2026-2027



Marce Herz Middle School Electives Course Catalog

6th Grade Course Selections

When applicable, course fees are listed with each individual course.
Please note that all fees are subject to change.

6th Grade Success Skills:

Fee: $20.00 (*One combined fee for Success Skills and PLTW Design and Modeling; charged once.*)

All 6th graders will take this semester long class. This class will allow you to work on a variety of skills that are essential for success in 6th grade and beyond. Some of the things you will work on include:

- Typing Skills
- Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Good Digital Citizenship
- Successfully using digital tools
- Productivity and Organization

6th Grade PLTW Design and Modeling:

Fee: $20.00 (*One combined fee for Success Skills and PLTW Design and Modeling; charged once.*)

All 6th grade students will take this semester long course. This class will help them discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they have learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

Beginning (6th grade) Choir:

Fee: $35.00

Do you love singing? Do you want to build confidence, make new friends, and express yourself through music? Beginning Choir is the perfect place to start! This yearlong, performance-based class is designed for **6th-grade students of all experience levels**—no prior singing experience required. In this class, you'll learn how to develop your **vocal skills, read music, and perform as a group**, all while exploring songs from different genres, languages, and time periods. You'll also gain important **musicianship skills, teamwork experience, and an appreciation for the power of music**. This is more than just a class—it's a chance to grow as a musician and as a person. **Join us and discover what your voice can do!**

Beginning (6th grade) Band:

Fee: $35.00

Are you a 6th grader interested in learning an instrument like trumpet, trombone, saxophone, flute, or clarinet? Are you interested in learning new and exciting music? Then this is the course for you! This 1-year long class will cover and explore the basics of instrumental band music including: 1) proper instrumental sound production, 2) breath, posture, and body control, 3) music reading, 4) instrument care, 5) music making. We will have several performances throughout the year to demonstrate your skills. This class is for 6th grade students only; no previous band experience is required.

Beginner (6th grade) Orchestra:

Fee: $35.00

Beginner Orchestra is open to all 6th grade students interested in playing the violin, viola, cello, or bass. Previous knowledge or experience is not required. Students will be learning the basics of their instrument, the beginning fundamentals of playing music, and reading music notation. Several performances will be a part of

the class as well. At-home practice is an essential part of success in learning and playing music and is an expectation of the class. School instruments are available for rent.

6th Grade Beginning Ukelele:
Fee: $35.00
In this introductory ukulele course, 6th grade students learn the basics of playing the ukulele in a fun and supportive environment. Students will explore proper playing techniques, basic chords, strumming patterns, and simple melodies while learning to read chord diagrams and rhythm notation. The class emphasizes musical teamwork, listening skills, and creativity through group playing and performance. No prior musical experience is required.

Physical Education 6:
Fee: $5.00
The purpose of this course is to develop the physical skills necessary to be competent in many forms of movement including body awareness and body management, knowledge of team and individual sports concepts and appropriate social behaviors within a team or group setting. All 6th Graders will take one semester of PE.

7th and 8th grade Course Selections

When applicable, course fees are listed with each individual course.
Please note that all fees are subject to change.

Advanced Band: ***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Intermediate Band, equivalent, or audition***
Fee: $40.00
This year-long course is a follow-up and continuation of Intermediate Band. This course is designed to prepare 8th graders for music in high-school and beyond through increasingly challenging band music, musical theory, and more performance opportunities. We will have several performances throughout the school year including out-of-state and regional performances.

Advanced Choir: ***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Intermediate Band, equivalent, or audition.***
Fee: $40.00
For students who are serious about singing and ready for **more advanced vocal techniques, complex harmonies, and exciting performance opportunities**, Advanced Choir is the place to be! Open to **7th and 8th graders with prior choir experience**, this class will challenge you to grow as a musician through **detailed vocal training, sight-singing, and musicianship development.** We will perform a diverse selection of music that spans cultures, languages, and time periods, refining our ability to **connect with audiences and work together as a unified ensemble**. Beyond singing, you'll build **leadership skills, confidence, and a strong sense of teamwork**—all while having a blast making music with your peers!

