Middle School Course Guide

USD 232
2026-2027

Lexington Trails Middle School
8800 Penner Ave,
De Soto, KS 66018
(913) 667-6260

Monticello Trails Middle School
6100 Monticello Rd,
Shawnee, KS 66226
(913) 422-1100

Mill Creek Middle School
8001 Mize Rd,
Lenexa, KS 66227
(913) 667-3512

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Curriculum and Courses

Course Overview		
6th Grade Required Courses	**7th Grade Required Courses**	**8th Grade Required Courses**
Pathways	Pathways	Pathways
English Language Arts	English Language Arts	English Language Arts
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics
Science	Science	Science
Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies
Physical Education (semester)	Physical Education (semester)	Physical Education (semester)
Fine Arts Course		

- Students attend eight classes daily, with one academic extended learning time. This time is used for getting support/assistance from a teacher, small "targeted skill" group instruction, extended learning opportunities, homework, make-up work and more.
- Students' five core subjects (English Language Arts, Pathways, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies) are taught by a team of teachers who coordinate instruction and routines to address student needs. Students are assigned to grade level teams each school year. Students remain together as a team for their five core subjects.
- Students earn one credit for each year-long class they earn passing grades in both semesters. For passing a semester-long class, they earn .5 credits.
- 6th Grade students will take one fine arts course. Courses are indicated with an asterisk.

Exploratory Courses

Course Overview		
Semester Long Unless Noted as Year		
6th Grade	**7th Grade**	**8th Grade**
*Art 6	Art I	Art I or II
Flight & Space (Engineering Technology)	Design & Modeling or Automation & Robotics (Engineering Technology I)	Design & Modeling or Automation & Robotics (Engineering Technology II)
FACS 6	Intro to FACS I	Introduction to FACS I or II
World Languages	Basic Spanish and French	Spanish I (year)
Digital Media Apps 6	Digital Media I	Beyond Basic Spanish
*Theater Communications 6 (MC/MT)	Publications 7-8 (year)	Beyond Basic French
*Band 6 (year)	Advanced Theater Communications 7-8	Digital Media I or II
*World Music 6 (MC, MT)	Band (year)	Publications 7-8 (year)
*Vocal Music 6 (year)	Vocal Music (year)	Advanced Theater Communications 7-8
*Orchestra (year)	Jazz Band (year)	Band (year)
Life & Leadership (MT)	Orchestra (year)	Vocal Music (year)
Creative Writing (MC, MT)	Life & Leadership (MT)	Jazz Band (year)
E-Sports (MC)	Creative Writing (MC, MT)	Orchestra (year)
3D Design (MC)	E-Sports (MC)	Life & Leadership (MT)
	Reading Ext (MC, MT)	Creative Writing (MC, MT)
**Denotes Fine Arts Course. 6th graders choose at least one Fine Arts Course.*	Moving Better I (MC, MT)	E-Sports (MC)
	Moving Better II (MC, MT)	Reading Ext (MT)
	World Music 7-8 (MC, MT)	Moving Better I (MC, MT)
	Engineering Apps	Moving Better II (MC, MT)
Course is offered in all buildings unless otherwise indicated in parenthesis:	Science Extension Y (MC, MT)	World Music 7-8 (MT, MC)
MC: Mill Creek Middle School *MT: Monticello Trails Middle School* *LT: Lexington Trails Middle School*	Peers in Learning	Engineering Apps
		Science Extension Y (MC, MT)
		Art Media Exploration (MC)
		Peers in Learning
		Business Essentials

6th Grade Required Curriculum and Courses

Pathways 6 **Grade 6**

MSG68-89A/B Credit: 1

Pathways is a cross-curricular course. Students build 21st century skills through critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, communication, and creativity. Themes and subjects explored in this course introduce students to Individual Plans of Study, which allow them an opportunity to explore educational and career paths that align with their interests. According to the Kansas State Department of Education, the Individual Plan of Study "includes development of a flexible career focus and an education plan that is clearly-defined, rigorous, and relevant to assure a successful and efficient transition to postsecondary education and/or the workforce." Additional units of study include self-exploration, project-based learning and use of the Xello program.

