Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School

Grades 6 & 7 Program of Studies

2025-2026

Approved: 06/23/25

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Our Vision: Cultivating compassionate and extraordinary learners.
Our Mission: Springfield Public Schools will challenge every student through meaningful, engaging experiences — empowering all students to flourish and contribute in an evolving world.

School Administration

Mr. Ronald Slate, Principal
Mr. Matthew Lynch, Assistant Principal

Student Support Services

Mr. William Douma, School Counselor
Mrs. Maria Sista, School Counselor
Mrs. Renee Mowczan, Nurse
Ms. Regine Rousso, Psychologist
Mrs. Kim Paz, Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant
Mrs. Kelly Sehulster, Social Worker

District Administration

Dr. Rachel Goldberg, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Erica Scudero, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Michelle Calas, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Mrs. Ann Suter, Director of Student Support Services
Ms. Tiffany Boehm, Director of Early Childhood & Elementary Education
Mr. Anthony Salerno, Athletic Director
Mrs. Meredith Gerckins, Supervisor of School Counseling Services
Mr. Gregory Salmon, Supervisor of STEM
Mrs. Candice Schiano, Supervisor of Humanities

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PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

It is with great excitement that I introduce to you the Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School Program of Studies for the academic year 2025-2026. This comprehensive guide is designed to serve as a roadmap for your educational journey over the coming year. Inside, you will find a diverse range of courses and opportunities designed to inspire curiosity, foster academic growth, and support your personal development.

At FMG, we are deeply committed to providing an environment where every student is encouraged to explore their unique interests and strengths. Our curriculum is not just a collection of subjects; it is an invitation to embark on a journey of discovery, learning, and self-growth. Whether you are drawn to the world of mathematics, literature, the sciences, or the arts, there is a place here for you to thrive and excel.

Our middle school program is designed to nurture the whole child academically, socially, and emotionally. You will have the opportunity to engage with both traditional subjects and innovative programs that challenge you to think critically, collaborate with peers, and develop a deeper understanding of the world around you. In addition to our core subjects, we offer enriching courses in the arts, music, physical education, and technology, ensuring a well-rounded experience that encourages creativity and physical well-being.

We are also committed to your social-emotional growth. Through our advisory programs and extracurricular activities, we aim to help each student develop the skills necessary for success in school and beyond—skills such as resilience, empathy, leadership, and teamwork.

As you embark on this new academic year, I encourage you to approach your studies with enthusiasm and a growth mindset. Embrace each challenge as an opportunity to expand your knowledge and refine your skills. Take the time to explore new subjects, engage with teachers and classmates, and actively contribute to building a positive and inclusive school community.

To our parents and guardians, thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we will provide the guidance and encouragement necessary for each student to reach their full potential. We value your involvement and look forward to working alongside you to ensure a successful year for your child.

I invite you all to explore this Program of Studies with excitement, curiosity, and an open mind. Let this be the start of an extraordinary academic journey—one that will lead to new discoveries, personal growth, and a deeper love of learning.

Here's to a fantastic school year ahead!

Best regards,

Mr. Ronald Slate
Principal

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

The following information is designed to inform you of the courses taken for the years you will spend in middle school. To a very large degree, your success, your pride in achievement, and your own personal accomplishments will be determined by the effort you put forth in your classes.

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

All courses satisfactorily completed count toward promotional requirements. Specific courses that must be completed satisfactorily are:

Communication Arts Grades 6 & 7
Mathematics Grades 6 & 7
Science Grades 6 & 7
Social Studies Grades 6 & 7
Physical Education and Health Grades 6 & 7
Practical Arts Grades 7 (1 semester)
Visual and Performing Arts Grades 6 & 7 (1 semester)
World Languages

- Grades 6 - 1 marking period
- Grade 7 - 1 semester

Grading Scale

The middle school uses a numerical grading scale with a grade of 65 or higher as passing.

Honor Roll

At the end of each marking period, sixth and seventh-grade students who meet the requisite course averages are recognized by being placed on the FMG Honor Roll. Students with an average of 95 or above and no grade under 90 are placed on the **HIGH HONOR ROLL**. Students with an average of 90 or above, with no grade below 85, are placed on **the Honor Roll**.

State and District Assessments

Students will be administered the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) in the Spring of fifth, sixth, and seventh grades. The iReady Diagnostic benchmark assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics are given three times a year to track progress toward grade-level mastery. Students in Communication Arts 5, 6 & 7, and all students in Math 5, Math 6, and Math 7 will take the corresponding assessments on the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA). All courses follow the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) and comply with all New Jersey Department of Education policies and regulations.

Attendance

Students **must** meet attendance requirements for each course. These requirements vary according to the length of the course (i.e., full-year, semester). The standard is 90% attendance.