Advanced Orchestra: ***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Intermediate Orchestra, equivalent, or audition***
Fee: $40.00
Advanced Orchestra consists of 8th grade students playing the violin, viola, cello, or bass. These students will be our top-level performance class, so students will have a prerequisite of having taken the intermediate level class or equivalent, or audition to be accepted into the ensemble. Higher ability and technique will be implemented as part of the music class. Frequent performances will occur throughout the school year. At-

home practice is an essential part of success in learning and playing music and is an expectation of the class. School instruments are available for rent.

Art 1 & Art 2:

Art 1 Fee: $30.00 Art 2 Fee: $40.00

Art 1 and Art 2 are designed to provide students with the foundations of visual/artistic expression. Students will begin to develop their visual voice through the creation of a variety of problem-based learning engagements. Utilizing the exploration of materials, media, context, and histories of art and design, students will develop a method of visual communication. The methods used will be unique to their work, ideas, and point of view.

Computer Science & Applications: *8th grade only*

This course is a one semester course which includes an introduction to computer science and application intended to "prepare young learners to become computational thinkers who understand how today's digital tools can help solve tomorrow's problems". (ISTE. 2018). CS & A will include at least 50% computer science principles and computational thinking. The balance of the course will integrate skills in digital and media literacy and digital citizenship. Taken with Health.

Creative Writing/Journalism: *(not offered in the 26-27 school year)*

Students will read widely and deeply from among a broad range of high-quality, increasingly challenging literary and informational texts to analyze key details and author's purpose. Through the study of craft and structure, students will produce clear and coherent writing by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience. Journalism is designed to teach students the skills necessary for communicating online and print media today. There will be specific emphasis on interviewing and writing. Through this hands-on approach to learning journalism, students will learn journalistic law & ethics, various types of news writing (opinion, review, news, feature, sports), newspaper/website layout & design, journalistic research, entry level photography, and ad sales/business.

Current Events: *(not offered in the 26-27 school year)*

Students will learn about a variety of topics through the lens of local, national, and international news. The course is taught through a series of themes, such as Media Literacy, U.S. Elections, 1st Amendment Rights, and Countries in Conflict. Throughout the course, students will gain the skills needed to determine whether a news outlet is reputable, how to identify bias in the media, and how to fact check sources for accuracy.

Digital Music:

Fee: $35.00

Ever wanted to create your own music? In this hands-on, project-based class, you'll explore music technology using programs like GarageBand, MuseScore, and other digital audio workstations to bring your ideas to life. You'll compose, mix, and produce your own tracks while learning about sound design and recording techniques. Plus, you may even have the chance to visit a professional recording studio and experience what it's like to be a real recording engineer!

Intro to Media/Media:

Fee: $20.00

This course will cover nearly every aspect of creating a film. Students will explore the expansive world of film by reviewing existing films, as well as writing and filming their own scripts and stories. Students will learn to use multiple camera models, tripods, sliders, lighting, microphones, green screens, and more. Students will learn to write scripts and bring those scripts to life on the big screen. In this course, students will work collaboratively with others to create fully functioning film crews to bring their stories to life.

Flight & Space 1 & 2:

Fee: $25.00

Students are introduced to the STEM world of aerospace engineering through exploring the science behind aeronautics and Space. Students will be introduced to aerospace through the history of flight and space along with hands-on activities, research, and presentations, simulation software, and more. Students will work collaboratively by using the knowledge gained to explore the opportunities and demands of space exploration. During the second semester of the course, students will explore sustainable solutions to future energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on communities and the world. Students will work collaboratively to design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption. Second year Flight and Space is called *Flight and Space 2.*

Geography:

This year long World Geography class helps students understand how the world's land, people, and cultures are connected. The main goal of this class is to help students learn more about the world outside of the United States. Another goal is to teach students how to read maps, including using things like scale, to find physical features (like mountains or rivers) and human-made features (like cities) in the U.S. and around the world. Lastly, the class will focus on understanding how different regions and belief systems are connected and how they shape people's cultural identity.

Health: *8th grade only*

This course is a one semester course which covers the following topics: body function; physical and emotional development; drugs, alcohol, and tobacco; disease and disorders; fitness and exercise; nutrition; consumer health, safety, first aid, and emergency care; family health, growth and development; environmental health and related fields; community health; and health careers. Taken with Computer Science & Applications.