English Language Arts 6 **Grade 6**

CAG60A/B Credit: 1

In 6th Grade English Language Arts, students will explore such themes as character and citizenship, conformity and individuality, justice and diversity, as well as investigations and future. During the school year, students will read a variety of texts and genres to enhance and enrich their knowledge while also building comprehension skills. Students will build critical thinking skills through writing, discussions, media clips, and vocabulary acquisition.

Mathematics 6 **Grade 6**

MAG60A/B Credit: 1

During sixth grade math, the students will continue on their journey into becoming college and career ready. This course will incorporate mathematics concepts. The main components in sixth grade math are proportional reasoning, fractions, percents, decimals, algebraic expressions, algebraic equations, inequalities, integers, coordinate plane, area, third dimension, and data.

Science 6 **Grade 6**

SCG60A/B Credit: 1

6th Grade Science is designed to address the Next Generation Science Standards. Throughout this year, students will learn about the scientific method, states of matter, interactions of matter, atoms-elements-compounds, energy, motion, and simple machines.

Social Studies 6 **Grade 6**

SSG60A/B Credit: 1

The Ancient World History course covers the time period from the birth of the river civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China to the Middle Ages in Europe. Students will examine the impact of geography on the development of civilizations. The course will include a discussion of characteristics of civilizations including the development of agriculture, governments, division of labor, social hierarchies, and culture. Students will focus on causes, effects, and turning points in the rise and fall of various civilizations. They will investigate major religions including Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam and their impact on governments, society, and culture. The course will include an examination of the spread and transformation of culture and ideas across these regions through trade and conquest. Students will draw conclusions about the significance of various civilizations and their connection to events, ideas, and culture today. This rigorous course integrates thinking skills, historical processes, and content so that students are able to apply their learning to their own lives. Instruction includes the integration of concepts and principles from history, economics, geography, civics, and the humanities.

*Denotes Fine Arts Course

Physical Education 6 **Grade 6**

PEGG60-61A/B Credit: .5

Goals are to improve the student's level of physical fitness, to develop good social skills, to learn new skills, to actively participate in a variety of sports and games, to improve the skills the student already possesses, and to share information on a variety of health topics.

***Art 6** **Grade 6**

ARG60 Credit: .5

6th grade art is an introductory course that concentrates on exposing students to the Elements of Art: line, value, color, shape, space, texture, and form. Students will experiment using a variety of mediums, some of which are: markers, tempera paints, watercolors, fabrics, pastels, and clay. *$10 fee

***World Music 6 (MCMS, MTMS)** **Grade 6**

MUG61A/B Credit: .5

The 6th grade World Music class is designed to develop an appreciation of all types of music through listening, analyzing, evaluating, and composing skills. The curriculum encourages students to develop an understanding of the elements of music including rhythm, melody, harmony, form, and tone color, while fully engaging students in hands-on activities. Students then showcase their knowledge and skills learned through original, creative projects. Music technology (Garage Band, www.musictheory.net , etc.) is utilized via the student Mac.

***Vocal Music 6** **Grade 6**

MUG60A/B Credit: 1

6th grade vocal music is a comprehensive performance-based program. Using the voice as a learning tool, we will cover concepts such as rhythm, melody and pitch, as well as the skills of listening to, analyzing, reading and performing choral music. Healthy and proper singing techniques will also be emphasized. Students will be required to perform in evening performances during the school year. There will be specific concert attire suggestions that might require a small fee (t-shirt, black/white apparel, etc.) *

***Orchestra** **Grade 6-8**

MUG81A/B Credit: 1

This course is designed for students new to playing a string instrument or those with minimal experience. Students will learn the basics of playing orchestral instruments, including proper technique, music reading, and ensemble skills. The class focuses on building foundational skills, developing teamwork, and exploring the joy of making music together.

***Theater Communications 6 (MCMS, MTMS)** **Grade 6**

CAD66 Credit: .5

This course helps students strengthen their effectiveness in presenting and performing for an audience, as well as develop critical thinking and listening skills. During the theater units, student study acting styles, develop performance and directing skills, and increase their understanding and appreciation of theater. During the communication units, students learn techniques for public speaking and presentations.

