



Minnetonka Public Schools

Grades 6-8 Course Catalog

CONNECTED.
EMPOWERED.
INSPIRED.



Wonder

MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS ARE FULL OF WONDER AND DISCOVERY. ENTHUSIASTIC AND HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS, TECHNOLOGY, NEW CHOICES AND FLEXIBILITY OFFER EACH STUDENT THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE HIS OR HER HIGHEST ASPIRATIONS.

ACADEMICS

Minnetonka's middle schools emphasize rigor, support, choice and flexibility for middle school students. We offer our students a broad range of curricular experiences including world language, fine arts, drama, family and consumer science, computer science and STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering, Math—courses. We also provide courses to challenge academically advanced students, including honors classes in language arts, science, social studies and accelerated math and science.

SERVICE

At Minnetonka Schools, our mission is to ensure that students achieve their highest aspirations while serving the greater good. Each year, middle school students demonstrate their commitment to community through volunteer service, many earning gold, silver or bronze honors through the President's Volunteer Service Award program. Visit www.tonkaserves.org for volunteer opportunities.





TECHNOLOGY

Minnetonka is a national leader in classroom technology use, providing students with innovative learning opportunities. Minnetonka has hosted two national technology site visits and continues to receive recognition from the National School Board Association. Minnetonka was selected for an Apple Distinguished Program award, recognizing exemplary implementation of a technology initiative. Technology in Minnetonka's middle schools includes:

- **iPads**—All students in grades 6– 8 are issued an iPad for educational use as part of a 1:1 iPad program. The program uses digital curriculum materials, student collaboration tools and individualized instruction in all subject areas to enhance student learning. Minnetonka's middle schools have robust wireless networks to support the iPad program. Parents are encouraged to purchase iPad insurance (learn more at www.minnetonkaschools.org/iPad).
- **Digital Citizenship**—Minnetonka Schools is committed to partnering with families to help students maintain a healthy balance with technology and make good choices. For helpful resources, please visit <http://bit.ly/TonkaDigitalHealth>.
- **Single Sign-On (SSO) for Web-based Resources**—Students can access classroom and e-learning resources anywhere, anytime. Simply click the **MY SSO** link at the top of any school district web page, then log in.
Schoology: Provides classroom assignments, formative and summative grades throughout the quarter, announcements, resources and study tools
Skyward: Provides final quarter grades and an array of relevant research tools and apps
- **Sound Field Solutions**—Voice distribution system that gently amplifies a teacher's voice through speakers mounted in each corner of the classroom. The systems result in improved student learning, greater attention, fewer discipline incidents and less vocal fatigue and teacher absenteeism.

In addition, middle school students have the opportunity to use a wide range of technology-based learning tools, including augmented reality (AR) which refers to computer-generated simulations that let students move around in the real world, and virtual reality (VR) that is entirely self-contained.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Brains and bodies undergo rapid development during middle school years. Our health and physical education curricula ensure all students learn essential life fitness habits and skills for making healthy decisions. Healthy choices and regular physical activity are essential to fueling the brain for high levels of academic achievement.

Discover

MINNETONKA MIDDLE SCHOOLS PROVIDE THE TOOLS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO INSPIRE STUDENTS TO DISCOVER THEIR ABILITIES, TALENTS AND PASSIONS. OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF ARE EXPERTS IN CONNECTING WITH AND INSPIRING STUDENTS TO EXPLORE NEW OPPORTUNITIES. EACH STUDENT IS ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN AT LEAST ONE CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY. RESEARCH IS CLEAR THAT STUDENTS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM DO BETTER IN SCHOOL. CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES ARE ALSO A GREAT PLACE TO MAKE FRIENDS.

TRANSITIONING INTO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Minnetonka schools provide several support activities that ease transitions between schools. Our middle school principals and counseling staff visit fifth-grade classrooms. The Fifth Grade Finale at each middle school and Fifth Grade Track and Field Day bring students from feeder schools together through social activities.

Sixth grade is designed to transition students into middle school. Most sixth-grade classrooms are in close proximity to the school media center and other sixth-grade classes. Students should have no fear of getting lost in our schools.



At all grade levels, students enroll in classes that best support learning, academic success and interests. Teachers work with students on organization, responsibility for school work and study habits necessary for future success.

Students who move to the community during the school year receive additional transition support. Our staff will identify a student with similar interests to serve as a friend during the transition.

Eighth grade provides another important milestone as students prepare for high school. In February, high school staff and student leaders begin working with eighth grade students to ensure a smooth transition into high school.