Home and Careers 1 & 2 (same as Home Economics, just a new name):

Fee: $40.00

In this course, students will learn essential skills for everyday life. Topics include goal setting and communication, nutrition and food safety, basic cooking, money management, and home maintenance. Students will practice budgeting, meal prep, and simple home tasks to build confidence and independence.

Intermediate Band:

Fee: $40.00

This year-long course is the follow-up and continuation of Beginning Band; however, we will expand our musical skills to include more fundamentals of music making, musical literacy, and instrumental technique. We will have several performances throughout the year, including an out-of-state performance. Incoming 8th graders who have 2 or more years on their primary instrument may join to learn a secondary instrument.

Intermediate Choir:

Fee: $40.00

Already have some experience singing and ready to take it to the next level? Intermediate Choir is a performance-based class for 7th graders looking to refine their vocal technique, improve their music reading skills, and tackle more challenging repertoire. In this class, you'll develop your rehearsal etiquette, music theory knowledge, and stage presence while singing a variety of music from different cultures, genres, and time periods. As we work together, you'll strengthen your ability to blend, harmonize, and perform as a team, preparing multiple concerts throughout the year. Choir isn't just about singing—it's about becoming a confident, expressive, and well-rounded musician.

Intermediate Orchestra:

Fee: $40.00

Intermediate Orchestra is open to all 7th grade students interested in playing the violin, viola, cello, or bass. Previous knowledge or experience is not required, though most students will continue from the previous 6th grade music class. Students will continue to learn the basics of playing music, while adding new techniques and abilities. Performances will occur throughout the school year. At-home practice is an essential part of success in learning and playing music and is an expectation of the class. School instruments are available for rent.

Intermediate Ukelele: *(not offered in the 26-27 school year)*

Fee: $40.00

In this intermediate ukulele course, students build on foundational skills to develop greater musical confidence and independence. Students will expand their chord vocabulary, learn more advanced strumming and fingerpicking patterns, and play longer, more challenging songs. The class includes ensemble playing, basic music theory, and opportunities for creative expression through improvisation and performance. Prior ukulele experience and basic chord knowledge are expected.

Medical Detectives:

Fee: $40.00

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, and investigate disease outbreaks.

Mythology:

Want to explore exciting stories of gods, heroes, and epic adventures? In this class, you'll explore ancient myths from around the world including Greece, Rome, Egypt, and Norse legends. In the second semester, we'll dive into modern myths like Star Wars, Harry Potter, Comic Books and Percy Jackson. If you love adventure and discovering hidden meanings in your favorite stories, this class is for you!

Nevada Wildlife and Natural Resources:

Fee: $50.00

What do you know about Nevada's wildlife and natural resources? We'll learn about the responsible stewardship of this unique ecosystem and study the biodiversity of plant and animal species. You'll hear lectures from wildlife and natural resource professionals on a wide range of topics that include native seeds, animal behavior, aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and pollinators. We'll visit several locations to explore subjects like avian species and bird banding, winter ecology, ethical hunting, and habitat management.

Physical Education:

Fee: $5.00

The purpose of this course is to develop the physical skills necessary to be competent in many forms of movement including body awareness and body management, knowledge of team and individual sports concepts and appropriate social behaviors within a team or group setting.

Robotics and Advanced Robotics:

Fee: $35.00

In this yearlong course, students will learn how creative thinking and problem solving can change their world through technology and robotics. Students will learn through problem-based learning how to apply computational thinking and technical knowledge, to solve existing problems, to build VEX robots and understand robotics programming. Students will utilize 21st Century Learning skills as they work collaboratively through the engineering design process to invent and innovate various robot builds. Students will trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems and block coding. Students will finalize the year with a competition using VEX playgrounds to compete against other robot builds. Second year students will have an opportunity to use V5 Vex robots. The second-year robotics course is called *Advanced Robotics* on student schedules.

Spanish 1

Fee: $15.00

Beginning Spanish is an introduction to the Spanish language. This course is broken into two years and goes at a slower pace. You will learn basic vocabulary that will allow you to start speaking, reading and writing Spanish. You will also learn about the culture and enjoy arts and crafts for specific holidays. It's an action-filled class which requires a good attitude and lots of participation! To continue at the regular pace in 8th grade, Level 1 Spanish is a prerequisite. To have the opportunity to be in Spanish 3-4 your freshman year you MUST maintain a C or higher. Taking Spanish in 7th and 8th grade consecutively will put you on track for honors and AP courses at the high school level.