Technology Literacy

Technology and Media Literacy are infused into the standard curriculum as essential skills needed by students for academic and career success. All curriculum is regularly revised to incorporate developing skills, tools, and resources in a rapidly evolving world. Each course incorporates and aligns with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for College and Career Readiness with regard to Technology and Media Literacy.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Board of Education policy states that the assignment of students to subject areas is to follow all pertinent federal and state laws and regulations, and such assignment will not be predicated based on race, color, creed, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, social or economic status, or handicapping conditions.

School Counseling & Social-Emotional Learning

Each student is assigned to a school counselor alphabetically based on their last name. Students can request to meet with their counselor independently or through a referral from a parent, teacher, or other faculty & staff. The middle school counselor assists with the social, emotional, and academic needs of students and acts as an important liaison between the student, teacher, and parents. The counselors work with the classroom teachers as well as the Student Assistance Counselor (SAC) to meet the needs of the changing adolescent and develop school-wide character education lessons throughout the year. In addition, they provide classroom lessons on Social Media Safety, HIB/Code of Conduct, and Social-Emotional Learning. The counselors also provide restorative circles, implement I&RS and 504 Plans, assist with academic scheduling and testing programs, and help students with the transitions that occur from elementary school through middle school and into high school.

SCHEDULING

The daily schedule at the school consists of 8 periods, each lasting 50 minutes, except for the homeroom period, which provides 7 minutes for morning announcements. Each grade level is assigned a 32-minute lunch period. The academic year is organized into marking periods, semesters, and full-year courses. Physical Education is scheduled every day for three quarters of the school year, while Health meets daily for one quarter. The daily bell schedule is structured to ensure a balanced and efficient distribution of time for each subject, allowing students to engage in a variety of academic and physical activities throughout the school day. The daily bell schedule is as follows:

Regular Schedule

Period	Grade 5	Period	Grade 6	Grade 7
HR	7:45 – 7:52	HR	7:45 – 7:52	7:45 – 7:52
1	7:52 – 8:34	1	7:54 – 8:44	7:54 – 8:44
2	8:34– 9:16	2	8:46– 9:36	8:46– 9:36
3	9:16–9:58	3	9:38 – 10:28	9:38 – 10:28
Grade 5 Recess	10:00 – 10:30	4	10:30 – 11:20	10:30 – 11:20
Lunch	10:30 – 11:00	5	**Lunch** 11:22 – 11:54	11:22 – 12:12
4	11:00 –11:42	6	11:56 – 12:46	**Lunch** 12:14 – 12:46
5	11:42-12:24	7	12:48 – 1:38	12:48 – 1:38
6	12:24-1:06	8	1:40 – 2:30	1:40 – 2:30
7	1:06-1:48			
8	1:48-2:30			

Note: Please see the Student Handbook or the FMG Website for Early Dismissal and Delayed Opening Time Schedules:

FMG Student Handbook

GIFTED AND TALENTED

All students who are recommended for this program will develop and pursue their own Individual Education Projects under the direction of a mentor teacher. Also, included in this program is individual and group training in creative problem-solving and research techniques.

Discovery 6 (M6225), Discovery 7 (M7225) Semester The Discovery program is designed to enrich the educational experience of those students who demonstrate exceptional intellectual ability, creativity, and/or task commitment under the Renzulli model of giftedness. The Discovery Classes run on the same schedule as the other elective classes, in which students pursue an inquiry project for the duration of the semester, as well as critical thinking, lateral thinking, and collaborative exercises. To complete this inquiry project, students choose a topic of personal interest, and with the aid of the Discovery instructor, explore and research that topic for expertise throughout the semester with projects that culminate in an end-of-the-year presentation to the school community and parents.

TALENTED ART PROGRAM (T. A. P.) (M6230), (M7230) Semester This program is open to interested students continuing to expand their artistic ability through an annual application process based upon nominations and portfolio reviews. It is designed to augment the program for students who demonstrate a passion and aptitude for the fine and visual arts. Participants in the Talented Art Program (TAP) will be offered exciting and meaningful opportunities to enrich, nurture, and explore their artistic skills and appreciation for the Visual Arts. Students selected for TAP will participate in the program during an elective period for the semester.

The focus of the individual student's work is a result of collaboration between the individual student and the art teacher. A portfolio review will be submitted after each course.

RELATED COURSES

In addition to the Discovery program, FMG offers additional accelerated courses in Communication Arts and Mathematics in grades 6 and 7.. In addition to the designated Gifted and Talented courses, a variety of rigorous academic and academically challenging elective courses are offered to all students.

Accelerated Communication Arts 7 (M7034)
Accelerated Math 6
Pre-Algebra
Algebra 7 (M7012)

***Also see our course listing for extensive academic electives**

Program Selection

Our robust program includes four core academic classes, physical education, world language, and one elective each semester.

