7

GRADE

CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRADE 7 COURSE GUIDE



middleschool.isd12.org
763-792-5400

CENTENNIAL
MIDDLE SCHOOL
CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 12



WELCOME

WELCOME TO CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL!

Centennial is a vibrant community where students are encouraged to be engaged, empowered, and empathetic learners.

Middle school is such an important time of discovery and growth, when young people begin to learn more about themselves and consider the kind of young adults they want to become. Our staff is excited to walk alongside your child as they begin this stage of their educational journey.

At Centennial School District, our goal is to inspire students to create their own future. We believe every learner should finish their school years with the confidence to think bigger, achieve more, and collaborate in meaningful ways. At Centennial Middle School, we provide opportunities for students to explore who they are as learners and as members of our Cougar community.

Our mission is to ensure that every student develops the academic skills, social understanding, and emotional resilience they need to succeed—while also discovering personal interests and finding joy in learning.

To get a closer look at the learning, growth, and community spirit happening at our school, we invite you to follow along in our weekly school newsletter, *News from Centennial Middle School*, visit the Centennial School District website (**isd12.org**) for news updates and follow the District Instagram account (centennial.isd12) for a peek into all the great things happening in our schools across the district.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child into the Centennial Middle School family. If you need any assistance with the enrollment process, please don't hesitate to reach out to our office. We are eager to partner with you in the years ahead!



Sincerely,
Principal Stevens

WE BELIEVE

- Middle school is a time of growth, exploration, and preparation for young adulthood.
- Students should be encouraged to take ownership of their learning and discover their passions.
- A safe, inclusive, and caring environment helps students build confidence and resilience.
- Academics, activities, and social opportunities all play an important role in developing well-rounded learners.
- Partnerships between families and school staff are essential in guiding students through this important stage.
- Every student has the ability to achieve, contribute, and prepare for a successful future.

CONNECT WITH US

Centennial Middle School
399 Elm Street
Lino Lakes, MN 55014
763-792-5400

Office hours:	**Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m.**
Website:	**middleschool.isd12.org**
Grades 6-8 Enrollment:	**1,634**
School day:	**8:05 a.m.-2:55 p.m.**
Principal:	**Bob Stevens**
Assistant Principal:	**Andrea Krueger**
Assistant Principal:	**Amy Smalley**
Counselors:	**Adriana Lee**
	Corinna Morse
	Dawn Westanmo
Lead Teacher	**Kristen Fleming**


AMAZING

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

At Centennial Middle School, our work is guided by the Centennial School District Strategic Plan, developed through collaboration with students, families, staff, and community members. This plan reflects the values of our community and ensures every student experiences a safe, supportive, and high-quality education that prepares them for the next stage of learning and beyond.

DEDICATED STAFF
Our staff is committed to the success and growth of every student. The majority of our teachers and staff have served at Centennial Middle School for many years, and a significant portion grew up in the community, choosing to return to work and raise their families here. This shared commitment honors the district's strategic plan and the "desired daily experiences" of our students, families, and staff.

CONNECTING. ACHIEVING. PREPARING.

The Centennial School District's formula for continued success is simple. We start with relationships - loving and caring for every learner who walks through our school doors. Then, we raise the bar with high expectations - a belief that each learner can and will discover success in all that they do. The result? Confident, capable learners who are prepared to accomplish their dreams and impact our community and the world.

The Centennial School District promise to every learner and family:
With an expectation of high academic performance coupled with loving and caring relationships, each learner will be seen for who they are and given what they need to find success in all that they do.

CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION

OUR CORE PURPOSE

By providing high quality educational opportunities, emotional support, and social development, Centennial School District prepares learners for excellence in their future.



CONNECTING.

Centennial School District 12 connects the communities of Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Lexington and Lino Lakes through its nine exceptional schools. Centennial is the pride of our five communities with 92% of resident students choosing Centennial-one of the highest percentages in the metro.

A SENSE OF BELONGING

Feeling connected and included is central to student success. We cultivate an empathetic, inclusive, and supportive school culture where every student is known, valued, and supported. Social-emotional learning and community-building activities are embedded in daily school life.

ENGAGED FAMILIES & COMMUNICATION

Families are essential partners in their child's education. Families stay informed and engaged through:

- *News from Centennial Middle School,* a weekly newsletter, and classroom emails.
- Campus Parent Portal for attendance, grades, and reports.
- Conferences, phone calls, and volunteer opportunities.

COMMUNITY & PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

Strong partnerships with our Centennial community enhance programming, support innovative teaching, and foster a vibrant school environment for student success. Parent Association programs and events. Community foundation grants supporting innovative teaching. Collaboration strengthens student success and school culture.

Look for news stories on the web at **middleschool.isd12.org**

Follow Centennial Schools on Instagram at **centennial.isd12**.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

We encourage all students to check out our Community Education programming and participate in co-curricular / activities!

Centennial Community Education offers a variety of after-school programs designed to support your child's growth, learning, and well-being and provide enriching experiences beyond the classroom.

Youth Enrichment Classes: Seasonal classes in areas such as S.T.E.M., fine arts, athletics, and activities, designed to complement your child's interest and support their development.