CAREER EXPLORATION

Middle school is a good time to begin exploring possibilities for future careers. Our middle level counseling curriculum includes goal setting and career exploration. In addition, classroom teachers will open the doors to related career opportunities within each subject area.

Minnetonka middle schools use Naviance Student to focus on learning styles in sixth grade, strength identification and exploration in seventh grade, and career and post-secondary exploration in eighth grade. We also work closely with eighth graders to help them make informed, personalized choices as they transition to Minnetonka High School.

EXPLORE ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Enrichment activities meet before or after school. Some last a few weeks, others last the whole year. Visit the activities page of our website at least once each quarter to discover new opportunities. Just be sure to try something each year.

STAY ACTIVE WITH ATHLETICS

Middle school athletics effectively balance the goals of teamwork, participation, skill development, competition, wellness and sportsmanship. Students have the opportunity to compete against metro-area conference schools in cross-country running, tennis, volleyball, wrestling, cross-country skiing, golf and track and field.

Minnetonka Community Education and community youth sports organizations also run a broad range of recreational and competitive youth sports programs, including: basketball, soccer, lacrosse, sailing, skating, wrestling and more. Google “Minnetonka” “youth” and your sport of interest to learn more.

In Minnesota, seventh and eighth grade student athletes may participate on high school teams such as cross country running, dance, swimming/diving, tennis, gymnastics and wrestling among other interscholastic sports. Visit the high school activities website for tryout and eligibility information.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Drama Club
Jazz Band
Knowledge Bowl
Math Team
Musical Theatre
Science Olympiad
Speech Team
Student Leadership
Technovation
Yearbook
Broadcast Club

See each school's activities website for more ...



Support

CHILD-CENTERED CULTURE

Minnetonka middle schools truly offer a child-centered culture that looks out for every student. Teachers and school staff are ever-present, making sure each student is taken care of socially, emotionally and academically. There is strong adult presence in the hallways at all times, with staff members interacting with students during passing time. Middle school brings a new level of freedom and responsibility. Minnetonka teachers guide students on how to live up to high standards of academic and behavioral excellence. We are proud that our students rise to the challenge!

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Middle school counselors provide assistance to all students in the areas of academic, social and emotional support, crisis intervention and prevention, consultation about student needs, proactive developmental guidance, educational planning, student placement and scheduling, transitioning, support groups and referrals to outside agencies. School counselors are assigned to a group of students all three years of middle school.

"As middle school counselors, we wear a variety of hats from comforter to cheerleader to mentor as we support students through their three years in our school. Watching students grow makes our career rewarding and fulfilling every day."

– Lindsay Stashek,
MME Counselor

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Minnetonka middle schools offer a comprehensive continuum of special education services designed to meet the diverse needs of students with disabilities. The district provides flexible service delivery models that range from least to most intensive support, ensuring each student receives appropriate educational programming as determined by their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Special education services are delivered through multiple formats, including: embedded support within general education classrooms where students access grade-level curriculum with accommodations and/or modifications; supplemental instructional support that provides targeted intervention while students remain primarily in general education settings; and specialized core instruction in special education classrooms for students requiring more intensive, individualized teaching in a smaller group environment.

All programming decisions are made collaboratively by the IEP team, which includes parents, general and special education teachers, school administrators, and other relevant specialists. The team carefully considers each student's unique strengths, challenges, and goals to determine the most appropriate placement and services. This individualized approach ensures students receive the right level of support in the least restrictive environment that can effectively meet their educational needs, while maintaining opportunities for meaningful inclusion with their peers whenever appropriate.

The district remains committed to providing high-quality instruction and evidence-based interventions across all service delivery models, with regular progress monitoring to ensure students are making appropriate growth toward their IEP goals.