***Band 6** **Grade 6**

BNG60A/B Credit: 1

Students will continue to build the musical skills necessary to play a band instrument. These include reading and interpreting notes, rhythms, and musical terms, instrument-specific techniques, exploring music history, listening to and evaluating musical performances. The sixth grade band students have a varied number of required performances throughout the year.* $10 fee

6th Grade Exploratory Curriculum and Courses

***Art 6** **Grade 6**

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Creative Writing (MCMS, MTMS) **Grades 6-8**

CAG81A/B Credit: .5

Creative Writing courses offer students the opportunity to develop and improve their technique and individual style in poetry, short story, drama, essays, and other forms of prose. The emphasis of the courses is on writing; however, students may study exemplary representations and authors to obtain a fuller appreciation of the form and craft. Although most creative writing classes cover several expressive forms, others concentrate exclusively on one particular form (such as poetry or playwriting).

Digital Media Apps 6 **Grade 6**

CMG60 Credit: .5

This engaging and hands-on course is designed to introduce middle school students to the exciting world of digital media creation. In this course, students will explore various tools and techniques to expand their creativity and develop essential digital communication skills. Students will learn the fundamentals of digital media production, including graphic design, and various media applications. The course aims to provide a well-rounded foundation in the use of digital tools and platforms, empowering students to express themselves and communicate effectively in our increasingly digital world.

E-Sports (MCMS) **Grades 6-8**

ETG73A/B Credit: .5

The E-Sports course introduces students to the fast-growing world of competitive gaming, emphasizing teamwork, strategy, and skill development. Students will participate in organized gameplay across various popular games while exploring topics such as game design, sportsmanship, and the e-sports industry. The class also focuses on communication, critical thinking, and leadership as students work together to achieve success in a team setting. Opportunities to compete in friendly tournaments or collaborate with other schools may be included to enhance the experience.

FACS 6th Grade **Grade 6**

FSG60A/B Credit: .5

Prepares students for career opportunities within the human services cluster. Topics include financial and econominc systems, education, caring for others, nutrition and wellness and family systems. *$10 fee

Flight & Space (Engineering Technology) **Grade 6**

CTG61 Credit: .5

This course primarily focuses on the exciting world of aerospace. Students become engineers as they design and test models to learn about the science of flight and space exploration. They will investigate Newton's Laws and use the engineering design process to build solutions to aviation challenges. They will also solve real-world aviation and space challenges. *$10 fee

***Orchestra** **Grades 6-8**

MUG81A/B Credit: 1

This course is designed for students new to playing a string instrument or those with minimal experience. Instruction will focus on learning to play violas and violins. Students will learn the basics of playing instruments including proper technique, music reading, and ensemble skills. The class focuses on building foundational skills, developing teamwork, and exploring the joy of making music together.

***Theater Communications 6 (MCMS, MTMS)** **Grade 6**

CAD66 Credit: .5

This course helps students strengthen their effectiveness in presenting and performing for an audience, as well as develop critical thinking and listening skills. During the theater units, student study acting styles, develop performance and directing skills, and increase their understanding and appreciation of theater. During the communication units, students learn techniques for public speaking and presentations.

***Vocal Music 6** **Grade 6**

MUG60A/B Credit: 1

6th grade vocal music is a comprehensive performance-based program. Using the voice as a learning tool, we will cover concepts such as rhythm, melody and pitch, as well as the skills of listening to, analyzing, reading and performing choral music. Healthy and proper singing techniques will also be emphasized. Students will be required to perform in evening performances during the school year. There will be specific concert attire suggestions that might require a small fee (t-shirt, black/white apparel, etc.) *

World Languages **Grade 6**

WLG60 Credit: .5

This course explores seven major world languages: ASL, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Latin and Spanish. Students will receive brief exposure to cultural topics, regional maps and vocabulary relating to travel.

***World Music 6 (MCMS, MTMS)** **Grade 6**

MUG61A/B Credit: .5

The 6th grade World Music class is designed to develop an appreciation of all types of music through listening, analyzing, evaluating, and composing skills. The curriculum encourages students to develop an understanding of the elements of music including rhythm, melody, harmony, form, and tone color, while fully engaging students in hands-on activities. Students then showcase their knowledge and skills learned through original, creative projects. Music technology (Garage Band, www.musictheory.net , etc.) is utilized via the student Mac.