Sample Student Schedule

Based upon an 8-period Instructional Day

Grade 6	Grade 7
PE/Health	Math 7, or Pre-Algebra
Communication Arts	Communication Arts 7, Accelerated Comm Arts 7
Math 6	PE/Health/Math 8, Pre-Algebra, Algebra 7
Lunch	Elective/Spanish
Social Studies 6	Lunch/Social Studies 8
Spanish/Elective Lunch	Spanish/Elective Lunch
Science 6	Social Studies 7/Elective
Elective	Science 7/PE/Health

Grade 6 & Grade 7 Elective Offerings

6th Grade Elective Options

Discovery (Semester) T.A.P. (Semester) Band (Semester/ Full year) Choir (Semester / Full year) Strings (Semester / Full year)	3D Art Art 6 Computer Science for Innovators Energy and Environment Forensics Music 6 Intro to Dance Intro to Mysteries of History Math Lab ELA Lab

7th Grade Elective Options

Discovery (Semester) T.A.P. (Semester) Band (Semester / Full year) Choir (Semester / Full year) Strings (Semester / Full year)	Intro to Drama Art 7 Art Lab Mysteries of History 1 App Creators Journalism Keyboards Math Lab ELA Lab Creative Writing Mock Trial Project Citizen Study Skills

COMMUNICATION ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Each student is required to take two years of Communication Arts. Each of the courses is one year in length. Students are required to read at least one assigned book over the summer. Novels may be selected by the teacher(s) or the student(s), depending on the course. In September, every student will be required to complete an assignment or activity based on the summer reading.

COMMUNICATION ARTS 6 (M6022) Full Year

The 6th grade Language Arts Curriculum consists of a comprehensive program incorporating literature, informational texts, digital literacy, composition, grammar, and verbal and written communication. It is constructed around our Literacy Program, *myPerspectives,* to support and reinforce the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. The units of study are divided into themes and core texts. The thematic units in Grade 6 are Childhood, Animal Allies, Modern Technology, Imagination, and Exploration. The course incorporates a wide variety of resources, including informational texts, interviews, media clips, short stories, poetry, biographies, memoirs, literature excerpts, and anchor novels. The program takes a differentiated approach to literacy education, offering whole-class, small-group, and individualized resources to support reading and writing skill development.

COMMUNICATION ARTS 7 (M7029) Full Year

The 7th-grade Language Arts Curriculum consists of a comprehensive program incorporating literature, informational texts, digital literacy, composition, grammar, and verbal and written communication. It is constructed around our Literacy Program, *myPerspectives,* to support and reinforce the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. The units of study are divided into themes and core texts. The thematic units in Grade 7 are Rites of Passage, The Holocaust, What Matters, Human Intelligence, and Invention. The course incorporates a wide variety of resources, including informational texts, interviews, media clips, short stories, poetry, biographies, memoirs, literature excerpts, and anchor novels. The program takes a differentiated approach to literacy education, offering whole-class, small-group, and individualized resources to support reading and writing skill development.

ACCELERATED COMMUNICATION ARTS 7 (M7034) Full Year

Throughout the 7th-grade year, students can expect to increase skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking through a variety of activities. Usage, mechanics, and vocabulary will be taught in context with literature and language-based units. There will be more opportunities to practice higher-level thinking, reading, and writing skills due to increased rigor, inquiry, and reflection. Students are expected to be independent learners, meet deadlines, read on or above a 7th or 8th-grade level, and have superior writing ability. Research skills, assignments, and projects are infused throughout the year. Students should be active participants who demonstrate that they can manage their time efficiently for both short and long-term assignments. Students will work at an accelerated pace throughout the course.

CREATIVE WRITING (M1678) Marking Period, Grade 6 or 7

In this course, students will read, critique, and compose original poetry, short fiction, and creative non-fiction. Students will examine the works of published writers, as well as peers, to discover, expand, and refine their skills, voice, and style.

JOURNALISM (M7035) Marking Period, Grade 6 or 7

Journalism is a project-based elective where students will explore the history of Journalism and Media from original newspapers to the advent of social media. This course is designed to teach you how to be a more effective communicator across all platforms, including communication arts, creative writing, blogging, social media, photography, and podcasts. You will engage in a variety of independent and
group-based projects which include creating newspapers, social media posts, podcasts, videos, interviews, and more.

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Each student is required to take two years of Social Studies. Each course is one year in length.