******Prerequisite: Students must have at least a B in all 4 quarters of 6th grade ELA to enroll in Spanish 1 in 7th grade.***

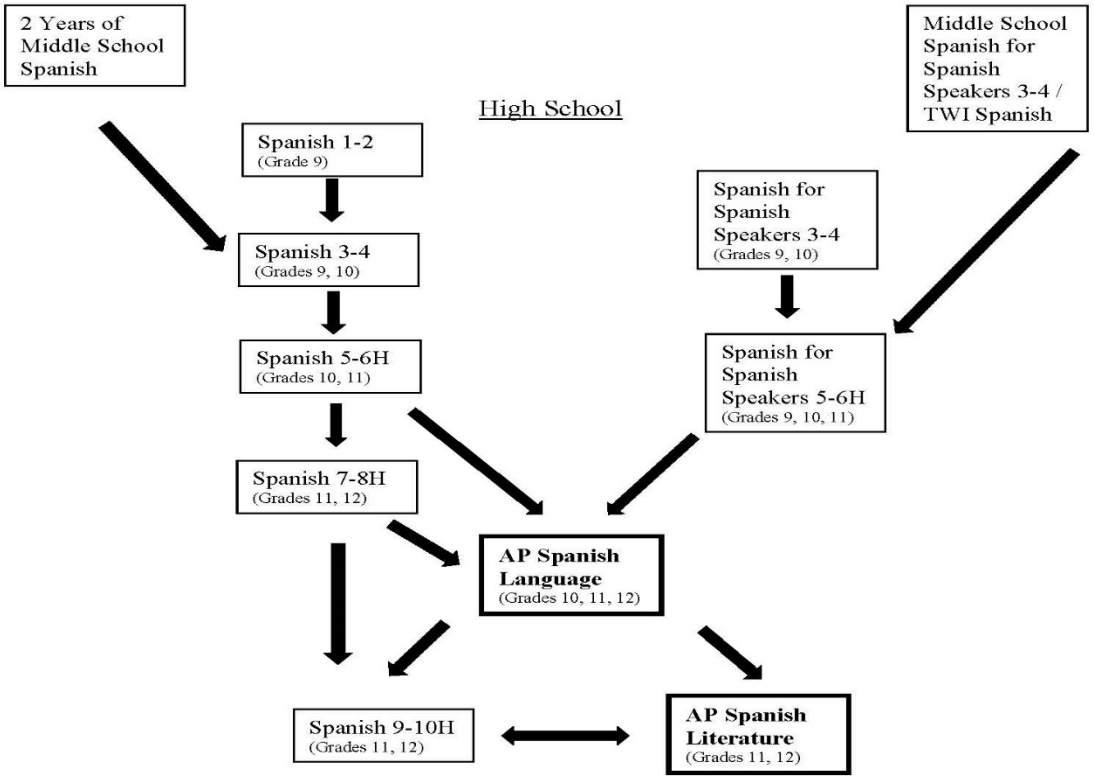
Spanish 2

Fee: $15.00 Credit by Exam (CBE) Fee: $35.00

We will expand our vocabulary and be able to speak, read and write in Spanish. You will also learn more about the culture of many Hispanic countries and enjoy arts and crafts for specific holidays. It's an action-filled class which requires a good attitude and lots of participation! Level 1 Spanish is a prerequisite. You MUST take Spanish 2 (and maintain a C or higher) to have the opportunity to take 3-4 your freshman year. Taking Spanish in 7th and 8th grade consecutively will put you on track for honors and AP courses at the high school level.

******Prerequisite: Students must have at least a B in all 4 quarters of Spanish 1 to enroll in Spanish 2 in 8th grade.***

Students have the opportunity at the end of Spanish 2 to take the CBE test and get High School credit for Spanish 1-2. For more information click the link below:



WCSD CBE Webpage: https://www.washoeschools.net/Page/1144

Sports History: ***(not offered in the 26-27 school year)***

Fee: $10

This course explores the exciting world of sports and how it has shaped cultures, communities, and history around the world. Students will learn about the origins and evolution of major sports, influential athletes who broke barriers, and key moments that changed society both on and off the field. Through discussions, videos, and hands-on projects, students will examine how sports connect to topics like teamwork, social justice, technology, and global events. By the end of the course, students will understand not just *what* we play, but *why* sports matter.