3D Design (MCMS) **Grade 6**

ETG72A/B Credit: .5

The 3D Design course offers students the opportunity to explore creative problem-solving and innovation through hands-on design projects. Using tools such as 3D modeling software and printers, students will bring their ideas to life while learning key concepts in engineering, art, and technology. The class encourages collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity as students tackle real-world design challenges. By the end of the course, students will have developed a portfolio of 3D projects that showcase their skills and imagination.

*Denotes Fine Arts Course

7th Grade Required Curriculum and Courses

Pathways 7 **Grade 7**

MSG68-89A/B Credit: 1

Pathways is a cross-curricular course. Students build 21st century skills through critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, communication, and creativity. Themes and subjects explored in this course introduce students to Individual Plans of Study, which allow them an opportunity to explore educational and career paths that align with their interests. According to the Kansas State Department of Education, the Individual Plan of Study "includes development of a flexible career focus and an education plan that is clearly-defined, rigorous, and relevant to assure a successful and efficient transition to postsecondary education and/or the workforce." Additional units of study include self-exploration, project-based learning and use of the Xello program.

English Language Arts 7 **Grade 7**

CAG70A/B Credit: 1

The learner will understand and interpret information received through reading, understand and apply skills, concepts, rules and spelling of the Standard American English language and its dialects and use appropriate tools of technology that promote learning and aid in the development of skills for lifelong application. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of genres from various cultures and times by both men and women and will be able to recognize a variety of literary terms and concepts. Students will read and interpret the following forms of written expression: narrative, expository, persuasive, and technical. Students will study literature both from novels and short stories.

Mathematics 7 **Grade 7**

MAG70A/B Credit: 1

The seventh grade math uses an integrated approach to mathematics. It includes both the conceptual process of mathematics and the content of math. The conceptual process includes 8 Mathematical Practices such as making sense of real world problems using viable arguments and appropriate tools. The main components in seventh grade math are proportional reasoning, developing number sense, algebraic thinking, geometry, and statistical thinking and probability.

Compact Math 7 (invitation only) **Grade 7**

MAG71A/B Credit: 1

The Seventh Grade Compact Math Course contains the same standards as the non-compacted course. In addition, the course will also include the First Semester standards from the 8th grade math course. This course will only be recommended for those students who have shown through multiple data points and observation the need for acceleration.

Invitations to this course will be provided in May of 6th grade year.

Science 7 **Grade 7**

SCG70A/B Credit: 1

Seventh grade science is a life science course focusing on living vs. non-living, ecology, scientific process, cells, heredity/genetics, human organs and organ systems, microorganisms, fungi and plants, and environmental science.

Social Studies 7 **Grade 7**

SSG70A/B Credit: 1

The geography course in the seventh grade will familiarize students with their world using the essential elements and geography themes. Students will develop knowledge about location, place, human environment interaction, movement and regions. The course will compare and contrast these themes across all continents. This course will integrate historical thinking skills, historical processes and content so student can apply their learning to their own lives. Students will be able to apply their knowledge to their community, state, nation, world and themselves. Instruction will also integrate concepts and ideas from history, economics, geography, civics and the humanities.

The Kansas History course begins with a study of native inhabitants of the land that was to become Kansas. Students will analyze major events, individuals, groups, innovations, and movements from pre-historic days to the present. It will build a connection or relationship between the student and the state. Just like the geography course, this will integrate thinking skills, historical processes and content so the students can apply their learning to their own lives.

Physical Education 7 **Grade 7**

PEGG70-71A/B Credit: .5

Seventh grade PE meets every day for a semester. Goals are to improve the student's level of physical fitness, to develop good social skills, to learn new skills, to actively participate in a variety of sports and games, to improve the skills the student already possesses, and to share information on a variety of health topics.

8th Grade Required Curriculum and Courses

Pathways 8 **Grade 8**

MSG68-89A/B Credit: 1

Pathways is a cross-curricular course. Students build 21st century skills through critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, communication, and creativity. Themes and subjects explored in this course introduce students to Individual Plans of Study, which allow them an opportunity to explore educational and career paths that align with their interests. According to the Kansas State Department of Education, the Individual Plan of Study "includes development of a flexible career focus and an education plan that is clearly-defined, rigorous, and relevant to assure a successful and efficient transition to postsecondary education and/or the workforce." Additional units of study include self-exploration, project-based learning and use of the Xello program.

