, Spelling, and Grammar may be required to take this class. Formal and informal assessments will be used to place students in this class. Students will be given additional help so they may attempt to attain grade level expectations by filling in the gaps and work completion.

**Math Power 7**  
**Staff Assigned Only**

**10 weeks**

Math Power is designed to help and encourage students to improve core math skills. The focus of this course will be to fill gaps in learning based on students' standardized test results. This course will center on games, manipulative activities, drills, and extra practice. The teacher will also assist students with math homework. The goal is to help students gain the required skills necessary to be successful in mathematics and to encourage them to enjoy math in a relaxed setting.

**Peer 2 Peer**  
**Staff Assigned Only**

**10 weeks**

Peer 2 Peer is an elective course that provides students with the opportunity to support and model academic and social skills from one non-disabled peer to a peer with a disability. There is a focus on leadership skills, understanding and adapting to individual differences, modeling social experiences, and advocating for others in the school setting. Peers will have training in the classroom and join their linked peer during the elective. Peers and students will get to play games and other fun activities to show their linked peer how to interact with others. As a peer, you will have a chance to make new friends, problem-solve any issues with staff, and have fun. Attendance, classroom participation with peers, and the final project are required. Time outside of the classroom may be required. **(Students must fill out an application form, and if selected, the applicant will go through a short interview process to determine an appropriate fit for a peer.**

**Science Project Based Learning (Genius Hour)**  
**Staff Assigned Only**

**10 weeks**

Science Project Based Learning will allow the higher-achieving learners to self-select the science topics they would most like to learn. This class is offered to the students with advanced iReady scores and high grades in Science classes. Students will engage in a research project for the entire card-marking based on driving questions and a culminating product to present to the group at the end of the term.

# Grade 7

## Elective Courses

### (Available to All Students)

#### **Advanced Studio Art**

**10 weeks**

***Course May Be Repeated With Permission of Instructor***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

This elective art course is for students who have an interest in improving their art skills in painting, drawing, sculpture, and printmaking. Students will develop their own ideas to create projects using a variety of drawing materials, paint, ink, metal, plaster gauze, and clay. Students will learn how to analyze artwork and write self-critiques on each project to create an electronic portfolio of their work.

#### **Advanced Team Sports**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Physical Education***

This course is appropriate for students who want to take their knowledge and skills of team sports to the next level. Students will work on offensive/defensive strategies, advanced drills to accelerate skill levels, game situations, and tournament play. The importance of being a good team member will also be emphasized. Depending on the season, the following sports will be covered: Basketball, Volleyball, Football, Tennis, Soccer, Pickleball, Hockey, as well as non-traditional sports/activities.

#### **Animation & Game Design with Scratch**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Technology***

Unleash your creativity and dive into the world of animation and game development with Scratch, a user-friendly visual programming language developed by MIT. This course introduces students to the fundamentals of coding through hands-on projects that bring ideas to life.

Designed for beginners, the course covers essential programming concepts such as loops, conditionals, variables, and event handling in a playful, engaging environment. Students will create interactive animations, design fun games, and learn how to incorporate sound, motion, and visual effects to enhance their projects.

**App Inventor**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
*Curriculum Focus: Technology*

**10 weeks**

Students will learn how to build mobile apps and test them using the web-based program *MIT APP Inventor*. Important programming concepts and terminology will be discussed. Apps created will be able to be tested on an Android device and iOS (Apple) devices. Students will have access to Kindle Fires as well as the Emulator on the computer to test their apps.

**Art From Many Hands**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
*Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts*

**10 weeks**

This class is for art students who want to gain confidence in their own abilities while expanding their knowledge of art from many cultures. Just like today, people of ancient times were using every conceivable material to bring beauty and interest into their lives. Students will try a variety of their techniques to solve design problems. This will increase the students' technical skills as well as help them value the skills of artisans from around the world.

**Book Club**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
*Curriculum Focus: Language Arts*

**10 weeks**

Students will participate in book clubs focused on novels about overcoming challenges, bullying, and personal growth. Through reading, discussion, one-pagers, and reflection, students will build comprehension, empathy, and communication skills while exploring how characters respond to adversity and make positive choices.

**Brain Games**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
*Curriculum Focus: Life Skills*

**10 weeks**

This course allows students to play games while improving their mathematical and critical thinking skills. Students learn gaming strategies in a fun, competitive, and friendly environment. Games include Chess, Blokus, Rush Hour, Sequence, Sudoku puzzles, Othello, and a chance to solve the Rubic's cube. No prior experience is necessary. All grade levels are welcome.

## **Calligraphy**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

In this course, students will be introduced to the art and history of handwriting. Students will learn several different styles of writing, including italics, cursive, cursive italics, and different styles of calligraphy. Students will learn how to formally sign their names. Students will explore different types of writing tools, including pencils, pens, broad-edged markers, broad-edged pens, pointed nib pens, dip pens, and brush-tip pens. This class would also be a great assistance for students who want to improve their handwriting and fine motor skills.

## **Children's Books**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Do you enjoy reading children's books? In this course, you will create your very own! You will learn about authors and the techniques they use to craft engaging stories. Then, you will write and illustrate your own picture book from start to finish. You will also design a game that connects to your story. As a final activity, we will take a field trip to Hedke, where you will share your book and game with a small group of students.

## **Clue Crew**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts***

Love a good mystery? Interested in figuring out how or why something happened? Clue Crew sets students on a course to solve short mysteries through a series of matrix puzzles and short stories. Students will look for clues and use deductive reasoning to draw a conclusion and find answers. Students will even have the opportunity to create their own mystery.

## **Community Service and Leadership (CSL)**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Leadership, Social Studies***

Interested in making a difference and gaining leadership skills? Then take this class! Students will be asked to plan and participate in special activities such as athletic pre-game activities, spirit week activities, and school and community service projects. **Students will be required to perform 10 hours of community service outside the regular school day.**

**Computer Graphic Design**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
*Curriculum Focus: Technology*

**10 weeks**

In this course, students are introduced to the basics of computer graphic design. They will study the history of graphics and computer graphics. Students develop their understanding of computer graphic design by using the software package Canvas™. They learn a variety of tools in Canvas to create their own graphics using different shapes, textures, and styles. As a final project, they can transfer their computer graphics onto a T-shirt. They also examine career opportunities in the area of computer graphics design.