Leadership: ***APPLICATION REQUIRED***

This is a year-long class open to all 7th and 8th grade students. Leadership class introduces leadership skills to students and allows students to practice them by building an engaging and inclusive culture at Marce Herz.

- All students chosen to be in leadership class are required to come to school 4 days early for training and 6th grade orientation.
- You will learn about: What it means to be a leader, leadership skills, social skills, organizing events like dances and food drives to improve student and family engagement, social etiquette, and more!
- You will plan and run presentations, meetings, and social lunches for 6th grade students to help them transition from elementary to middle school.
- You will be required to participate in community volunteer work and log your hours.
- Leadership students have a significant role on campus that must be taken seriously. **As a student role model, you will be responsible, respectful, and safe, always.**

Student Aide: ***APPLICATION REQUIRED. 8th grade only.***

Students at Marce Herz Middle School enrolled in 8th grade can apply to be a student aide in various positions (library, office, or teacher aide) as one of their electives. A student aide position will take the place of one of the three elective classes. To apply, students must complete all components of the application. We will be looking for students who are helpful, respectful, and trustworthy. Student aides must have a positive attitude and be willing and eager to help others. Student aides should be good role models for their peers, respectful to students, staff, parents, and visitors to our school, and should also follow all school policies and procedures. Oftentimes, our student aides are the first impression people have of our school, so it is very important that we have students who are welcoming and polite to our visitors.

Yearbook: ***APPLICATION REQUIRED***

Want to be a part of something exciting!? Consider enrolling in the 1st edition of the Marce Herz Yearbook! It will be an opportunity to be part of the team that records the opening of our school by documenting the memories and events throughout the year. This course will cover the practice of yearbook publication and production, as well as other journalism assignments. This class requires creativity, responsibility, and dedication. Assignments include photography, news writing, reporting, interviewing, and deadlines. Students will develop their writing, photography, computer, and life/career readiness skills throughout this course.

Marce Herz Advanced Mathematics

Pathway to Algebra Success
Recommendations for Middle School Math Placement (Accelerated Math)

Students wanting to accelerate their math pathway by taking Algebra 1 in 8th Grade with a goal of completing AP Calculus by 12th Grade must demonstrate solid grade level understanding in the domains of Numbers & Operations and Algebra & Algebraic Thinking. They must also demonstrate the ability and desire to learn content at a condensed and fast pace.

- **Math 6 Accelerated** covers all 6th-grade and some 7th-grade standards.
- **Math 7 Accelerated** covers some 7th-grade and all 8th-grade standards.
- **Alternative Acceleration:** Students who take Algebra 1 in 9th grade can take two concurrent math courses in 10th or 11th grade to complete AP Calculus by 12th grade.