English Language Arts 8 **Grade 8**

CAG80A/B Credit: 1

At the eighth grade level at USD 232, our students will focus on reading and writing experiences that are developmentally appropriate. The focus will include vocabulary instruction, the importance of literary devices, as well as accurately identifying various text types and structure. Students will deepen their literary analysis skills through the exploration of the themes Coming of Age, Morality, Perseverance and Oppression by reading various types of fiction and nonfiction literature.

Mathematics 8 **Grade 8**

MAG80A/B Credit: 1

Math 8 focuses on algebraic thinking, geometry, and statistical thinking and probability, and revisits prior algebraic concepts and geometry. There will be hands-on exploratory, and activity-oriented instruction. Manipulatives and graphing calculators will be used extensively and students will be actively involved in using mathematics in real-world applications. There will be group work and projects incorporated into instruction, along with current technology. This course strives to foster improvement in problem-solving skills, problem analysis, and independent thinking in preparation for high school mathematics.

Compact Math 8 (invitation only) **Grade 8**

MAG81A/B Credit: 1

The Eighth Grade Compact Math Course contains the same standards as the non-compacted course. The course will also include the Integrated Math 1 curriculum. Compact Math 8 will only be recommended for those students who have shown through multiple data points and observation the need for acceleration.

Science 8 **Grade 8**

SCG80A/B Credit: 1

In eighth grade science, students will begin the year reviewing the Scientific Method. Throughout the year, they will learn about Rocks and Minerals; Earth Processes: Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Erosion and Weathering; Water: Rivers, Oceans, and Weather; Astronomy; and Natural Resources.

Social Studies 8 **Grade 8**

SSG80A/B Credit: 1

This course will examine the major ideas, people, events, and cultural shifts of the United States of America from the writing of the Constitution to the late 1800's. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking skills, analyzing primary sources, determining cause and effect relationships, and developing and defending opinions.

Physical Education 8 **Grade 8**

PEGG80-81A/B Credit: .5

Eighth grade PE meets every day for one semester. Goals are to improve the student's level of physical fitness, to develop good social skills, to learn new skills, to actively participate in a variety of sports and games, to improve the skills the student already possesses, and to share information on a variety of health topics.

7th & 8th Grade Exploratory Curriculum and Courses

Art I — **Grades 7-8**

ARG70 — Credit: .5

Art I is a semester course which continues the art curriculum begun in the 6th grade. We will explore the Elements of Art: line, value, color, shape, space, texture, and form. In addition to production, students will be exposed to art history, aesthetics, and art criticism. *$10 fee

Art II — **Grade 8**

ARG80 — Credit: .5

Prerequisite: Art I

Art II is a semester course that continues to expose students to the Elements of Art but also addresses the Principles of Design: balance, emphasis, rhythm, contrast, pattern, movement, and unity. In addition, production, art history, aesthetics, and art criticism will be integrated throughout the curriculum. *$10 fee

Design & Modeling (Engineering Technology I) — **Grades 7-8**

CTG71 — Credit: .5

In this course, students will apply the engineering design process through hands-on drafting skills and computer-aided design (CAD). As students plan and develop designs to meet certain criteria for different challenges/clients, they will develop skills in types of sketches, measuring 2D/3D objects, CAD software, building/testing prototypes, and 3D printing. Collaborative skills and hands-on builds will be a main focus of the semester to emphasize foundational skills for future pathways. *$10 fee

Automation & Robotics (Engineering Technology II) — **Grade 8**

CTG81 — Credit: .5

Prerequisite: Design & Modeling

Students explore different aspects of automation and robotics and apply mechanical, programming, and electrical skills to solve problems. Students will work to apply their knowledge of different types of mechanisms as they construct and program designs that will meet specific criteria. The Engineering Design Process, collaborative skills, and hands-on builds will be the focus of the semester to emphasize foundational skills for future pathways. *$10 fee