SOCIAL STUDIES 6 (M6040) Full Year

Students will begin by digging into archaeology and using skills such as analyzing to figure out the many life-ways of early people (Stone Age). After that, students will move on to the ancient river valley civilizations to investigate which factors led to the success of specific thriving societies. During the second half of the year, students will examine classical civilizations such as China, Greece, and Rome. Throughout our explorations, students will learn how different forms of technology, organized government, and cultures impacted the lives of ancient people

To learn about each civilization, students must be able to use essential Social Studies skills such as; reading, writing, researching, communicating, drawing conclusions, and predicting future issues and/or problems. These skills will be taught in a variety of ways to appeal to all the different learners in the classroom.

SOCIAL STUDIES 7 (M7040) Full Year

Seventh-grade Social Studies is a hybrid course that focuses on civics and early American history. The course introduces the Foundational Concepts and Principles of our democracy and its impact on the world. Students will explore the various roles of citizens and the many rights, duties, and responsibilities they have within our democracy. The framework of this course is to empower students through participation and knowledge. It is designed to provide students with an understanding of America's past so they can become active members in America's present and future.

Students will travel back in time to explore how and why North America was colonized. They will discuss the impact of European colonization on the indigenous tribes of North America. Students will also identify the changing relationship between the American colonies and Great Britain and determine what led to our fight for independence. Additionally, America's first government will be explored under the Articles of

Confederation and the events that inspired the writing, ratification, and implementation of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Students will investigate how this government, created over two centuries ago, can still effectively govern America. Students will analyze the evolution of our government and how it has adapted through times of change, war, differing political ideologies, severe and prosperous economic trends, and the constantly changing social conditions in our extremely diverse society.

MOCK TRIAL (M0678) Marking Period, Grade 7

In the mock trial class, students will have the chance to take on the role of lawyers, witnesses, and jurors to conduct civil and criminal trials from start to finish. Students will develop an understanding of the fundamentals of the American legal system and the role a trial plays within that system. The class will cover the trial process, including the purpose of a trial, the layout of the courtroom, and the roles of the people involved in a civil and criminal trial. Students will analyze various dispute resolution methods, including negotiation, mediation, and trial. Students will obtain an understanding of the steps in civil and criminal proceedings. Students will have the opportunity to reflect, analyze, and use creative skills to take on the role of an advocate to prepare and write legal arguments, question witnesses on behalf of a given client, and act as witnesses and jurors to present a trial and render a verdict.

INTRO TO MYSTERIES OF HISTORY (M7045) Marking Period, Grade 6

American History is filled with many unsolved mysteries. In this course, students will take on the role of detectives to try and solve some of America's coldest cases. Students will dig for clues and evidence in six different cases assigned using the FMGIU (Florence M. Gaudineer Investigative Unit). Students will forensically analyze the evidence and draw conclusions. Do you know who truly "discovered" America? Can you figure out how a colony of over 100 people vanishes into thin air? Was the death of American hero Meriwether Lewis a murder? How was an American President assassinated in a public theater in front of over 1,000 witnesses? Also, did they really catch the assassin responsible? Lastly, can you uncover who was responsible for the Lindbergh Baby kidnapping? The FMGIU needs your help to solve these cold cases once and for all!

MYSTERIES OF HISTORY I (M8046) Semester, Grade 7

This course is a second-level course of the existing Elective Mysteries of History. The course will utilize the same approach as utilized in the existing course to new topics and subjects. In this course, students will take on the role of detectives to try and solve some of America's coldest cases. Students will dig for clues and evidence in six different cases assigned using the FMGIU (Florence M. Gaudineer Investigative Unit). Students will forensically analyze the evidence and draw conclusions.

WORLD LANGUAGE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Grades 6 and 7 World Language courses meet daily on a single-semester basis.