**Countries Around the World**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
*Curriculum Focus: Social Studies*

**10 weeks**

Students will learn continents and countries of the world. Geography skills will be highlighted. Map Game tournaments will be conducted. Countries in the news will be highlighted.

**C.S.I.: “Numb3rs”**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
*Curriculum Focus: Math, Technology*

**10 weeks**

Students will be learning how to solve crimes using mathematics integrated with technology. This course offers students an opportunity to explore career paths in crime investigation as well as learn how math and math theory play a critical role. The program is based on the popular television series titled “Numb3rs”. Students will watch episodes as they relate to math to solving crimes. Students will be involved in collecting and analyzing data, graphing, and predicting trends.

**Current Events**  
**Course May Be Repeated**  
*Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts, Technology*

**10 weeks**

In this class, students will explore the current news events around the world. We will discuss news topics that include world news, science, history, sports, and entertainment, among other topics.

**Family History**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
*Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts*

**10 weeks**

Students will examine their family history, create a family tree, and explore possible lineage based on surnames in their family. Students will discuss traditions and important events, or talk about significant people within their family, through presentations and other class activities. They will also have an opportunity to study their probable country of origin and share in the heritage of different countries presented by classmates. This is a great class where students can learn more about themselves and the world!

**Financial Fitness for Life****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Math, Social Studies***

Financial Fitness for Life will introduce students to the consumer world. Students will be involved in a real-life simulation where they apply the basic principles of economics, create a budget, open a checking account, and explore saving, spending, and credit.

**Forensic Science****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Science***

Students will be introduced to Forensic Science, which is a branch of science that focuses on criminal investigation to provide physical evidence to solve criminal cases. Students will learn a brief history of the subject, discuss the many occupations related to this study, practice the system of identifying criminals, and experience the exactness of fingerprinting.

**Future Authors Club****10 weeks*****Course May Be Repeated******Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Future Authors Club is a creative writing class where students get to write what they want. Whether you love stories, poems, comics, scripts, or wild ideas that don't fit a category yet, this class gives you time, space, and support to create. When possible, you will even connect with real authors to hear about their creative process and ask questions about writing. Students choose their genres, experiment with different styles, and try out new ideas without pressure.

**Get Into the Green Scene****10 Weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Science***

Get ready to hug a tree and play in the dirt! "Get into the Green Scene" is an environmental science class that will introduce students to a variety of issues and topics. Students will study topics of plants and trees, sustainable development, recycling, hybrid cars, water/wetlands, pollution, climate change, and Earth Day.

**Get Into the Groove****10 weeks*****Course May Be Repeated******Curriculum Focus: Physical Education***

Dance-based class featuring Zumba, line dances, movement to music, and Just Dance with Wii. Students will be given the opportunity to create dances and learn the latest dance moves by searching the internet.

## **Great Books**

**10 weeks**

### ***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts (Advanced)***

In this Great Books class, students read *Prisoner B-3087* and *Projekt 1065* by Alan Gratz, powerful World War II novels that explore courage, resilience, and moral choices during the Holocaust. Through close reading, discussion, and written analysis, students examine how characters respond to injustice and survive under extreme conditions. The unit builds skills in textual evidence, inference, and theme analysis while deepening students' understanding of historical context and human perseverance.

## **Greek and Norse Mythology**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Explore the fascinating myths and legends of ancient Greece and Norse cultures! Students will learn about iconic gods, heroes, monsters, and epic adventures while discovering how these stories shaped ancient civilizations and influenced modern pop culture.

Through creative projects, storytelling, and discussions, students will meet figures like Zeus, Athena, Thor, and Loki and explore themes like bravery, loyalty, and betrayal. By the end, they'll gain a deeper appreciation for these timeless tales and their lasting impact on today's world.

## **History Detectives**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts***

Who killed JFK? Was King Tut murdered? Who invented the Alphabet? What happened to Roanoke's lost colony? Who really discovered the Americas? Were there witches in Salem? History Detectives examines some of World History's most intriguing and thought-provoking unsolved mysteries. Students will be engaged in higher-order thinking through independent and group projects while exploring primary source materials, diary entries, newspaper articles, and photographs in an attempt to solve some of History's greatest mysteries.

## **I Hate to Read Club**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

This course is for the student who claims they hate to read. This class is guaranteed to change their mind. Students will be introduced to fun, high-interest books in a teacher-led, relaxed environment. Students will read *The Loser List* and *Freak the Mighty*.

**Independent Study**  
**Course May Be Repeated**  
**Curriculum Focus: Life Skills**

**10 weeks**

Independent Study is an elective course designed to give middle school students extra time to complete assignments, homework, and assessments. Students may also use this time to pursue other academic interests.

**Jazz Improvisation**  
**Course May Be Repeated**  
**Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts**

**10 weeks**

Want to learn how to be the star soloist in the band? Use this opportunity to learn the tools for improvising on your instrument. During this class, students will study classic jazz, rock, and blues solos. Students will learn how to read chord symbols, create melodies from scales, and improvise in all types of styles. With these tools, students will be able to play anything!

**Jeopardy Jammers**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
**Curriculum Focus: Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science**

**10 weeks**

Can't remember what you ate for breakfast this morning, but somehow remember every word to the hit song of 2009? Do you LOVE trivia questions – right or wrong – and learning the answers? Then sign up for Jeopardy Jammers! Watch famous trivia shows and participate in classroom-based trivia games such as Kahoot, Quizzizz, Internet Jeopardy, Live Jeopardy, Pictionary, and more!

**Life 101: Skills You Actually Need**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
**Curriculum Focus: Life Skills**

**10 weeks**

This hands-on course teaches middle school students essential everyday skills they don't always learn in the classroom. Over 10 weeks, students will practice real-world tasks such as writing in cursive, filling out forms, sending letters, wrapping gifts, and more. The final project involves planning a vacation, which involves budgeting, research, and planning. By the end of the course, students will gain confidence, independence, and the skills they need to navigate daily life successfully.