Intro to FACS I — **Grades 7-8**

CTGM00 — Credit: .5

Introduction to Family and Consumer Services (FACS I) focuses on navigating the realm of home economics with a more in-depth exploration of essential life skills. Students will delve into topics like nutrition and meal planning, budgeting, sewing basics, and understanding the importance of environmental sustainability. Through hands-on projects and collaborative activities, students will develop practical skills that contribute to their overall well-being and prepare them for the responsibilities of adolescence and beyond. This Career & Technical Education (CTE) course provides a broad range of foundational skills for the FACS and Teacher Training CTE courses offered at the high school level. *$15 fee

Intro to FACS II — **Grades 8**

CTGM01 — Credit: .5

Prerequisite: Intro to FACS I

In this culminating Intro to FACS II course, students will engage in a comprehensive exploration of skills vital for future independence. The curriculum includes advanced cooking techniques, financial literacy and consumer skills, clothing construction, family structures and functions in society, parenting styles and developmental milestones of children. Through project-based learning and real-world applications, students will hone their critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities that await them in high school and beyond. This Career & Technical Education (CTE) course provides a broad range of foundational skills for the FACS and Teacher Training CTE courses offered at the high school level. *$15 fee

Basic French — **Grade 7**

WLG72 — Credit: .5

This course will explore both the French language in a communicative context. Students will learn greetings and conversation pertaining to introductions. Vocabulary relates to the classroom: school supplies, simple commands, calendar and telling time.

Basic Spanish and French — **Grade 7**

WLG71 — Credit: .5

This course will explore both the Spanish and French languages in a communicative context. Students will learn greetings and conversation pertaining to introductions. Vocabulary relates to the classroom: school supplies, simple commands, calendar and telling time.

Beyond Basic Spanish — **Grade 8**

WLG81 — Credit: .5

This introductory course will prepare students for further language study in high school Spanish I. We will look at cultures of the Spanish-speaking world, descriptive vocabulary and basic grammatical structures.

Spanish I — **Grade 8**

WLG82 — Credit: 1

This class is designed to be the first in a series of five classes that can be taken through high school. The 2 main objectives in this Spanish class are: (1) to help students attain an acceptable degree of proficiency in the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing; and (2) to present the language with the context of the contemporary Spanish speaking world and its culture. Students will become aware of the variety of the Spanish speaking world from South American to Caribbean, from Mexico and Central America to Europe.

*Spanish I at the Middle School level does not count as a credit toward Kansas Scholars Curriculum at the High School. Spanish I curriculum is thorough in preparing students for the Spanish II curriculum.

7th & 8th Grade Elective Curriculum and Courses

Digital Media I — **Grades 7-8**

CTGM06 — Credit: .5

Get ready to unleash your creativity and embark on a journey into the exciting world of Digital Media Applications! By the end of this project-based course, students will have gained practical skills in digital media applications, developed a digital portfolio of their work, and cultivated a deeper understanding of the role digital media plays in today's society. This course provides a foundation for students to pursue further studies in multimedia production and fosters a lifelong appreciation for the creative possibilities within the digital realm. This Career & Technical Education (CTE) course provides a broad range of foundational skills for a wide range of CTE courses offered at the high school level.

Publications 7-8 (application only) — **Grades 7-8**

CAG90 — Credit: 1

This class will be responsible for creating the yearbook using an online yearbook program provided by the yearbook publisher. It will also publish the school newspaper, sports programs and other various school publications. We will be using Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, Microsoft Word and photography to accomplish our tasks. Students must submit an application to be accepted in this class.

Business Essentials — **Grade 8**

CTG20 — Credit: 0.5

This introductory, exploratory course for 8th-grade students designed to spark interest in the world of business. Students will be introduced to key concepts in Business Management, Entrepreneurship, Marketing, and Finance through hands-on activities and real-world applications. Course units include foundational topics in management, finance, economics, marketing, and accounting. By the end of the course, students will have developed essential background knowledge and skills that prepare them for success in high school Pathways such as Business Management and Entrepreneurship, Finance, Marketing, Restaurant and Event Management, and Travel and Tourism.