Childcare: Fee-based program before and after-school as well as non-school day options.

Summer Kids Club C.A.M.P.: Programming from June to August, providing full-day care with activities and weekly field trips.

Learn more at **communityed.isd12.org** to explore programming and to register.

1,178 student participation
in after-school activities offered through Community Education for Centennial Middle School students.



ACHIEVING.

Centennial students consistently perform at high levels in academics, athletics, and activities.

INSIDE CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Teams: Students are assigned to a Team of core teachers so that they can build positive relationships with peers and teachers can provide academic and social-emotional supports across the team.

Classes: Students take core academics + exploratory courses such as Art, Design & Make, Intro. to Theater, Physical Education, Music/Band/Choir, and Spanish.

Chromebook: Provided to students and used as a learning tool. Students utilize Schoology, Google, and Campus Portal to manage coursework, grades, and assignments.

Infinite Campus Parent Portal: Allows parents/guardians to better understand, monitor, and participate in the educational process with real-time access to student information for the current school year. Parents and student access announcements, assignments, attendance, fees, grades, report cards, schedules, and food service, and more.

Schoology: An integrated learning management tool that provides a digital classroom hub for communication, collaboration, work flow, and digital resources. Parent accounts allow parents/guardians the ability to stay up-to-date and "shadow" their student's coursework and activity. Much of the daily classroom experience such as course updates, content, assignments and assessments are found in Schoology.

Cell Phones: Cell phones must remain in a student's locker during the school day. Cell phones are not used during lunch, in hallways, restrooms, or classrooms.

ENROLLMENT & REGISTRATION

At Centennial Middle School, all students are placed on a Team for their core academic subjects. Placement in accelerated classes or academic support services is thoughtfully determined using a variety of factors. Families will be informed directly if their child is selected for advanced coursework or additional academic support. Core subjects, Middle School Success, Art and Physical Education are scheduled automatically—no action is needed for general registration.

In seventh grade, students help shape their schedule by choosing electives such as: Band, Choir, Art or STEM. A registration process will be shared with students during school to select their preferred electives.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

- Options for families outside the district to attend Centennial Schools.
- Includes eligibility, application process, and deadlines.

Learn more at **isd12.org/enroll-today**.



PREPARING.

STUDENT SUPPORT

- Cougar Connect / FLEX time - Academic support, extension, enrichment opportunities.
- Counseling and social-emotional supports.
- Family collaboration to support individual student growth.

Centennial offers engaging learning opportunities, emotional support, and social development for each of our students to help them prepare for whatever is next and beyond.



CORE ACADEMIC CLASSES FOR GRADES 6-8

Grade 6:
Math, Language Arts, Earth Science, Minnesota Studies (Teams 601, 602, 603)

Grade 7:
Math, Language Arts, Life Science, US History (Teams 701, 702, 703)

Grade 8:
Math, Language Arts, Physical Science, Global Studies (Teams 801, 802, 803)

ADDITIONAL SPECIALIST ELECTIVE COURSES

Grade 6:
Choir, Band, Physical Education, STEM, Art, Middle School Success

Grade 7:
Choir, Band, Physical Education, STEM, Art, Health

Grade 8:
Choir, Band, Physical Education, STEM, Art, Spanish

7TH GRADE SCHEDULE

Core Academic Classes: **Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies** *(Every day, all year)*	
Cougar Connect / FLEX	
Health *(Semester Class)*	**STEM Required** *(Semester Class)*
Elective Choice: Band, Choir, STEM, Art *(A/B days with PE)*	**Phy Ed** *(A/B days with Elective Choice)*

LANGUAGE ARTS

ADVANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS PLACEMENT
At Centennial Middle School, we are committed to helping each student thrive by placing them in courses that inspire growth and spark academic curiosity. For placement in Advanced English Language Arts, we take a thoughtful, data-informed approach each spring. Our review includes MCA results, FastBridge and CoGAT scores, classroom achievement, current coursework, and teacher insights. By looking at the whole picture, we aim to match students with learning opportunities that challenge their thinking and nurture their strengths at all levels.

Language Arts 7

This course focuses on the integration of reading, writing, speaking, and listening as guided by the Minnesota Common Core Standards. Throughout the year, students will engage in literature study, writing assignments, and collaborative discussions to deepen their understanding of language arts and personal identity. During first semester, instruction emphasizes writing standards along with listening, speaking, viewing, and exchanging ideas. Second semester centers on reading standards, with a focus on literary and nonfiction texts that promote analysis, interpretation, and critical thinking.



MATH

ACCELERATED MATH PLACEMENT

At Centennial Middle School, we believe math should challenge students while building their confidence and skills. Each spring, we carefully evaluate a range of data to guide placement into Accelerated Math. This includes MCA scores, FastBridge results, CoGAT data, current and past math performance, and teacher insights. Our goal is to ensure students are placed in a math course that pushes their thinking, matches their readiness, and supports continued growth throughout the year.