INTERVENTION AND EXTENSION

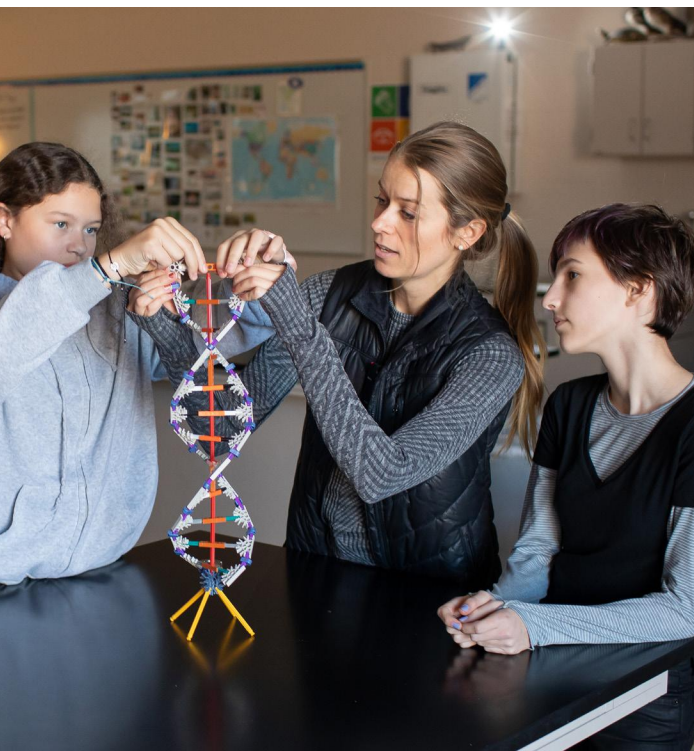
Minnetonka middle schools maintain a comprehensive, multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) framework designed to address the diverse academic, behavioral, social and emotional needs of all students. This framework provides targeted intervention for students requiring additional time and or support while simultaneously offering extension and acceleration opportunities for those ready to advance beyond grade-level expectations.

The system operates through clearly defined tiers of increasingly intensive support, ensuring that instruction is appropriately differentiated and responsive to individual student needs. Rigorous interventions are systematically implemented for students demonstrating need for skill development or gaps in learning, while extension through honors and accelerated courses challenge students to deepen their learning and explore content at advanced levels. Screening, diagnostic assessments, and progress monitoring inform data-driven decision-making throughout the process, allowing educators to adjust supports as students' needs and strengths evolve.

This integrated approach ensures that every student receives the academic, social and emotional support necessary for continued growth and success.

ADVANCED LEARNING

Advanced Learning services support the intellectual, academic, social and emotional needs of high-ability students. In addition to honors courses, advanced students may be enrolled in Advanced Learning Crew Academy (6, 7 or 8), which provides students consistent opportunities to collaborate with intellectual peers while developing critical and creative thinking skills. Learning experiences are designed to be challenging, high-interest, and open-ended. Advanced students are also encouraged to participate in co-curricular academic competitions.



MULTILINGUAL LEARNER (ML)

Our middle schools provide appropriate learning experiences for every ML (Multilingual Learner) student with consideration for first language levels and English abilities in academic and social contexts. ML teachers work to meet each student's specific needs as they achieve English proficiency.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Students whose parents are involved in their education do better in school. During middle school years, students experience the paradox of needing their parents close, but often not wanting their parents around. There are many ways parents can remain active in school while honoring the teen's quest for independence. The Middle School East PTA and Middle School West PTO focus on parent education and supporting school programs. Middle school years are critically important in guiding young teens to make healthy choices. Parents are invited to take full advantage of resources and networking opportunities provided through the PTA/PTO. Volunteers are also needed to support many school activities and increase the adult presence in our schools. Please continue to be involved. A link to each school's PTA/PTO website can be found under the "Parents" tab on each middle school homepage.

Excel

MINNETONKA STUDENTS PURSUE THEIR PASSIONS THROUGH A VARIETY OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS. AS INDIVIDUAL LEARNERS, STUDENTS MAY QUALIFY FOR CHALLENGING COURSEWORK BASED ON THEIR INTERESTS AND ABILITY. ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO LEARN BEYOND THE CONFINES OF TRADITIONAL GRADE LEVELS AND CLASSROOM WORK RAISES THEIR EXPECTATIONS AND INSPIRES THEM TO EXCEL.

FINE ARTS

Minnetonka Public Schools is committed to offering world-class fine arts programming to all students. Our middle schools provide elective options to increase student knowledge and appreciation of the fine arts. Through performance and presentation (display/exhibit) opportunities that expand each year, students can explore and pursue potential talents in band, orchestra, choir, classroom/general music, drama and studio art.

WORLD LANGUAGES

In addition to our Language Immersion Program detailed on pages 12-13, Minnetonka offers introductory world language courses beginning in seventh grade. Students have the chance to explore a world language for one quarter. Students may choose to study French, German or Spanish before making the decision to take a full-year of a world language as an eighth grader or delay world language until high school. Colleges typically require two years of world language. If students only expect to take two years of a language, they may want to wait until high school. If the goal is fluency, and they plan to take four or five years of a language before college, students may choose to take a full-year of a world language in eighth grade.

Seventh grade Immersion students in our Immersion program may choose a quarter-long Culture and Arts course in their target language or select an introduction to a third language.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS (STEM)

From the first year of middle school, we ignite students' passion for STEM through the sixth grade STEM course, which provides students with highly interactive, hands-on, group activities built around STEM concepts. Each activity is designed to emphasize collaborative learning, critical and analytical thinking, problem-solving, creativity and effective experimental design. Through these activities, students grow in confidence and curiosity while gaining critical skills. Students will have computer programming experiences embedded in both STEM 6 in sixth grade and STEM 7 in seventh grade through our LEGO Robotics and application development units, as well as opportunities to select other computer science electives.