**Life in a Jar & Other Balancing Acts**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
**Curriculum Focus: Science**

**10 weeks**

Students will discover that the living and non-living parts of an ecosystem change until it becomes stable. One of the main projects is designing and conducting a scientific investigation. Students will set up a freshwater aquarium. Their goal is to set up a balanced ecosystem. The plants and animals in the container will be studied during the course. Students will be responsible for monitoring and maintaining their aquariums. Additional microscopic and hand lens activities will enhance this experience.

**Mad Money****10 weeks****Do NOT Repeat****Curriculum Focus: Math, Social Studies**

Mad Money introduces students to the investment power of the Stock Market. Students will develop an understanding of market history, how to research companies, select and follow stocks of interest, and assess team portfolios. The students will utilize online resources, including the national Stock Market Game.

**Mind, Body, and Spirit****10 weeks****Do NOT Repeat****Curriculum Focus: Life Skills**

Students will be able to manage stress through exercise, self-reflection, journaling, and nutrition. Students will learn how stress can affect their bodies and will be given strategies to overcome stressful situations. Students will take part in yoga, meditation, stretching, de-stressing crafts, and nutrition lessons. Students will leave the classroom feeling healthy and refreshed!

**Music Time****10 weeks****Course May Be Repeated****Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts**

Music Time is the opportunity for students to play musical instruments. If the student has never played an instrument before, this is their chance to start. If the student is already in band and wants to try something new, this is their chance to add another instrument to their skill set. If the student is in band and wants more time to practice and develop on their current instrument, this class is for taking skills to the next level. Whether the student is a complete beginner or has years of experience, students in Music Time will receive private lessons and group instruction in instrumental musicianship.

**Outdoor Backyard Games****10 weeks****Do NOT Repeat****Curriculum Focus: Physical Education**

This course is appropriate for students who want to expand their knowledge and skills in backyard sports/games. Students will be introduced to new and ongoing backyard sports/games. The focus of the class will be on developing and mastering different sport-specific skills in relation to multiple outdoor sports/games. As always, sportsmanship, teamwork, and fair play will be a top priority. Some of the sports/games involved will be cornhole, ladder golf, paddle ball, bottle smash, kan jam, spikeball, washers, bocce ball, and cross net.

## **Paper Roller Coasters**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Science, Math***

Paper Roller Coasters is a course where collaborative group work is the foundation of designing and constructing a paper roller coaster. A couple of mini-labs allow students to get to know one another and set the criteria/rules for designing, collecting data, and building a paper roller coaster. Be prepared to work every day with your peers to construct a coaster that is 100% an original design by you!

## **Reel to Real**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Enjoy getting “real” about the latest movie? This class is for interested students who enjoy watching movies. “Reel to Real” is designed to challenge students to become thoughtful, active viewers and provide them with an opportunity to talk and write about films in new and exciting ways. Students will examine movies that portray real-life stories that will inspire them to “Dream it, Believe it, Achieve it”. The movies selected focus on young adult themes of families, belonging, moral dilemmas, and fulfilling dreams.

## **Score!**

**10 weeks**

### ***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Math***

Love Sports? Interested in players’ stats and each season’s wins and losses? Take this class! Students will choose real-life football/basketball/baseball players, follow their statistics, calculate their team’s total points, and compete with one another in class. Each week, students will review and practice middle school math concepts with a heavy focus on fractions and decimals. Boys and girls are welcome!

## **Scrapbooking**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

Scrapbooking will focus on self-discovery. The students will make a scrapbook of themselves at the end of this 10-week course. Students will make connections between personal experiences and books read in class. Students must be able to bring in several photographs from home for this class.

## **Sketch It Out**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

For students who love to draw and often times find themselves drawing or doodling throughout the day-- this class is for you! Students will explore Anime, portrait drawing, and additional sketch art forms in this 10-week course. In addition, students will support school-wide projects. At the end of the course, students will have created a portfolio of their best work.

**Sports History****10 weeks****Do NOT Repeat****Curriculum Focus: Language Arts, Math**

This history course will examine the development of sports in the United States. The historical study will focus on helping students gain a better understanding of the inner relationship that sports have with social, economic, cultural, and political forces that are at work in the United States as well as the world. Students will explore the historical context as well as the significance of gender, race, ethnicity, and social class. The historical investigation will consist of readings, primary sources, and visual materials, as well as class discussions.

**Stories From My Life****10 weeks****Do NOT Repeat****Curriculum Focus: Language Arts**

This elective class will help the students write and appreciate stories of their lives. The student will write about life events and create their own personal story. Possible topics could include: What I like Best About My Family, Traditions, A Time I Will Never Forget, The Best Vacation, and What is Special to Me. Along with the personal stories, the student will use pictures to assist them with their storytelling. By the end of the course, students will create a “lifebook” to take home and appreciate throughout the years.

**String Theory****10 weeks****Course May Be Repeated****Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts**

String Theory is the opportunity for students to learn to play guitar or bass. Students will start with the fundamentals – string names, tuning, strumming, picking, and hand placement. This course will take the students as far as they can go in learning instrument technique through learning songs. The focus of this class will be acoustic guitar, electric guitar, acoustic bass, and electric bass. Instrument is **NOT** provided.

**Theatre Arts****10 weeks****Do NOT Repeat****Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts**

Theatre Arts introduces the students to the art of physical and vocal expression through pantomime, acting, and improvisation. Students will explore character movement, voice, attitude, and motivation as they develop improvisational skills and learn the techniques of acting. Students will create, participate in, and reflect on small and large group performances. Class participation is a must.

**The Hunger Games and Roman Influence****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Students will read the novel “The Hunger Games”. Students will take notes on the study of the tributes and the country of Panem. As they read, students will be introduced to the allusions of Roman Culture and Mythology that are implemented by the author in the novel.

**Yearbook****10 weeks*****Course May Be Repeated******Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

Yearbook is a combination of journalism, photography, and graphic design. Student staff members are expected to have a high level of maturity and the ability to work independently, in pairs, and in groups. Students will assist in the production, design, and promotion of the school yearbook. Creating the yearbook is a fun process, and the end result of all the effort is a product that the students can be proud!