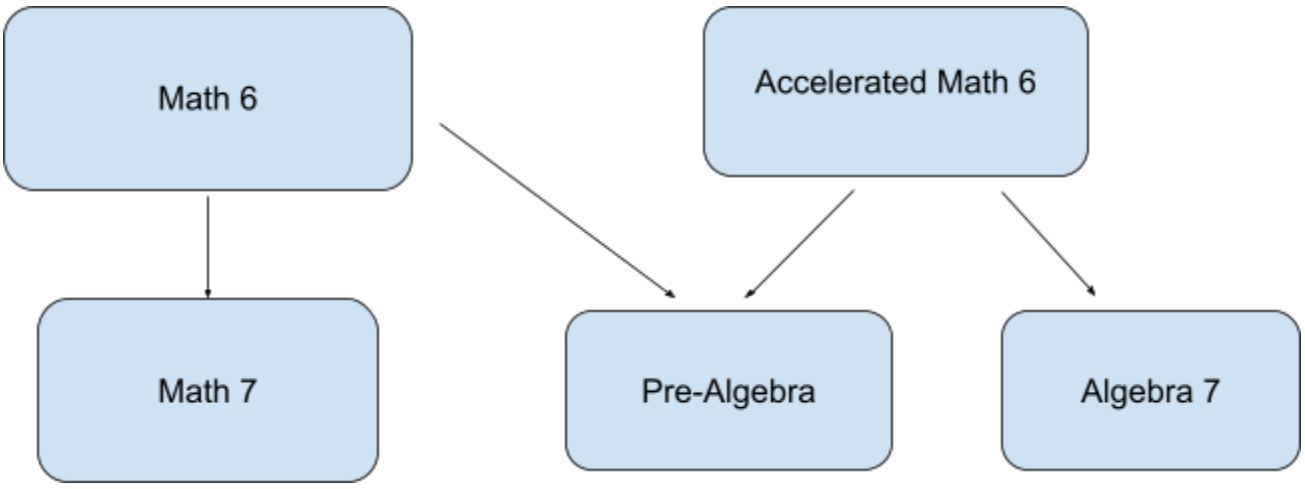
SPANISH 6 (M6060) Semester

This is an introductory Spanish course designed to expose students to both language and culture in an interactive communicative environment. The content is taught through thematic units that provide enjoyable and varied opportunities for students to investigate the Spanish language and to benefit from the cultural exposure to the history, geography, and customs of the various Hispanic countries. The sixth-grade experience is unique in that they learn the many skills involved in second language acquisition as they learn "how" to learn a language.

SPANISH 7 (M7060) Semester

This course is a continuation of sixth-grade Spanish. Students continue to learn the Spanish language and culture through thematic units that focus on common informal settings and the aspects of daily life. Emphasis is placed on using the language communicatively in authentic situations, and instruction is mainly in Spanish. Student-centered activities continue to actively engage the learners in demonstrating language proficiency. This course meets every day for a single semester.

MATHEMATICS COURSE SEQUENCE



Based upon the successful completion of the middle school math pathway, in most cases, Math 8 advances to Algebra 1, Algebra 1 advances to Geometry, and Geometry advances to Algebra 2 Honors. Please see the Jonathan Dayton High School Program of Studies for more specific information on the mathematical progression for grades 9-12.

MATHEMATICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Each student is required to take three years of Math. Each of the courses is one year in length. All Math courses place heavy emphasis on creative thinking and fluency with number facts. *Selection Criteria are based on teacher recommendation, iReady scores, NJSLA, and final average from the previous year.*

MATH 6 (M6013) Full Year

The grade 6 technology-based course of study begins by building on students' computational background and knowledge of fractions. It extends fractional knowledge by relating it to decimals and percentages. After achieving competency in the computation area, geometric principles are explored. Through hands-on activities, students investigate and create geometric principles that are based on real-life applications. As students build fluency with standard algorithms, two-dimensional geometry is introduced. Students then solve problems implementing the aforementioned algorithms. Statistics are explored by evaluating data from the student population and creating a variety of data representations with the results. Furthermore, probability is explored through the creation and analysis of game theory.

Additionally, students extend their understanding of numbers to include negative rational numbers, absolute value as a distance, and all four quadrants of the coordinate plane. Finally, the course of study is synthesized to enhance students' knowledge of rational and proportional reasoning.

MATH 7 (M7206) Full Year

Offers students the opportunity to focus on the development of essential mathematics skills, practices, and applications. Students will be engaged in the discovery and application of mathematical properties with numbers and operations, measurement, patterns, functions, algebraic formulas, geometry, data sets, statistics, and probability. Students will apply the eight mathematical practices as well: make sense of problems and persevere in solving them; reason abstractly and quantitatively; construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others; model with mathematics; use appropriate tools strategically; attend to precision; look

for and make use of structure; and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning. This course focuses on four critical areas: (1) developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. This course will use formative and summative data to target specific topics for students throughout the course. This course is designed to prepare students for Math 8.

Accelerated Math 6 Full Year

In *Accelerated Math 6*, students will deepen their understanding of key mathematical concepts as they prepare for more advanced coursework in middle school math. This course will focus on Algebraic Concepts, Geometry, Measurement and Data, and Numbers and Operations, with an emphasis on building higher-level problem-solving and analytical skills. Throughout the year, students will engage in a more rigorous curriculum, offering opportunities to practice critical thinking, mathematical reasoning, and written communication.

Due to the accelerated pace of the course, students will be challenged to push their boundaries, develop advanced mathematical strategies, and excel in a collaborative learning environment.

PRE-ALGEBRA (M7013) Full Year

Seventh Grade Pre-Algebra is a course that reinforces and builds upon mathematical skills taught in previous mathematical classes with additional advanced computation, including an emphasis on Algebraic concepts. Students study concepts that include: ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics and probability.