Band 7 — **Grades 7**

BNG70 — Credit: .5 or 1

Seventh grade Band is a year-long class and is a continuation of the band curriculum begun in 5th grade. Students will continue to build and master the musical skills necessary to play an instrument. These include reading and interpreting notes, rhythms, and musical terms, instrument-specific techniques, exploring music history, listening to and evaluating musical performances. 7th Grade Band students have a varied number of required performances throughout the year. *$15 fee

Vocal Music 7 — **Grades 7**

MUG70 — Credit: 1

7th grade vocal music is a comprehensive performance-based program. Using the voice as a learning tool, we will cover concepts such as rhythm, melody and pitch as well as the skills of listening to, analyzing, reading and performing choral music. Healthy and proper singing techniques will also be emphasized. Students will be required to perform in 2 evening performances during the school year. There will be specific concert attire suggestions that might require a small fee (t-shirt, black/white apparel, etc.)

Jazz Band — **Grades 7-8**

ETG78A/B — Credit: 1

In this course, students will be introduced to and learn to play blues scales, modal scales, swing, rock, Latin, and funk. A heavy emphasis will be placed on listening and learning about jazz performers, both past and present. Jazz Band students must also be enrolled in band. *$15 fee

Digital Media II — **Grade 8**

CTGM07 — Credit: .5

Prerequisite: Digital Media I

Digital Media Applications II extends the knowledge learned in Digital Media I and provides experience with relevant and current practices related to digital and print media using career-related software, video/audio applications, and internet-based resources. Students will continue their digital portfolios and manage hands-on, real-world projects to create, edit, promote, and publish various forms of print and digital media for the school/district. This Career & Technical Education (CTE) course provides a broad range of foundational skills for a wide range of CTE courses offered at the high school level.

Advanced Theater Communications — **Grades 7-8**

CAD71 — Credit: .5

This course will guide students in planning, preparing and presenting theatrical works and public speaking. In the theater units, students will use drama techniques to create characters and scenes, use improvisation, and develop stage presence. Students will watch and evaluate performances and learn how to offer constructive criticism. Students will utilize technical and design elements in class productions. During the communication units, students will organize, construct and deliver a variety of individual and group presentations.

Band 8 — **Grade 8**

BNG80 — Credit: 1

Eighth grade Band is a year-long class. It is a continuation of the band curriculum begun in 5th grade. By 8th grade, students have developed many of the skills necessary to play an instrument and begin working on advanced skills and concepts. These include mixed meter, extended ranges, composition, music history, music theory, ensemble technique, and musicality. 8th Grade Band students have a varied number of required performances throughout the year. *$15 fee

Vocal Music 8 — **Grade 8**

MUG80 — Credit: 1

8th grade vocal music is a comprehensive performance-based program. Choral skills and concepts covered in the 6th and 7th grades will be expanded upon through study and performance of advanced choral literature. Students will be required to perform in 2 evening performances, as well as a myriad of other performance opportunities such as assemblies, community service trips, festivals/competitions, etc. There will be specific concert attire suggestions that might require a small fee (t-shirt, black/white apparel, etc.)

Orchestra — **Grade 6-8**

MUG81A/B — Credit: 1

This course is designed for students new to playing a string instrument or those with minimal experience. Instruction will focus on learning to play violas and violins. Students will learn the basics of playing instruments including proper technique, music reading, and ensemble skills. The class focuses on building foundational skills, developing teamwork, and exploring the joy of making music together.

Life & Leadership **(MTMS)** **Grade 7-8**

ETG86 Credit: .5

In Life & Leadership students are given the opportunity to have a voice, learn skills related to leading in and outside of school, and practice advocating for what they want and need. This class will enhance and grow your leadership skills through hands-on project based learning activities, team building, presentations, and more.

E-Sports **(MCMS)** **Grade 6-8**

ETG73A/B Credit: .5

The E-Sports course introduces students to the fast-growing world of competitive gaming, emphasizing teamwork, strategy, and skill development. Students will participate in organized gameplay across various popular games while exploring topics such as game design, sportsmanship, and the e-sports industry. The class also focuses on communication, critical thinking, and leadership as students work together to achieve success in a team setting. Opportunities to compete in friendly tournaments or collaborate with other schools may be included to enhance the experience.