# Grade 8 Core Courses (Required For All Students)

## Language Arts 8

Full year

8th Grade ELA uses materials from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: *Into Literature*. At each grade level, *Into Literature* is presented in six units that center on an Essential Question that links reading selections, frames the unit's theme, and connects to students' experiences. Lessons are organized around age-appropriate authentic texts that support reading instruction and serve as mentor texts for student writing. Reading selections include a variety of genres and representations of diverse cultures and characters. The interconnected tasks build student knowledge and provide opportunities for increased independence. These tasks are supported by spiraling and scaffolded practice. Students will also read the following novels: *Coraline*, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, *Singularity*, and *The Outsiders*.

## Science 8

Full year

As with all middle school science courses, the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade program is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The middle school performance expectations blend the core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing usable knowledge to explain real-world phenomena in the physical, biological, and earth and space sciences. Performance expectations at the middle school level focus on students developing an understanding of several scientific practices. These include developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, and constructing explanations; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas. Students are also expected to demonstrate understanding of several engineering practices, including design and evaluation. These practices will be applied through Amplify Units that include Harnessing Human Energy, Force and Motion, Magnetic Fields, Light Waves, Earth/Moon/Sun, Natural Selection, and Evolutionary History.

**Social Studies 8****Full year**

The purpose of this course is to develop the student's understanding of the heritage that shaped the United States as a democratic nation. United States history is surveyed from the early colonial period through the development of an industrial, urban, and global United States. The political, economic, and social changes of our nation will be explored. Native Americans, exploration, colonization, and the Revolutionary War will be reviewed. The formation of our national government, the Westward Movement, the Civil War, and Reconstruction will be studied in detail. The course will periodically include the study of Michigan history and U.S. foreign affairs through 1931. The study of American history will prepare students to become responsible citizens.

**Math 8****Full year**

This course is for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students who are preparing to take Algebra 1 as a freshman at the high school. Instruction will place major emphasis on families of functions, algebra skills, probability, and geometry. The graphing calculator will be utilized as a problem-solving tool to enhance student learning.

**Algebra I****Full year*****Staff Assigned Only***

Students must qualify for this course. Eligibility is determined by grades, State Assessment proficiency, and percentile rank on the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test. Students enrolled in this course receive high school credit. Course topics include family of functions (linear, power, polynomial, exponential, and quadratic), expressions, equations, inequalities, and the study of bivariate data.

**Geometry****Full Year*****Staff Assigned Only***

This course is for advanced students who successfully completed algebra in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. This is a high school geometry course and begins by establishing definitions and familiarizing students with the language of geometry. Postulates and theorems are introduced, and students learn to write formal proofs. Included in the course are triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, areas of plane figures, volumes of solid figures, coordinate geometry, and transformations. Students attend class at Trenton High School (1<sup>st</sup> hour), then are bused back to AMS in time for 2<sup>nd</sup> hour.

# **Grade 8**

## **Focus Courses**

### **(Band OR Spanish Students)**

#### **Band 8**

**Full year**

Eighth Grade Concert Band is a year-long, graded course of study that offers instruction on flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, baritone, French horn, trombone, tuba, and percussion. Generally made up of 4th year band students, new students are welcome to join! Eighth graders will perform at THS Marching Band Invitational, Trenton Christmas Parade, Winter Concert, Band & Orchestra Festival, and Spring Concert. Eighth graders have the opportunity to perform at the MSBOA Solo & Ensemble Festival (strongly encouraged!).

**OR**

#### **Spanish 1AB** (Pre-selection sheet required)

**Full year**

Spanish 1AB is an in-depth introductory focus course that introduces students to the Spanish language and the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Through extended instructional time and meaningful, real-world contexts, students develop foundational proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing while deepening their understanding of the products, practices, and perspectives of diverse Spanish-speaking communities. This course emphasizes sustained communication, skill development, and preparation for continued language study.

**Successful completion of this course will earn 1.0 high school credit.**

**Grade 8  
Exploratory Courses  
(Required for Band/Spanish Students)**

**Physical Education 8**

**10 weeks**

Students will experience a variety of aquatic, recreational, sport, and fitness activities. Students will learn the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to enjoy an active lifestyle. Attention will be paid to the components of physical fitness and the development of students' knowledge and skills in this area.

# **Grade 8**

## **Focus Courses**

### **(Non-Band/Non-Spanish Students)**

#### **Core Skills 8**

**6 2/3 weeks**

Core Skills 8 is a six-week course designed to strengthen and reinforce essential learning across the four core subject areas: math, science, social studies, and language arts. Students will review key concepts and skills from each discipline through engaging, standards-aligned assignments that emphasize practice, application, and critical thinking. Instruction and activities will be delivered using a variety of online methods, allowing students to interact with content in multiple formats while building confidence, independence, and readiness for future coursework.

#### **Educational Technology 8**

**6 2/3 weeks**

Students will complete the *Creating Apps with Devices* unit from Code.org. Students will explore the role of physical devices in computing. Using App Lab and Adafruit's Circuit Playground, students will develop programs that utilize the same hardware inputs and outputs that you see in smart devices, looking at how a simple rough prototype can lead to a finished product. Then, students explore how physical devices can be used to react to the world around them using a "maker" mindset to create prototypes with everyday materials.

#### **Exploratory Art III**

**6 2/3 weeks**

In Exploratory Art III, students will refine perceptual and technical skills by creating and analyzing art. Students will explore and plan for better composition. They will incorporate a more sophisticated theory of the elements of art, principles of design, and demonstrate their knowledge of color theory while working on projects which may include drawing, painting, cartooning, clay, and weaving.

#### **Physical Education 8**

**20 weeks**

Students will experience a variety of aquatic, recreational, sport, and fitness activities. Students will learn the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to enjoy an active lifestyle. Attention will be paid to the components of physical fitness and the development of students' knowledge and skills in this area.

## **Grade 8 Elective Courses (Teacher Recommended or Required)**

### **ELA Enrichment**

**10 weeks**

***Staff Assigned Only***

Are you often reading ahead in class? Do debate and creative writing both hold the same intrigue for you? ELA Enrichment offers a deep dive into novels, a platform for student-centered writing, and the ability to enhance grammatical skill sets. ELA Enrichment is a course available to students who have tested on or above grade level on the iReady assessment and have maintained a grade of B+ or higher in their ELA class.