Students will solve real-world math problems that will include analyzing proportional relationships; solving problems using numbers and algebraic expressions and equations; solving problems involving angle measures, area, surface area, and volume; analyzing situations involving games of

chance and probability outcomes; evaluating data for a given situation using calculations of measures of central tendencies; and understand congruence and similarity in geometric shapes, solids, and scale drawings. Students will continue to solve problems that will include all operations with all real numbers. Students will be able to use properties of operations to create equivalent expressions. Students will also be able to draw, construct, and describe geometric figures and describe the relationships between them. Students will be able to use random sampling to draw inferences about a population, draw informal comparative inferences about two populations, investigate chance processes, and develop, use, and evaluate probability models. Students will verify experimentally the properties of geometric shapes under transformations: rotations, reflections, and translations, and recognize the congruence between transformed shapes.

ALGEBRA 7 (M7012) Full Year

Algebra 7 begins with a review of major topics that were covered before high school, including properties of real numbers, arithmetic involving fractions and positive and negative numbers, and the concept of variables. Beyond these fundamental building blocks, Algebra 1 is an organized study of various families of functions and relations, with special emphasis on linear and quadratic functions. As students study each family of functions and relations, they will learn to represent them in multiple ways—as verbal descriptions, equations, inequalities, tables, and graphs. An emphasis is placed on modeling real-world situations using functions to solve problems arising from those situations.

SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Each student is required to take two years of Science. Each of the courses is one year in length. All Science courses place heavy emphasis on understanding the process of Science.

SCIENCE 6 (M6050) Full Year

Students in grade six explore topics in earth, physical, and life science. Each unit gives students a hands-on, content-rich experience in science. The modules focus on ecosystems, resources, Earth's surface, rocks, fossils, water, weather, atoms, elements, energy, and heat. Experiments and activities are used to facilitate the learning process and to develop in students a knowledge and appreciation of science and the scientific method. Assessment methods include laboratory reports, presentations, group and individual projects, quizzes, and tests.

SCIENCE 7 (M7050) Full Year

Grade seven science is grounded in the study of living things. Students will explore the structures and functions of living things from bacteria to plants and animals. Students build upon their knowledge of living things and examine the cell as the basic building block of living things, how heredity influences characteristics of organisms, explore the classification of living things, the importance of microorganisms, plant biology, and introductory zoology. Many activities and experiments are used to enrich the course and provide opportunities for each learner to build a solid understanding of the living world. Assessment methods include laboratory reports, presentations, group and individual projects, quizzes, and tests.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT (M6055) (PLTW) Marking Period, Grade 6

In this STEM-based engineering and design class, students are challenged to work independently and think big toward the future as they explore and evaluate sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They explore the various fields and careers in engineering and learn how to implement the design process and develop design briefs. They investigate the scientific concept of energy, its sources, and evaluate the options for reducing energy consumption.

FORENSICS (M0670) Marking Period, Grade 6

This course is the FMG version of Crime Scene Investigations. The course introduces students to the principles behind gathering, preserving, and investigating evidence. Students use scientific principles to examine evidence in specific situations to solve mysteries and recreate events. Students travel through a series of investigations that rely on scientific reasoning and analysis of physical evidence to make conclusions as to what events occurred to create the scene.

Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (S.T.E.M.)

PLTW (Project Lead The Way)

Project Lead The Way is a provider of K-12 STEM-based curricula that provide students with engineering-rich, interactive, and project-based lessons in a variety of areas within the emerging STEM fields. Currently, FMG offers the following PLTW Courses:

- Computer Science for Innovators and Makers (M6650) - Grade 6
- Energy and the Environment (M6055) - Grade 6
- App Creators (M7153) - Grade 7

PROGRAMS IN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

APP CREATORS (M7153) (PLTW) Marking Period, Grade 7

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

COMPUTER SCIENCE FOR INNOVATORS AND MAKERS (M6650) (PLTW)
Marking Period, Grade 6

This unit will allow students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects. Throughout the unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. They will design and develop a physical computing device, interactive art installation, or wearable, and plan and develop code for microcontrollers that bring their physical designs to life. Physical computing projects will promote student awareness of interactive systems, including Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and broaden their understanding of abstract computer science concepts through meaningful and authentic applications.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Band, Strings, & Chorus courses meet for a semester and may be repeated the following semester. All other classes are marking period specials. Concert Band and Chorale are performance-based courses that provide students with many opportunities to exhibit their musical skills.

CHORUS 6 (M6185), CHORUS 7 (M7185) Semester/ Full Year

A mixed choir environment where we learn the basics of music theory and sight singing while also singing fun repertoire in a group setting. The objectives of this course are to develop vocal skills, knowledge, understanding, and appreciation, and to develop the highest possible standards of performance. Membership is open to any student who is interested in singing. All concerts and rehearsals are required; failure to attend may adversely affect a student's proficiency and grade in this course. Some rehearsals and performances may be on weekends or in the evening.