Pre - Algebra 7

This course builds a strong foundation in essential mathematical concepts and skills aligned with the Minnesota Academic Standards. Designed for 7th grade students, the course focuses on key topics including number systems, expressions and equations, ratios and proportional relationships, percentages, geometry, and probability. Instruction emphasizes critical thinking, mathematical reasoning, and real-world application through hands-on activities, collaborative projects, and problem-solving tasks that prepare students for success in higher-level mathematics.

Algebra 7

This course provides an in-depth study of foundational algebraic concepts aligned with the Minnesota Academic Standards. Students will develop essential skills in expressions, equations, inequalities, and functions, while building strong problem-solving strategies. Emphasis will be placed on applying algebraic thinking to real-world situations and preparing for future success in advanced mathematics. Instruction will include guided practice, collaborative learning, and opportunities for critical thinking and application.



SCIENCE

Life Science 7

This course introduces students to key biological concepts through the study of living systems, aligned with the Minnesota Academic Standards. Students will explore the structure and function of organisms from the kingdoms Monera, Protista, Fungi, Plants, and Animals. Topics include the organization and needs of living things, photosynthesis, inheritance, and ecological relationships such as parasite/host and predator/prey interactions. Emphasis will be placed on understanding how organisms interact with each other and their environments, building a foundation for future studies in life science.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 7

This U.S. History course offers an introductory exploration of key events and themes in United States history. Through engaging discussions, collaborative projects, and critical analysis, students will examine topics including Citizenship & Government, Current Events, the Revolutionary War, Westward Expansion, the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Industrial Revolution, Immigration, World War I, the Roaring 20s, the Great Depression, World War II, and the Cold War to the present day. Aligned with Minnesota Common Core Standards, the course encourages students to connect historical events to contemporary issues, fostering a deeper understanding of the nation's development and civic responsibility.



HEALTH AND STEM

Health

Health is a one-semester course where students learn to make informed decisions about their personal health and safety. The curriculum explores the interconnected aspects of physical, mental, and social health and how they impact overall well-being. Topics include Mental and Emotional Health, Nutrition, and the effects of Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drugs. Through discussion, reflection, and practical activities, students gain the knowledge and skills to make healthy choices and build lifelong wellness habits.

7th STEM Required

In 7th Grade STEM, students engage in hands-on, project-based learning that integrates Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. They develop valuable computer skills while building rockets, designing graphics with CorelDraw, and creating 3D models using CADD software. Units include exploring space travel and rocket launches, digital graphic design projects, engineering and racing CO2 dragsters, and 3D modeling with Tinkercad. Throughout the course, students document their learning with digital portfolios, applying the engineering design process and critical thinking to solve real-world problems in a technology-rich environment.

PHY ED

Physical Education 7

This course provides students with opportunities to develop a range of physical skills while focusing on overall fitness and well-being. Emphasis is placed on health-related and skill-related fitness components through daily participation and active engagement. Students will build strength, endurance, coordination, and teamwork skills in a supportive and inclusive environment.



BAND

Band 7

This course builds on the foundation established in 6th grade, continuing students' study of their chosen band instrument. This hands-on and engaging course challenges students with more complex music, featuring advanced rhythms and an expanded note range. Meeting every other day throughout the school year, students will perform in two concerts showcasing a variety of musical genres, including traditional concert band, rock, and jazz styles. In addition, 7th graders have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular ensembles such as Holiday Band and Jazz Band, enriching their musical experience and skills.

CHOIR

Choir 7

Seventh Grade Choir is an exciting and engaging music course where students explore singing and music-making in a collaborative group setting. This course introduces fundamental vocal techniques, basic music theory, and the joy of performing together. Throughout the year, students will develop their musicianship and teamwork skills while preparing for three after-school performances, with dates provided at the start of the year. The course encourages creativity, confidence, and a lifelong appreciation for choral music.



ART

Art Extensions 7

Art Extensions is a year-long, project-based elective that meets every other day and offers students extended studio time to explore a variety of art materials, genres, and styles. Through hands-on projects, students will experiment with different techniques and creative processes while developing their artistic skills and personal expression. Each project is rooted in specific areas of study, providing opportunities for deeper exploration and growth in the visual arts.

STEM

7th STEM Extensions

7th Grade STEM Extensions is a hands-on, project-based course where students explore Design and Modeling as well as Green Architecture. Using the design process, students will work individually and in teams to create and test models that solve real-world problems. They will learn to communicate their ideas through sketches, solid models, and mathematical representations. In the Green Architecture unit, students will apply sustainable design principles by using Autodesk® 3D software to design affordable housing. Along the way, students will develop skills in measurement, dimensioning, and architectural sustainability, while fostering creativity and problem-solving abilities essential for STEM careers.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SERVICES

This program supports English Language Learners through dedicated English Language Development (ELD) classes and co-teaching in content-area classrooms. In ELD classes, students receive targeted instruction in speaking, listening, reading, and writing to build the academic language skills needed for success. Instruction is aligned with the WIDA English Language Development Standards and delivered in small groups by licensed English Language teachers. Co-teaching provides additional support by integrating language development with grade-level content, allowing students to strengthen both academic and language skills. Students remain in the program until they meet language proficiency criteria.




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2024

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