### **Guided Academics**

**10 weeks**

***Staff Assigned Only***

A teacher will guide a small group of students to promote student success. This course will focus on work completion, organization, and academic skill building.

### **Jazz Band**

**20 weeks**

***Audition Required***

The Arthurs Jazz Band is open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students who are currently enrolled in a concert band class. All members of the Arthurs Jazz Band are selected by audition. Arthurs Jazz Band gives various performances throughout the year. Students must be able to commit to before and after school rehearsals approximately twice a week. The Arthurs Jazz Band is inclusive with regard to instrumentation. Generally, Jazz Band is comprised of saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, electric bass, drum set, and guitar, but we also include flute, clarinet, baritone horn, French horn, violin, oboe, and vocalist. Jazz improvisation is a featured aspect of our performances, and all members of the Jazz Band are instructed and encouraged to improvise. A detailed approach to jazz music interpretation will be emphasized, as well as focusing on individual and group performance.

### **Leap into Language 8**

**10 weeks**

***Staff Assigned Only***

Students having difficulty achieving grade-level expectations for Reading, Writing, Spelling, and Grammar may be required to take this class. Formal and informal assessments will be used to place students in this class. Students will be given additional help so they may attempt to attain grade-level expectations by filling in the gaps and work completion.

**Math Power 8**  
**Staff Assigned Only**

**10 weeks**

Math Power is designed to help and encourage students to improve core math skills. The focus of this course will be to fill gaps in learning based on students' standardized test results. This course will center on games, manipulative activities, drills, and extra practice. The teacher will also assist students with math homework. The goal is to help students gain the required skills necessary to be successful in mathematics and to encourage them to enjoy math in a relaxed setting.

**Peer 2 Peer**  
**Staff Assigned Only**

**10 weeks**

Peer 2 Peer is an elective course that provides students with the opportunity to support and model academic and social skills from one non-disabled peer to a peer with a disability. There is a focus on leadership skills, understanding and adapting to individual differences, modeling social experiences, and advocating for others in the school setting. Peers will have training in the classroom and join their linked peer during the elective. Peers and students will get to play games and other fun activities to show their linked peers how to interact with others. As a peer, you will have a chance to make new friends, problem-solve any issues with staff, and have fun. Attendance, classroom participation with peers, and the final project are required. Time outside of the classroom may be required. **(Students must fill out an application form, and if selected, the applicant will go through a short interview process to determine an appropriate fit for a peer.**

**Science Project-Based Learning (Genius Hour)**  
**Staff Assigned Only**

**10 weeks**

Science Project-Based Learning will allow the higher-achieving learners to self-select the science topics they would most like to learn. This class is offered to the students with advanced iReady scores and high grades in Science classes. Students will engage in a research project for the entire card-marking based on driving questions and a culminating product to present to the group at the end of the term.

## **Grade 8 Elective Courses (Available to All Students)**

### **Advanced Studio Art**

**10 weeks**

***Course May Be Repeated With Permission of Instructor***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

This elective art course is for students who have an interest in improving their art skills in painting, drawing, sculpture, and printmaking. Students will develop their own ideas to create projects using a variety of drawing materials, paint, ink, metal, plaster gauze, and clay. Students will learn how to analyze artwork and write self-critiques on each project to create an electronic portfolio of their work.

### **Advanced Team Sports**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Physical Education***

This course is appropriate for students who want to take their knowledge and skills of team sports to the next level. Students will work on offensive/defensive strategies, advanced drills to accelerate skill levels, game situations, and tournament play. The importance of being a good team member will also be emphasized. Depending on the season, the following sports will be covered: Basketball, Volleyball, Football, Tennis, Soccer, Pickleball, Hockey, as well as non-traditional sports/activities.

### **Animation & Game Design with Scratch**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Technology***

Unleash your creativity and dive into the world of animation and game development with Scratch, a user-friendly visual programming language developed by MIT. This course introduces students to the fundamentals of coding through hands-on projects that bring ideas to life.

Designed for beginners, the course covers essential programming concepts such as loops, conditionals, variables, and event handling in a playful, engaging environment. Students will create interactive animations, design fun games, and learn how to incorporate sound, motion, and visual effects to enhance their projects.

**App Inventor**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
*Curriculum Focus: Technology*

**10 weeks**

Students will learn how to build mobile apps and test them using the web-based program *MIT APP Inventor*. Important programming concepts and terminology will be discussed. Apps created will be able to be tested on an Android device and iOS (Apple) devices. Students will have access to Kindle Fires as well as the Emulator on the computer to test their apps.

**Art From Many Hands**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
*Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts*

**10 weeks**

This class is for art students who want to gain confidence in their own abilities while expanding their knowledge of art from many cultures. Just like today, people of ancient times were using every conceivable material to bring beauty and interest into their lives. Students will try a variety of their techniques to solve design problems. This will increase the students' technical skills as well as help them value the skills of artisans from around the world.

**Book Club**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
*Curriculum Focus: Language Arts*

**10 weeks**

Students will participate in book clubs focused on novels about overcoming challenges, bullying, and personal growth. Through reading, discussion, one-pagers, and reflection, students will build comprehension, empathy, and communication skills while exploring how characters respond to adversity and make positive choices.

**Brain Games**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
*Curriculum Focus: Life Skills*

**10 weeks**

This course allows students to play games while improving their mathematical and critical thinking skills. Students learn gaming strategies in a fun, competitive, and friendly environment. Games include Chess, Blokus, Rush Hour, Sequence, Sudoku puzzles, Othello, and a chance to solve the Rubic's cube. No prior experience is necessary. All grade levels are welcome.

## **Calligraphy**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

In this course, students will be introduced to the art and history of handwriting. Students will learn several different styles of writing, including italics, cursive, cursive italics, and different styles of calligraphy. Students will learn how to formally sign their names. Students will explore different types of writing tools, including pencils, pens, broad-edged markers, broad-edged pens, pointed nib pens, dip pens, and brush-tip pens. This class would also be a great assistance for students who want to improve their handwriting and fine motor skills.