MUSIC 6 (M6114) Marking Period

Also known as Theater 101. This is an introductory class to the stage. Students actively engage in improvisation exercises and study character development as well as script composition and stagecraft basics like costuming, make-up, and blocking. The culminating project is staging a production of a student-authored script.

BAND 6 (M6186), BAND 7 (M7002), Semester / Full Year

Students will have the opportunity to begin or continue studying the following instruments: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, and Percussion. Students who are enrolled in this class are also eligible to perform with the FMG Band. The culminating experiences in the band are the winter and spring concerts, which all members must attend. Additionally, students in 7th and 8th Grades are eligible to perform with both the FMG Jazz Band and the JDHS Marching Band.

KEYBOARDS (M7085) Marking Period, Grade 7

This class is for 7th-grade students and is focused on creating music and other projects using the piano keyboard. Students will learn to read music

and play simple songs on the piano. Additionally, students will use GarageBand and iMovie software to create unique projects that highlight different skills learned in the class. Students should expect to spend a class period listening to good music, creating their own musical products, and sharing with one another. The culminating project for the course is a student-written silent film, in which students write the script, act on screen, and write the accompanying music.

INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA (M0760)

Drama will examine the basics of theatrical productions. Students will explore the writing of scripts to the development of an actual performance. Students will learn the essential skills and components of a successful live performance.

STRINGS 6 (M6187), 7 (M7187)

Open to any student who plays violin, cello, viola, or string bass, the String Ensemble offers musicians challenging opportunities to develop many aspects of performance. This course offers students experience in studying and performing a wide variety of music such as chamber music, classical and contemporary literature, as well as other repertoire appropriate to the students' degree of advancement. Elements such as intonation, articulation, rhythmic precision, dynamic variety, bowing techniques, balance, and blend are studied.

VISUAL ARTS

ART 6 (M6120)

Sixth-grade Art is a survey class, in which students have exposure to a variety of traditional 2D and 3D art media, which also includes work in the Digital Arts. The range of media of Sixth Grade Art encompasses, but is not limited to; ceramics, sculpture, painting, and drawing. During the course of the term, students also bring their iPads to art and work in Photoshop. The range of art media exposure in Sixth Grade Art is intended to prepare students for concentrations of study that follow in later grades. In addition to preparing students for coursework in middle school Art, the variety of art media is also intended to differentiate among learners,

providing opportunities not only for different abilities but also to provide opportunities to achieve success, build confidence, and engage the learner for the whole Art Education program at FMG.

3D ART (M6126)

In this introductory course, students will become familiar with and learn how to use the elements of visual design, a variety of materials, processes, and techniques. Ceramics and sculpture are explored. Also, students will gain visual art techniques such as material modeling, carving, cutting, pasting and gluing, scaling, and sculpture design through direct instruction and independent research. Students should anticipate a studio-based art class, which may include creative problem-solving, production of artwork, critiques, and self-evaluations. Also introduced in the class are historical and contemporary trends in art, which are explored through visual examples.

ART 7 (M7115)

In the Seventh grade, students focus on 3D artwork, working in Ceramics throughout the term. Student work in Ceramics concentrates on hand-building construction; learning pinch, coil, and slab techniques for making pots and larger vessels. Later in the semester, students apply these hand-building techniques to create sculptures in mask making, sculpture of imaginary animals, or other sculpture-based experiences. Students also learn glazing and painting techniques to further develop their work. In addition to working in ceramics, students also incorporate writing in their description of sculpture. There are several goals in a concentration study of the 3D art form. In one case a concentrated study in Ceramics allows the learner to develop an understanding of the medium, and what it is capable of with the material, and provides an opportunity for growth in confidence in manipulating and constructing with clay. Another goal is to provide opportunities, an entry for the appreciation of an art form for those who may not have felt successful with 2D artwork, such as drawing or painting. Ceramic work provides a vehicle for accomplishment for those who have an affinity or ability for working and building with their hands.