HONORS & ACCELERATED SCIENCE

To ensure continued growth for advanced science students, Minnetonka offers both honors level science, as well as our innovative Accelerated Science sequence.

The **Honors Science** course is offered in seventh and eighth grades. It provides highly knowledgeable students with a science experience built on complex activities and assignments, in-depth conversations with peers and teachers, rigorous content and high expectations.

Our **Accelerated Science Sequence** is a three-year program. It begins in sixth grade and is targeted to meet the distinct needs of exceptional science students. This student has an advanced level of content knowledge, is innately curious and passionate about science, and is able to quickly comprehend and apply science concepts. To leverage these unique skills, our Accelerated Science

sequence covers three years of middle school science curriculum (physical, life and earth) and one year of high school science requirements by compacting the essential concepts from each content area. The curriculum focuses on inquiry and project-based learning and includes an introduction to chemistry and physics (matter, elements, compounds, energy, waves, forces, motion), cell biology, living organisms, ecology, earth composition and structure, earth hydrosphere and atmosphere, and the solar system.

Accelerated science classes emphasize research and experimentation methodology through open and guided inquiry. The curriculum focuses on essential content and skills that form the foundation for high school AP Physics and AP Chemistry.

MATHEMATICS PLACEMENT

Students are carefully placed in math levels to ensure they are appropriately challenged. Placement is determined by a student's standardized assessment results and classroom performance. We recognize that students may develop their mathematics passion and strength at different ages. Therefore we provide opportunities for students to enter advanced math classes throughout middle school.

For students whose assessment data and classroom performance indicate that placement in a higher level math level may be appropriate, there are two opportunities to accelerate through curriculum: By completing an independent study course and passing a final exam, students may test out of Pre-Algebra during the summer before sixth or seventh grade. Students may follow this process to test out of Geometry the summer before ninth grade.

Note: Students may not complete Algebra as an independent study, as the concepts of Algebra provide the foundation for all advanced mathematics.

ACCELERATED MATH

Minnetonka students can accelerate in math during elementary or middle school. Our middle schools offer three levels of math at each grade level. Our most advanced math students may begin middle school in Algebra and progress through Geometry and Algebra 2 by eighth grade, laying the foundation to complete AP Calculus AB

and BC, and Multivariable Calculus, in high school. Some students begin in Pre-Algebra and progress through Algebra and Geometry by eighth grade. Most students complete Algebra by eighth grade.

HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS & SOCIAL STUDIES

Honors language arts is available beginning in sixth grade. In eighth grade, students with a passion for global issues and affairs may consider Honors Global Studies, which requires greater depth of knowledge and complexity.



Immersion

BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

Minnetonka's Language Immersion Program began in 2007 at all six elementary schools with the goal of providing English-speaking children the opportunity to acquire fluency in a second language. Minnetonka's Middle School Language Immersion Program offers both Spanish Immersion and Chinese Immersion. Minnetonka's program is the largest Immersion program in Minnesota.

The District has seen incredible results from the elementary program and is committed to providing students with opportunities to continue developing their second language fluency throughout middle school and high school. Assessment results reveal that students are being well prepared in both the English language and the Immersion language. It is critical that these skills be expanded to enable students to be highly successful in middle school, high school and college.

LANGUAGE IMMERSION

AND THE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT

Minnetonka's Middle School Language Immersion Program was specifically designed to meet the needs of the middle school student. While encouraging students to continue in the Language Immersion program, the middle school program provides opportunities to expand friendships and peer groups through class scheduling, field trips and project-based learning opportunities whenever possible, and access to honors level classes. This is essential to early adolescent social and emotional development.

In all three grades, students have elective opportunities and follow a class schedule that will prepare them to transition to high school.

Minnetonka also offers students choice in continuing their Immersion language learning or, perhaps, starting a third language during middle school. While



CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT IMMERSION LOOKS LIKE AFTER MIDDLE SCHOOL?

Visit minnetonkaschools.org/immersion and navigate to the “Language Immersion (9-12)” page to view courses and learn more.

we encourage all Immersion students to work toward second-language adult fluency, we recognize that choice is part of the middle school experience, and our model can accommodate various options for students.

MIDDLE SCHOOL IMMERSION MODEL

Minnetonka’s Middle School Language Immersion Program aims to enhance the overall middle school experience while expanding language learning opportunities. While in middle school, a student studying an immersive language will continue their language development with a focus on writing, reading, speaking, and listening, with access to other course options and a common schedule relative to English language students.