## **Children's Books**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Do you enjoy reading children's books? In this course, you will create your very own! You will learn about authors and the techniques they use to craft engaging stories. Then, you will write and illustrate your own picture book from start to finish. You will also design a game that connects to your story. As a final activity, we will take a field trip to Hedke, where you will share your book and game with a small group of students.

## **Clue Crew**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts***

Love a good mystery? Interested in figuring out how or why something happened? Clue Crew sets students on a course to solve short mysteries through a series of matrix puzzles and short stories. Students will look for clues and use deductive reasoning to draw a conclusion and find answers. Students will even have the opportunity to create their own mystery.

## **Community Service and Leadership (CSL)**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Leadership, Social Studies***

Interested in making a difference and gaining leadership skills? Then take this class! Students will be asked to plan and participate in special activities such as athletic pre-game activities, spirit week activities, and school and community service projects. **Students will be required to perform 10 hours of community service outside the regular school day.**

**Computer Graphic Design**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
*Curriculum Focus: Technology*

**10 weeks**

In this course, students are introduced to the basics of computer graphic design. They will study the history of graphics and computer graphics. Students develop their understanding of computer graphic design by using the software package Canvas™. They learn a variety of tools in Canvas to create their own graphics using different shapes, textures, and styles. As a final project, they can transfer their computer graphics onto a T-shirt. They also examine career opportunities in the area of computer graphics design.

**Countries Around the World**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
*Curriculum Focus: Social Studies*

**10 weeks**

Students will learn the continents and countries of the world. Geography skills will be highlighted. Map Game tournaments will be conducted. Countries in the news will be highlighted.

**C.S.I.: “Numb3rs”**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
*Curriculum Focus: Math, Technology*

**10 weeks**

Students will be learning how to solve crimes using mathematics integrated with technology. This course offers students an opportunity to explore career paths in crime investigation as well as learn how math and math theory plays a critical role. The program is based on the popular television series titled “Numb3rs”. Students will watch episodes as they relate to math to solving crimes. Students will be involved in collecting and analyzing data, graphing, and predicting trends.

**Current Events**  
**Course May Be Repeated**  
*Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts, Technology*

**10 weeks**

In this class, students will explore the current news events around the world. We will discuss news topics that include world news, science, history, sports, and entertainment, among other topics.

**Family History**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
*Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts*

**10 weeks**

Students will examine their family history, create a family tree, and explore possible lineage based on surnames in their family. Students will discuss traditions and important events, or talk about significant people within their family, through presentations and other class activities. They will also have an opportunity to study their probable country of origin and share in the heritage of different countries presented by classmates. This is a great class where students can learn more about themselves and the world!

**Financial Fitness for Life****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Math, Social Studies***

Financial Fitness for Life will introduce students to the consumer world. Students will be involved in a real-life simulation where they apply the basic principles of economics, create a budget, open a checking account, and explore saving, spending, and credit.

**Forensic Science****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Science***

Students will be introduced to Forensic Science, which is a branch of science that focuses on criminal investigation to provide physical evidence to solve criminal cases. Students will learn a brief history of the subject, discuss the many occupations related to this study, practice the system of identifying criminals, and experience the exactness of fingerprinting.

**Future Authors Club****10 weeks*****Course May Be Repeated******Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Future Authors Club is a creative writing class where students get to write what they want. Whether you love stories, poems, comics, scripts, or wild ideas that don't fit a category yet, this class gives you time, space, and support to create. When possible, you will even connect with real authors to hear about their creative process and ask questions about writing. Students choose their genres, experiment with different styles, and try out new ideas without pressure.

**Get Into the Green Scene****10 Weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Science***

Get ready to hug a tree and play in the dirt! "Get into the Green Scene" is an environmental science class that will introduce students to a variety of issues and topics. Students will study topics of plants and trees, sustainable development, recycling, hybrid cars, water/wetlands, pollution, climate change, and Earth Day.

**Get Into the Groove****10 weeks*****Course May Be Repeated******Curriculum Focus: Physical Education***

Dance based class featuring Zumba, line dances, movement to music, and Just Dance with Wii. Students will be given the opportunity to create dances and learn the latest dance moves by searching the internet.

## **Great Books**

**10 weeks**

### ***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts (Advanced)***

In this Great Books class, students read *Prisoner B-3087* and *Projekt 1065* by Alan Gratz, powerful World War II novels that explore courage, resilience, and moral choices during the Holocaust. Through close reading, discussion, and written analysis, students examine how characters respond to injustice and survive under extreme conditions. The unit builds skills in textual evidence, inference, and theme analysis while deepening students' understanding of historical context and human perseverance.

## **Greek and Norse Mythology**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Explore the fascinating myths and legends of ancient Greece and Norse cultures! Students will learn about iconic gods, heroes, monsters, and epic adventures while discovering how these stories shaped ancient civilizations and influenced modern pop culture.

Through creative projects, storytelling, and discussions, students will meet figures like Zeus, Athena, Thor, and Loki and explore themes like bravery, loyalty, and betrayal. By the end, they'll gain a deeper appreciation for these timeless tales and their lasting impact on today's world.

## **History Detectives**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts***

Who killed JFK? Was King Tut murdered? Who invented the Alphabet? What happened to Roanoke's lost colony? Who really discovered the Americas? Were there witches in Salem? History Detectives examines some of World History's most intriguing and thought-provoking unsolved mysteries. Students will be engaged in higher-order thinking through independent and group projects while exploring primary source materials, diary entries, newspaper articles, and photographs in an attempt to solve some of History's greatest mysteries.

## **I Hate to Read Club**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

This course is for the student who claims they hate to read. This class is guaranteed to change their mind. Students will be introduced to fun, high-interest books in a teacher-led, relaxed environment. Students will read *The Loser List* and *Freak the Mighty*.

**Independent Study**  
**Course May Be Repeated**  
**Curriculum Focus: Life Skills**

**10 weeks**

Independent Study is an elective course designed to give middle school students extra time to complete assignments, homework, and assessments. Students may also use this time to pursue other academic interests.