		i-Ready BOY	i-Ready MOY	i-Ready EOY
Communication Required for all Parents & Students in Grades 5-7		**Prior to the BOY i-Ready Diagnostic:** • Pathway to Algebra Success **After the BOY i-Ready Diagnostic:** • BOY i-Ready Diagnostic	• Pathway to Algebra Success • MOY i-Ready Diagnostic scores • Identify students almost meeting/meeting acceleration criteria. Consult with parents and students to assess skills, motivation, and potential for accelerated learning.	• Pathway to Algebra Success • EOY i-Ready Diagnostic • Confirm eligibility of acceleration criteria and verify placement decisions with parents and students.
Placement		**i-Ready BOY**	**i-Ready MOY**	**i-Ready EOY**
Accelerated Pathway	Math 5 ↓ Math 6 Accelerated		Math 6 Accelerated Readiness Indicators: • Number & Operations: Scale Score of 500 • Algebra & Alg. Thinking: Scale Score of 500	Math 6 Accelerated Readiness Indicators: • Number & Operations: Scale Score of 527 • Algebra & Alg. Thinking: Scale Score of 527
Accelerated Pathway	Math 6 Accelerated ↓ Math 7 Accelerated		Math 7 Accelerated Readiness Indicators: • Number & Operations: Scale Score of 530 • Algebra & Alg. Thinking: Scale Score of 514	Math 7 Accelerated Readiness Indicators: • Number & Operations: Scale Score of 541 • Algebra & Alg. Thinking: Scale Score of 541
Accelerated Pathway	Math 7 Accelerated ↓ Algebra 1		Algebra 1 Readiness Indicators: • Number & Ops: Scale Score of 530 • Algebra & Alg. Thinking: Scale Score of 530	Algebra 1 Readiness Indicators: • Number & Ops: Scale Score of 541 • Algebra & Alg. Thinking: Scale Score of 541
Accelerated Pathway	**Students who struggle with accelerated courses can transition to their grade-level course to build foundational skills at any time during the school year.**			
Adjusted Accelerated Pathway	Math 6* ↓ Math 6 Accelerated (Current School Year) OR Math 7 Accelerated (Next School Year)	Math 6 Accelerated Readiness Indicators: • Number & Operations: Scale Score of 508 • Algebra & Alg. Thinking: Scale Score of 514 Students in Math 6 meeting acceleration criteria can be moved into Math 6 Accelerated before Quarter 3.	Math 6 Accelerated Readiness Indicators: • Number & Ops: Scale Score of 541 • Algebra & Alg. Thinking: Scale Score of 541 Students in Math 6 meeting acceleration criteria can be moved into Math 6 Accelerated before Quarter 3.	Math 7 Accelerated Readiness Indicators: • Number & Ops: Scale Score of 541 • Algebra & Alg. Thinking: Scale Score of 541 Students in Math 6 meeting acceleration criteria can be placed in Math 7 Accelerated if learning gaps are addressed over the summer.
Adjusted Accelerated Pathway	Math 7* ↓ Math 7 Accelerated (Current School Year) OR Algebra 1 (Next School Year)	Math 7 Accelerated Readiness Indicators: • Number & Ops: Scale Score of 530 • Algebra & Alg. Thinking: Scale Score of 530 Students in Math 7 meeting acceleration criteria can be moved into Math 7 Accelerated before the end of Quarter 1.	Readiness Indicators for Algebra 1 Placement: • Number & Ops: Scale Score of 550 • Algebra & Alg. Thinking: Scale Score of 550	Readiness Indicators for Algebra 1 Placement: • Number & Ops: Scale Score of 565 • Algebra & Alg. Thinking: Scale Score of 565 Students in Math 7 meeting acceleration criteria at the end of the year can be placed in Algebra 1 if learning gaps are addressed over the summer.

*To address learning gaps that occur when a student moves to the Accelerated pathway
- Make the course change as soon as possible.
- Assign i-Ready lessons to address any content in the Accelerated course the student missed.
- Monitor to ensure lessons are successfully completed.
  - Mid-year course change: i-Ready lessons can be completed prior to or immediately after the course change.
  - Pathway change for the next school year: i-Ready lessons can be done over the summer but must be completed by the start of the new school year.

Math 7/8 Accelerated:

This is an accelerated math class that combines 7th and 8th grade curriculum to prepare students for Algebra in 8th grade. Students must maintain a C or higher for each quarter and have an excellent work ethic with 95% homework completion on time. Students must also have good attendance throughout the school year. Students are required to retake tests that fall below 75%. Participation, small group or partner work is crucial to success.

Requirements:
3.5 or higher GPA in 6th grade math
Retake of any tests below an 80%
Qualifying score on district placement tests
SBAC 3 or 4

Algebra:

A rigorous course that will benefit students with a high interest in mathematics and plan to pursue courses such as AP Calculus or AP Statistics in their senior year. This course is offered for High School placement but

not for credit, enabling students to begin their High School careers in Formal Geometry during their freshman year.

Students must maintain a C or higher for each quarter and have excellent work ethic with 95% homework completion in this class. Students must have good attendance throughout the school year. Participation, small group or partner work is crucial to success. A district final is given at the end of the first semester, which students must pass with a 70% or higher. In addition, they must maintain a C average to remain in Algebra. Those who are accepted into this class must be committed to attending all Algebra final review study sessions at the end of each semester.

Requirements:
Successful completion of Math 7-8 or equivalent (B or higher)
Qualifying score on district placement tests
SBAC 3 or 4
Students must maintain a B or higher in first semester Algebra to remain in the class.