IMMERSION CURRICULAR AREAS

6-8th Grade Immersion Social Studies: Based on the Minnesota state social studies standards, the immersion social studies courses in middle school are designed to build students’ historical thinking skills. Students will use a variety of primary and secondary sources to learn from the past, understand the present, and impact the future. Coursework is in the target language and students will continue improving their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.

6th-8th Grade Immersion Language Arts: This course develops language proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening through novel studies, grammar instruction, nonfiction reading and research projects, speaking activities, and vocabulary study. Students expand their understanding of the Spanish or Chinese-speaking world by learning about different cultures. The course combines language arts and world language proficiency standards to support both language development and reinforce concepts learned in English language arts.



MINNETONKA Language Immersion

MIDDLE SCHOOL LANGUAGE IMMERSION PATHS

Grade 6	• Immersion Social Studies • Immersion Language Arts
Grade 7	• Immersion Social Studies • Immersion Language Arts • Immersion Culture and Arts, Elective (one-quarter)
Grade 8	• Immersion Social Studies • Immersion Language Arts • Spanish Linguistics, Elective • Chinese Film and Culture, Elective



Honors/Accelerated Course Placement

Placement Standards

The Director of Advanced Learning Programs and the Director of Assessment, in collaboration with school principals, determine student course placement based on the following standards:

Placement criteria are meaningful:

- Criteria identify students based on skills and knowledge that are central to success in the course.

Placement criteria are non-arbitrary:

- One cut point alone does not preclude a student from participation. There is a range where other factors can be considered.

Placement processes are equitable:

- Students are placed following the same criteria regardless of school, teacher or parent advocacy.

Placement processes are transparent:

- The process is clear, coherent, readily available and understandable to parents.

Placement Process

The Director of Advanced Learning Programs and the Director of Assessment analyze data and recommend student placement through multiple paths:

- Students with data meeting honors/accelerated criteria are automatically placed in an advanced course. **Exception:** A parent request for non-honors/accelerated placement is honored.
- Students with data that is close to meeting criteria undergo an automatic File Review. The District gathers expanded data and sends it to the principal along with recommendations. Expanded data may include NWEA/MCA history and classroom assessment history.
- Placement is communicated to parents by school staff after file reviews are complete. After placement is communicated in mid-July, questions may be directed to the school principal.
- Students placed in an honors or accelerated class will have the opportunity to continue in honors class—from quarter to quarter and from year to year—if they have consistently maintained at least a B- average in each quarter.

GRADE 6 QUALIFYING PLACEMENT CRITERIA

Percentiles in criteria reference Minnetonka norms (based on NWEA 2020 norms). National norms are not used in placement.

Pre-Algebra 6	- Successful completion of 5th grade accelerated math or 2 of the last 3 NWEA math assessment scores at the 90th percentile or higher and timely completion of assigned Math 6 summer study materials
Algebra 6 <i>Historically, approx. 7-9% of sixth graders are placed in Algebra 6</i>	- NWEA RIT score of 248 or greater in fall of Grade 5, exceptional achievement in Accelerated Math 5, and passing score of 85% on Pre-Algebra final exam in May or July. or - NWEA RIT score of 258 or greater in spring of Grade 5, exceptional achievement in Accelerated Math 5, and passing score of 85% on Pre-Algebra final exam in July
Honors Language Arts 6 <i>Historically, approx. 17-22% of sixth graders are placed in Honors Language Arts 6</i>	2 of the last 3 NWEA Reading scores at the 95th percentile (automatic); 93-94 percentile (file review) and - score of 17 or higher out of 20 (automatic); score of 13 or higher out of 20 (file review) on the Grade 5 District writing assessment
Accelerated Science 6 <i>Historically, approx. 11-12% of sixth graders are placed in Accelerated Science 6</i>	At or above 95th percentile on spring of Grade 5 NWEA Science Assessment or exceptional performance on the Grade 5 MCA Science assessment, and at or above 95th percentile on recent NWEA Reading and Math assessments (automatic); 93-94th percentile (file review)
Honors Humanities 6 <i>Approximately 7-9% of sixth graders will be placed in Honors Humanities 6</i> <i>This integrated, 2-period, social studies and language arts course is taught in English. (Immersion students have an Immersion Social Studies and Immersion Language Arts block in 6th grade.)</i>	- Consistent history of 98-99th percentile NWEA Reading scores (automatic) and - Score of 17 or higher out of 20 on the Grade 5 District writing assessment (automatic). or - File Reviews are prompted by Verbal or Fluid Reasoning scores in the 99th percentile on an age-normed aptitude assessment (data obtained from past IQ/Wings testing). Classroom performance and prior achievement testing, along with a District writing assessment score of 13 or higher, must support placement

GRADE 7 QUALIFYING PLACEMENT CRITERIA

Percentiles in criteria reference Minnetonka norms (based on NWEA 2020 norms). National norms are not used in placement.