**Jazz Improvisation**  
**Course May Be Repeated**  
**Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts**

**10 weeks**

Want to learn how to be the star soloist in the band? Use this opportunity to learn the tools for improvising on your instrument. During this class, students will study classic jazz, rock, and blues solos. Students will learn how to read chord symbols, create melodies from scales, and improvise in all types of styles. With these tools, students will be able to play anything!

**Jeopardy Jammers**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
**Curriculum Focus: Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science**

**10 weeks**

Can't remember what you ate for breakfast this morning, but somehow remember every word to the hit song of 2009? Do you LOVE trivia questions – right or wrong – and learning the answers? Then sign up for Jeopardy Jammers! Watch famous trivia shows and participate in classroom-based trivia games such as Kahoot, Quizzizz, Internet Jeopardy, Live Jeopardy, Pictionary, and more!

**Life 101: Skills You Actually Need**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
**Curriculum Focus: Life Skills**

**10 weeks**

This hands-on course teaches middle school students essential everyday skills they don't always learn in the classroom. Over 10 weeks, students will practice real-world tasks such as writing in cursive, filling out forms, sending letters, wrapping gifts, and more. The final project involves planning a vacation, which practices budgeting, research, and planning. By the end of the course, students will gain confidence, independence, and the skills they need to navigate daily life successfully.

**Life in a Jar & Other Balancing Acts**  
**Do NOT Repeat**  
**Curriculum Focus: Science**

**10 weeks**

Students will discover that the living and non-living parts of an ecosystem change until it becomes stable. One of the main projects is designing and conducting a scientific investigation. Students will set up a freshwater aquarium. Their goal is to set up a balanced ecosystem. The plants and animals in the container will be studied during the course. Students will be responsible for monitoring and maintaining their aquariums. Additional microscopic and hand lens activities will enhance this experience.

**Mad Money****10 weeks****Do NOT Repeat****Curriculum Focus: Math, Social Studies**

Mad Money introduces students to the investment power of the Stock Market. Students will develop an understanding of market history, how to research companies, select and follow stocks of interest, and assess team portfolios. The students will utilize online resources, including the national Stock Market Game.

**Mind, Body, and Spirit****10 weeks****Do NOT Repeat****Curriculum Focus: Life Skills**

Students will be able to manage stress through exercise, self-reflection, journaling, and nutrition. Students will learn how stress can affect their bodies and will be given strategies to overcome stressful situations. Students will take part in yoga, meditation, stretching, de-stressing crafts, and nutrition lessons. Students will leave the classroom feeling healthy and refreshed!

**Music Time****10 weeks****Course May Be Repeated****Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts**

Music Time is the opportunity for students to play musical instruments. If the student has never played an instrument before, this is their chance to start. If the student is already in band and wants to try something new, this is their chance to add another instrument to their skill set. If the student is in band and wants more time to practice and develop on their current instrument, this class is for taking skills to the next level. Whether the student is a complete beginner or has years of experience, students in Music Time will receive private lessons and group instruction in instrumental musicianship.

**Outdoor Backyard Games****10 weeks****Do NOT Repeat****Curriculum Focus: Physical Education**

This course is appropriate for students who want to expand their knowledge and skills of backyard sports/games. Students will be introduced to new and ongoing backyard sports/games. The focus of the class will be on developing and mastering different sport specific skills in relation to multiple outdoor sports/games. As always, sportsmanship, teamwork and fair play will be a top priority. Some of the sports/games involved will be cornhole, ladder golf, paddle ball, bottle smash, kan jam, spikeball, washers, bocce ball, and cross net.

## **Paper Roller Coasters**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Science, Math***

Paper Roller Coasters is a course where collaborative group work is the foundation of designing and constructing a paper roller coaster. A couple of mini-labs allow students to get to know one another and set the criteria/rules for designing, collecting data, and building a paper roller coaster. Be prepared to work every day with your peers to construct a coaster that is 100% an original design by you!

## **Reel to Real**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Enjoy getting “real” about the latest movie? This class is for interested students who enjoy watching movies. “Reel to Real” is designed to challenge students to become thoughtful, active viewers and provide them with an opportunity to talk and write about films in new and exciting ways. Students will examine movies that portray real-life stories that will inspire them to “Dream it, Believe it, Achieve it”. The movies selected focus on young adult themes of families, belonging, moral dilemmas, and fulfilling dreams.

## **Remember the Holocaust**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts***

Transport yourself to the time of the Holocaust through the use of novels: Night by Elie Wiesel, The Devil’s Arithmetic by Jane Yolen, and One Survivor Remembers by Gerda Weissmann Klein. Videos will accompany the hands-on lessons presented. The course will culminate with a field trip to the Holocaust Memorial. (Fee required for Museum visit.)

## **Score!**

**10 weeks**

### ***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Math***

Love Sports? Interested in players’ stats and each season’s wins and losses? Take this class! Students will choose real-life football/basketball/baseball players, follow their statistics, calculate their team’s total points, and compete with one another in class. Each week, students will review and practice middle school math concepts with a heavy focus on fractions and decimals. Boys and girls are welcome!

## **Scrapbooking**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

Scrapbooking will focus on self-discovery. The students will make a scrapbook of themselves at the end of this 10-week course. Students will make connections between personal experiences and books read in class. Students must be able to bring in several photographs from home for this class

**Sketch It Out****10 weeks****Do NOT Repeat****Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts**

For students who love to draw and oftentimes find themselves drawing or doodling throughout the day-- this class is for you! Students will explore Anime, portrait drawing, and additional sketch art forms in this 10-week course. In addition, students will support school-wide projects. At the end of the course, students will have created a portfolio of their best work.

**Spanish 1A (Pre-selection sheet required)****Full Year****Do NOT Repeat****Curriculum Focus: World Language**

Spanish 1A is an introductory elective course that introduces students to the Spanish language and the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Through engaging, real-world contexts, students develop introductory listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills while building cultural awareness of the products, practices, and perspectives of diverse Spanish-speaking communities. This course emphasizes exploration, participation, and exposure to the language.

**Successful completion of this course will earn .5 high school credit.**

**Spanish 2A****Full Year****REQUIRED for and open only to students who successfully completed****Spanish 1A & 1B in seventh grade****Curriculum Focus: World Language**

Spanish 2A builds on the language skills and cultural knowledge developed in Spanish 1, continuing students' study of the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures. Through engaging, real-world contexts, students strengthen their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills while expanding their ability to communicate with greater confidence and accuracy. Cultural learning deepens as students explore the products, practices, and perspectives of diverse Spanish-speaking communities.