Moving Better I **(MCMS, MTMS)** **Grades 7-8**

ETG71 Credit: .5

In this engaging and interactive course, students will explore the basics of muscle and joint anatomy and how they work together to help us move. We'll dive into the fascinating world of the nervous, skeletal, muscular, and cardiovascular systems, learning how they support and control movement. Through hands-on activities, visual aids, and fun challenges, students will develop a deeper understanding of how their bodies function, setting the stage for healthy habits and a lifelong appreciation for movement. This course is perfect for curious minds who want to uncover the science behind everyday motions.

World Music 7-8 **(MCMS, MTMS)** **Grade 7-8**

MUG71A/B Credit: .5

Immerse yourself in the global exploration of sound! We will learn about the vibrant rhythms of African music, the soulful melodies of Latin America and the Caribbean, the spiritual sounds of Native American music, and the intricate textures of music across Asia. In addition to studying regional styles, students will explore the basics of musical composition, how music impacts the brain, and music's presence in our media. Through this course, students will gain a deeper understanding of music's global significance and its influence on human experience. No prior musical knowledge is required!

Science Extension Y **(MCMS, MTMS)** **Grades 7-8**

SCG81 Credit: .5

This science extension course is based off a segment of 6-8 science curriculum. Students will develop higher order thinking skills and engage in authentic learning experiences as they investigate in depth appropriate science concepts. *$10 fee

Creative Writing **(MCMS, MTMS)** **Grade 6-8**

CAG81A/B Credit: .5

Creative Writing courses offer students the opportunity to develop and improve their technique and individual style in poetry, short story, drama, essays, and other forms of prose. The emphasis of the courses is on writing; however, students may study exemplary representations and authors to obtain a fuller appreciation of the form and craft. Although most creative writing classes cover several expressive forms, others concentrate exclusively on one particular form (such as poetry or playwriting).

Reading Extension **(MCMS, MTMS)** **Grades 7-8**

ETG95 Credit: .5

This elective is a student-selected course that fosters meaningful discussions about books and encourages personal connections with literature. This is a semester-long course where students are given the opportunity to do something they enjoy: READ and Book Talk! The class will include activities such as reading aloud, discussing vocabulary, studying plot development, understanding author's purpose, and collaborating on creative projects to showcase learning and promote a love of reading for all. Additional opportunities, including author Zoom sessions, library excursions, guest speakers, and book displays, to enrich the reading experience and deepen students' appreciation for literature.

Moving Better II **(MCMS, MTMS)** **Grades 7-8**

ETG94 Credit: .5

Prerequisite: Moving Better I

Moving Better is a physical education course designed to help students enhance their movement patterns, improve coordination, and build functional fitness for daily activities and sports. Through a combination of exercises, games, and movement drills, students will develop strength, agility, balance, and flexibility in a supportive environment. The course will also emphasize injury prevention, body awareness, and lifelong physical wellness. Students will leave the class with a better understanding of how to move efficiently and stay active throughout their lives.

Engineering Apps **(MCMS, MTMS)** **Grade 7-8**

ETG80 Credit: .5

In this semester class, students will learn the basics of programming in two languages, MakeCode and Python. The class is student driven, meaning that it will be mostly student led with the teacher available for individual help. This class uses Carnegie Mellon University's CS1: Introduction to Programming curriculum to learn how to make art, animation, and games using Python. Also, students will use their knowledge of programming in a physical computing unit with Micro:bit, a micro-controller that has two-buttons, several sensors (light, sound, temperature, and an accelerometer), and 25 LEDs, to create apps that can be interacted with in the real world. The purpose of this class is to learn the fundamentals of programming (Loops, Conditionals, Events, and Variables). The class objective is for students to learn how to teach themselves a new skill, programming, and to grow and express this new skill through a series of challenges. *$10 fee

Art Media Exploration **(MCMS)** **Grade 8**

ARG81A/B Credit: .5

Students will explore and develop skills required for producing artisan crafts. Students will develop problem solving skills as they communicate their ideas through various media in three-dimensional form including basketry, paper mâché, clay, paper techniques, foam carving, wire forming, cardboard construction and more. *$10 fee

Peers in Learning **Grades 7-8**

MSG95 Credit: .5

This course serves as an elective for general education peers who are selected to help students working on social interaction skills.