Algebra 7	- Successful completion of Pre-Algebra 6 or - Exceptional performance in Math 6 and 95th percentile on spring of Grade 6 NWEA Math assessment (automatic); 93-94th percentile (file review) and score at least 85% on Pre-Algebra final in July
Geometry 7	Successful completion of Algebra 6
Honors Language Arts 7	- Successful completion of Honors Language Arts 6 or - Grade 6 students with 2 of the last 3 NWEA Reading scores at the 90th percentile (automatic); 88-89% (file review) and - exemplary scores on the sixth grade summative writing assessment (taken in March)
Honors Science 7 (Life Science)	Successful completion of Science 6, at or above the 90th percentile on the NWEA Science assessment (automatic), 88-89% (file review); at or above the 90th percentile on NWEA Math and Reading on NWEA Math and Reading (automatic); 88-89th percentile (file review)
Accelerated Science 7	- Successful completion of Accelerated Science 6 or 99th percentile on Spring of Grade 6 NWEA Science Assessment and exceptional performance in Science 6, and 95th percentile on recent NWEA Reading and Math assessments
Honors Humanities 7	- Successful completion of Honors Humanities 6 or - Consistent history of 98th -99th percentile NWEA Reading scores and/or 99th percentile on verbal aptitude assessment (data obtained from past testing) and - Strong performance on the Grade 6 District writing assessment

GRADE 8 QUALIFYING PLACEMENT CRITERIA

Percentiles in criteria reference Minnetonka norms (based on NWEA 2020 norms). National norms are not used in placement.

Geometry 8	Successful completion of Algebra 7
Algebra 2 - 8	Successful completion of Geometry 7
Honors Language Arts 8	- Successful completion of Honors Language Arts 7 or - Grade 7 students with 2 of the last 3 NWEA Reading scores at the 90th percentile (automatic), 88-89% (file review); and exemplary scores on the seventh grade District writing assessment (taken in March)
Honors Science 8 (Physical Science)	- Successful completion of Honors Science 7 or - Exceptional performance in Science 7, and 90th percentile on recent NWEA Science, Math and Reading assessments (automatic), 88-89% (file review).
Accelerated Science 8	- Successful completion of Accelerated Science 7 or - Exceptional performance in Science 7, 99th percentile on spring Grade 7 NWEA Science assessment, and 95th percentile on recent NWEA Reading and Math assessments
Honors Global Studies 8	- Successful completion of Honors Humanities Social Studies 7 or - Exemplary score on the District Global Studies critical thinking/writing assessment and 1 of the last 2 NWEA or MCA Reading scores at the 95th percentile or higher (automatic); 93-94th percentile (file review) and 1 of the last 2 NWEA or MCA Reading scores at the 95th percentile or higher

6th Grade Course Descriptions

Language Arts

LANGUAGE ARTS 6

Language Arts will provide students a solid foundation in reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing. Students will study the characteristics of various genres through reading and writing. Key texts include short stories, novels, non-fiction pieces and poetry. Writing assignments will focus on students using the writing process to produce well-developed paragraphs with an emphasis on structure and supporting details. Vocabulary development will focus on word meanings, antonyms and synonyms.

HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS 6*

Honors Language Arts is an opportunity for students who are strong readers and writers and are eager to explore Language Arts in depth. This course will provide students a solid foundation in reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing. Students will apply their knowledge in a variety of ways and will work more independently, often at a faster pace than in Language Arts. Students will study the characteristics of various genres through key texts at challenging Lexile levels. Writing assignments will focus on well-developed paragraphs and multi-paragraph compositions, developing independent revision skills through the process of their writing. Vocabulary development will focus on word meanings, antonyms and synonyms, as well as sentence application and parts of speech.

IMMERSION LANGUAGE ARTS: CHINESE

Immersion Language Arts will provide students a continuation of their language work from elementary school, improving their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Students will study various genres through reading and writing.

IMMERSION LANGUAGE ARTS: SPANISH

Immersion Language Arts will provide students a continuation of their language work from elementary school, improving their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Students will study various genres through reading and writing.