**Successful completion of this course will earn .5 high school credit.**

**Sports History****10 weeks****Do NOT Repeat****Curriculum Focus: Language Arts, Math**

This history course will examine the development of sports in the United States. The historical study will focus on helping students gain a better understanding of the inner relationship that sports have on social, economic, cultural, and political forces that are at work in the United States as well as the world. Students will explore the historical context as well as the significance of gender, race, ethnicity, and social class. The historical investigation will consist of readings, primary sources, and visual materials as well as class discussions.

**Stories From My Life****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

This elective class will help the students write and appreciate stories of their lives. The student will write about life events and create their own personal story. Possible topics could include: What I like Best About My Family, Traditions, A Time I Will Never Forget, The Best Vacation, and What is Special to Me. Along with the personal stories, the student will use pictures to assist them with their storytelling. By the end of the course, students will create a “lifebook” to take home and appreciate throughout the years.

**String Theory****10 weeks*****Course May Be Repeated******Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

String Theory is the opportunity for students to learn to play guitar or bass. Students will start with the fundamentals – string names, tuning, strumming, picking and hand placement. This course will take the students as far as they can go in learning instrument technique through learning songs. The focus of this class will be acoustic guitar, electric guitar, acoustic bass and electric bass. Instrument is **NOT** provided.

**The Hunger Games and Roman Influence****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Students will read the novel “The Hunger Games”. Students will take notes on the study of the tributes and the country of Panem. As they read, students will be introduced to the allusions of Roman Culture and Mythology that are implemented by the author in the novel.

**Theatre Arts****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

Theatre Arts introduces the students to the art of physical and vocal expression through pantomime, acting, and improvisation. Students will explore character movement, voice, attitude, and motivation as they develop improvisational skills and learn the techniques of acting. Students will create, participate in, and reflect on small and large group performances. Class participation is a must.

**WEB****10 weeks*****Do Not Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Leadership***

WEB is an elective course exclusively for 8th grade students that focuses on leadership, mentorship, and community building. *Where Everybody Belongs (WEB)* is a middle school orientation and transition program designed to welcome incoming 6th graders and new students to AMS and support them throughout their first year. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, the program trains selected 8th graders to serve as WEB Leaders and positive role models. As mentors, WEB Leaders guide younger students in developing confidence, building connections, and learning the skills needed to be successful in middle school. Participation in WEB requires an application, acceptance into the program, and ongoing adherence to the WEB Leader Code of Conduct.

**Yearbook****10 weeks*****Course May Be Repeated******Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

Yearbook is a combination of journalism, photography, and graphic design. Student staff members are expected to have a high level of maturity and the ability to work independently, in pairs, and in groups. Students will assist in the production, design, and promotion of the school yearbook. Creating the yearbook is a fun process, and the end result of all the effort is a product that the students can be proud!

# Special Education Courses

## All Grade Levels

### **Language Arts**

This course continues to build Language Arts skills begun at the elementary level. The curriculum includes proper sentence structure, grammar, a variety of writing activities, study skills, and spelling. Practical application of these skills will be used whenever possible. The reading program contains practice in both vocabulary and comprehension skills. Both fiction and non-fiction materials are used for learning enjoyment.

### **Math**

This course is designed to reinforce and expand mathematical concepts, including computation and understanding of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and measurement. Special emphasis is placed on applying knowledge of these concepts to problem solving, using calculators when necessary.

### **Science**

This course parallels that of general education science with its focus on Life, Physical, and Earth Sciences. Hands-on experiences are provided whenever possible along with modifications for individual needs.

### **Social Studies**

This course is designed for students who need basic knowledge of self, their community, their state and nation, and the world.

### **Guided Academics**

The purpose of this course is to offer services to students who need academic support in their general education classes. Students will be pulled as needed from their Exploratory/Elective (E<sup>2</sup>) times.

### **Co-Taught**

Students will be in general education core classes with the support of a special education teacher.

## **Section 21f – Online Courses**

### **All Grade Levels**

#### **Online Courses**

In accordance with Section 21f of the State School Aid Act, students in grades 6-12 may take up to two online courses during an academic term, semester, or trimester in place of a currently scheduled course.

#### **Eligibility includes all of the following requirements:**

1. The student is enrolled in Trenton Public Schools in grades 6-12, and
2. The student has not previously earned credit for the requested course, and
3. The online course generates academic credit, and
4. The online course is consistent with the remaining graduation requirements or career interest of the student, and
5. The student possesses the prerequisite knowledge and skills to be successful in the online course, and
6. The cost of the online course does not exceed the amount authorized by law unless the parent/guardian agrees to pay the difference in cost, and
7. The online course is of sufficient quality or rigor. Course options are limited to classes that are listed in the Michigan's Online Course Catalog (<https://micourses.org>), and
8. The student adheres to the established school-district procedures and timelines for requesting an online course.

#### **Timelines and Procedures:**

1. Online Course Enrollment Request Forms are available in the counseling office.
2. Completed request forms must be submitted to the student's counselor by the following dates:
  - May 1 for online courses to be taken the first semester of the following school year.
  - November 1 for online courses to be taken during the second semester of the current school year.
3. Upon approval of the online course by the building principal, both the student and parent/guardian must agree to the 21f Online Learning Course Student Contract.
4. The enrollment process for the online course is conducted by the district – the student or parent may not enroll the student directly in the course.
5. The district will assign a mentor for the student. The role of the mentor is to serve as a liaison, monitor student weekly progress, and proctor online assessment as needed. The online teacher is the teacher of record.

6. A student's school record and transcript shall identify the online course title as it appears in the online course syllabus.
7. The score for the course submitted by the online instructor will be converted to a letter grade which will be posted on the student's transcript. Percentage grades will follow the common grading scale for Arthurs Middle School. The mentor is responsible for submitting the final grade to the counseling office.
8. Failure to complete an online class will show on the student's transcript as a "W" or an "E" if the teacher of record reports a failing final grade.