ART LAB MAKERSPACE CLASSROOM (M7118)

Art Lab Makerspace is a collaborative setting where students learn to explore their imaginations and design their ideas. Picture a science lab,

woodshop, computer lab, and art studio all blended for a hands-on educational experience. This class fosters creativity as it provides students with an opportunity to create, design, build, and tinker with all varieties of materials and resources.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

ELA Lab (M9227) Semester

ELA Lab is a targeted, intervention-focused course designed to provide additional support to students who need reinforcement in key English Language Arts (ELA) skills. This course runs concurrently with the grade-level Communication Arts (Comm Arts) class and offers personalized, skill-building instruction tailored to meet the needs of students who do not receive other forms of academic support. ELA Lab focuses on strengthening foundational language arts concepts, including reading comprehension, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and critical thinking. Through small-group instruction, individualized lessons, and hands-on practice, students will build confidence in their ability to analyze texts, write clearly and effectively, and apply language conventions in meaningful ways. The course uses a variety of strategies such as targeted reading interventions, scaffolded writing assignments, and interactive language. ELA Lab provides an inclusive and supportive environment where students can ask questions, receive targeted feedback, and practice skills in a low-stakes setting.

Math Lab (M9212)Semester

Math Lab is a targeted, intervention-focused course designed to support students who need reinforcement in key mathematics skills. This course runs concurrently with the grade-level math class. It offers personalized, skill-building instruction tailored to meet the needs of students who do not receive other forms of academic support. Math Lab focuses on strengthening foundational math concepts, including algebra and algebraic thinking, data and measurement, geometric concepts and numbers, and operations

Math Lab provides an inclusive and supportive environment where students can ask questions, receive targeted feedback, and practice skills in a

low-stakes setting.

ASSISTED READING (M9115)

The Multisensory Reading program uses multi-sensory techniques and strategies to assist students in increasing their reading and comprehension skills. The teacher uses manipulatives and a variety of reading programs, including Orton-Gillingham, Wilson, Explode the Code, Jamestown Reading program, and Visualizing and Verbalizing as well as computer-based websites such as Reading A-Z. Students also use AceReader Pro, a computer program that helps increase reading speed and comprehension skills.

ENGLISH/SECOND LANGUAGE (M9520)

In the ESL class, students who speak a first language other than English work to improve their English language skills. In this small class, students actively speak, read, write, and listen to others in a supportive environment. Activities are designed to increase knowledge and vocabulary of the academic content areas as well as develop English language skills.

RESOURCES ROOM/SPECIAL EDUCATION

COMMUNICATION ARTS 6 (M9223), COMMUNICATION ARTS 7 (M9225), COMMUNICATION ARTS 8 (M9227)
MATHEMATICS 6 (M9224), MATHEMATICS 7 (M9226), and MATHEMATICS 8 (M9228)

Courses in Communication Arts and Math, following the corresponding curriculum, are available in a Resource Room Setting available through a Student Services Evaluation.

STUDY SKILLS (M9660)

Recommended students will be given direct instruction covering general academic skills and strategies to enhance their understanding and participation in core academic classes. Organizational skills, mnemonic devices, time management, and individualized strategies will be applied to grade-level concepts and demands.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The Physical Education/Health Department at Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School's main goal is to provide information necessary for students to develop the ability to make healthy life choices that will last a lifetime.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6 (M6080), 7 (M7080)

The Physical Education program at Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School is an integral component of students' overall educational experience. Participation in the program is essential in fostering the development of students' mental, moral, physical, and emotional growth. The Health and Physical Education curriculum provides movement-centered and knowledge-based activities for all students in a non-threatening but challenging environment. A variety of activities will be offered to students that promote fitness through a comprehensive spectrum of physical skills and knowledge necessary to maintain fitness for life.

The Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School Physical Education program consists of three marking periods of Physical Education and one marking period of Health. Students will receive health instruction for one marking period during one of the four marking periods. Each marking period contains approximately forty-five instructional days. Student performance is assessed in several areas using specific criteria. The program has established guidelines, rules, and regulations to ensure all students have a safe, satisfying educational experience.

HEALTH 6 (M6090)

The "theme" for 6th-grade health is growth, development, and disease. The students will be taught overall health as it pertains to the theme in three parts: 1. Your Body Systems (Support & Control Systems and Energy & Transport Systems); 2. How You Grow (From Infancy Through Adolescence and Adulthood Through Old Age); & 3. Understanding Diseases (Communicable Diseases and Non-Communicable Diseases).

HEALTH 7 (M7079)

The "theme" for 7th-grade health is personal responsibility. Students will be taught life skills covering the different aspects of health. Units will include substance awareness, safety, nutrition, decision-making and goal setting, health services, advocacy, as well as addiction and treatment, and social and emotional health.

This comprehensive program of studies has been carefully designed to provide you with a roadmap for academic success and personal growth during your time at FMG. We encourage you to explore the diverse array of courses and opportunities available to you, ensuring that your decisions align with your interests, goals, and aspirations. Our Teachers, School Counselors, and Administration are dedicated to supporting you every step of the way, offering guidance and assistance to help you navigate your academic journey effectively.

We hope that this program serves as a valuable resource and guide, empowering you to make informed decisions that will shape your future. Your success and well-being are our top priorities, and we look forward to being a part of your journey at FMG.