COMMUNICATIONS 6

This companion course to Language Arts provides students with opportunities to develop essential speaking, listening,

and presentation skills. Students will participate in literature discussions, create multimedia presentations, and engage in collaborative conversations while learning to craft persuasive arguments and support claims with evidence. Through creative performances and research, students will build confidence in presenting ideas to diverse audiences. This course will connect communication skills to real-world applications. Students will maintain daily independent reading and reflective writing practices to develop their authentic voice and strengthen both written and oral communication abilities. This course is for non-immersion students. *Immersion students will continue to have an additional Language Arts course in their target language*

Math

MATH 6

Topics in Math 6 include number theory, understanding rational numbers, rational number computation, ratios, percents, two- and three-dimensional geometry and measurement, probability, statistics and introducing algebraic concepts.

PRE-ALGEBRA 6*

This course gives students an opportunity to strengthen foundational math skills (i.e., integers, rational numbers and order of operations). This course provides students with an opportunity to learn basic algebra and geometry skills such as solving linear equations, proportional reasoning, data variability and three-dimensional geometry and measurement. Students will learn to problem-solve, make connections, and develop habits of mathematical thinking and study. The topics and skills addressed in this course are intended to provide students with the solid foundations that are necessary for success in algebra and other future courses.

Topics in Pre-Algebra include an extension of algebraic concepts taught in Math 6. These topics include similarity, proportional reasoning, integers, three-dimensional geometry and measurement, probability and expected value, measures of central tendency, solving linear equations and data variability.

ALGEBRA 6*

Topics in Algebra include data handling, linear relationships, exponential relationships, quadratic relationships,

solving linear equations and inequalities, solving with absolute value, solving systems of equations, solving quadratic equations, properties of radicals, properties of exponents and polynomial expressions.

Science

EARTH SCIENCE

In Earth Science, students will study topics in geology, astronomy and meteorology. Students will learn and use scientific procedures, the metric system, scientific tools and the scientific method. All students will be offered challenging learning experiences and all will be actively involved in their learning.

ACCELERATED SCIENCE 6*

Accelerated Science Sequence is a three-year program. It begins in sixth grade and is targeted to meet the distinct needs of exceptional science students. This student has an advanced level of content knowledge, is innately curious and passionate about science, and is able to quickly comprehend and apply science concepts. To leverage these unique skills, our Accelerated Science sequence covers three years of middle school science curriculum (physical, life and earth) and one year of high school science requirements by compacting the essential concepts from each content area. The curriculum focuses on inquiry and project-based learning and includes an introduction to chemistry and physics (matter, elements, compounds, energy, waves, forces, motion), cell biology, living organisms, ecology, earth composition and structure, earth hydrosphere and atmosphere, and the solar system. The Accelerated Science Program targets students who have demonstrated exceptional scientific reasoning and a wide knowledge of general science concepts. Due to rigorous content and pacing, in addition to science skills, students must achieve at a high level and be advanced in both math and reading in order to be eligible for placement in this course.

Social Studies

SOCIAL STUDIES 6

Students expand their understanding of history by exploring the geography and historical developments of people, places and patterns of life from a combination of ancient civilizations and Minnesota history. Students analyze the interaction among the various cultures, emphasizing their contributions to society.

*See honors/accelerated course placement on pg. 14

HONORS HUMANITIES 6*

Honors Humanities 6 is a two-period course that integrates advanced curriculum in social studies (ancient civilizations and Minnesota history) and Language Arts. This course is designed to meet the unique needs of exceptional readers and critical thinkers. Students will be encouraged to pose questions about the world as they engage in learning through history, literature and philosophy. They will be instructed to apply the knowledge they gain, making contemporary connections to historic philosophies and themes. Over time, students will develop a critical and dynamic world view that provides deeper understanding, respect for alternative perspectives and skills for leadership.

IMMERSION SOCIAL STUDIES: CHINESE

Students expand their understanding of history by exploring the geography and historical developments of people, places and patterns of life from a combination of ancient civilizations and Minnesota history. Students analyze the interaction among the various cultures, emphasizing their contributions to society.

IMMERSION SOCIAL STUDIES: SPANISH

Students expand their understanding of history by exploring the geography and historical developments of people, places and patterns of life from a combination of ancient civilizations and Minnesota history. Students analyze the interaction among the various cultures, emphasizing their contributions to society.

Required Electives

ART

This course encompasses broad visual art experiences. The course is designed to build knowledge of artists and art history to create an awareness of visual art within their world and to develop techniques for creating and understanding artworks. To accomplish this, students will experience using a variety of art mediums which will include drawing, painting and sculpting.

STEM 6

STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The foundation of this course will be highly interactive group

activities built around STEM concepts. Group activities may include Robotics, Computer Aided Design, or building physical structures among other hands-on activities. Each activity is designed to emphasize collaborative learning, critical and analytical thinking, creative thinking, problem solving and experimental design. Through participation in STEM course activities, students will practice many of the critical skills needed for 21st Century careers.

LIFE ESSENTIALS

In Life Essentials, students will learn how to be lifelong learners who are empowered to make healthy decisions regarding nutrition, fitness and lifestyle. Students will demonstrate culinary techniques in various small group cooking labs. This course will feature global learning, opportunities for creativity and collaboration.

COMPUTER SCIENCE FOUNDATIONS

"Computer Science opens more doors for our students than any other discipline in today's world (Code.org)." This class will provide students a foundation of computer science with a heavy emphasis on programming. Students will get an opportunity to program for games, animation and apps. They will learn the important role hardware plays through a unit in physical computing using Micro-Bits. Finally they will begin to build a computer science e-Portfolio. Students will love the problem-solving, project-based approach to this class, in which mistakes are seen as an avenue for learning, and grading rubrics are written in such a way that allows all skill levels to find success.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course is designed to enhance students' interest and participation in lifetime fitness activities and a variety of lifetime sports. Opportunities will be provided for participation in individual, dual and team sports and activities. Throughout the course, emphasis will be placed on fundamentals, rules, strategies and individual physical fitness.

Music Electives

BAND

In this course, a variety of musical literature will be studied and students will have multiple performance





6th Grade course descriptions, continued

experiences throughout the year. The fundamentals of instrumental musicianship will be reviewed and emphasized throughout the course. Students will develop their note reading and rhythmic skills while focusing on tone production and instrument technique. In addition to the large group rehearsal every other day, students will also receive several small-group lessons each quarter. Assessments will include both formative and summative performance skill assessments and some written assessments. If a student hasn't participated in band class before but would like to start, please call the middle school so they may share suggestions for a successful first experience.

MUSIC

Music 6 is an exciting course that will explore the world of music through playing a variety of instruments, creating, composing, moving, improvising, singing, performing and so forth. Examples of units include Bucket Drumming, Intro to Keyboard, Lines to Lyrics, Music of the Theater, Boomwhackers, Concert Ukuleles and Mozart to Metallica.

ORCHESTRA

In this course, a variety of orchestral literature will be studied and students will have multiple performance experiences throughout the year. The fundamentals of instrumental musicianship will be reviewed and emphasized throughout the course. Students will develop their note reading and rhythmic skills while focusing on tone production and bowing technique. In addition to the large group rehearsal every other day, students will also receive several small-group lessons each quarter. Assessments will include both formative and summative performance skill assessment and some written assessment. If a student hasn't participated in orchestra before but would like to start, please call the middle school so they may share suggestions for a successful first experience.

CHOIR

Choir is an upbeat course where students work together as a team to develop their singing skills. Choir members will work on vocal technique, rehearsal skills, and be given a well-rounded background in music fundamentals. Each student will develop independent singing and reading skills to attain a high level of musicianship and confidence in a co-ed environment. There will be two formal evening performances during the school year.

Multilingual Learner (ML) Support Classes

ML SUPPORT CLASS

ML Support Class is a structured and supportive environment for learning and practicing academic English in the language domains of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Designed as a resource for Multilingual Learners (MLs), this class provides language support in the content areas of language arts, math, science and social studies. Students receive direct instruction in grammar, vocabulary, literacy and critical thinking skills in a small group setting. Additional support is provided with pre-teaching, re-teaching, test review and small group testing.

ML LANGUAGE ARTS

As a content area course, ML Language Arts promotes the development of both social language and academic literacy skills for Multilingual Learners (MLs) through the language domains of listening, speaking, reading, writing and viewing. Reading instruction focuses on both fiction and nonfiction texts in a variety of forms and purposes, with grammar embedded in instruction. Robust vocabulary learning focuses on Sadlier Oxford word lists, text specific words, and Greek and Latin roots and affixes. Students use technology to develop, enhance and communicate their ideas in this small group setting.

7th Grade Course Descriptions

Language Arts

LANGUAGE ARTS 7

Language Arts will provide students a solid foundation in reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing. Students will study the characteristics of various genres through reading and writing. Key texts include short stories, novels, non-fiction pieces and poetry. Writing assignments will focus on students writing well-developed compositions in different styles and genres. Vocabulary development and grammar study will include rules, as well as patterns.

HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS 7*

Honors Language Arts is an opportunity for students who are strong readers and writers and are eager to explore language arts in depth. This course will provide students a solid foundation in reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing. Students will apply their knowledge in a variety of ways and will work more independently, often at a faster pace than in Language Arts. Students will study the characteristics of various genres through key texts at challenging Lexile levels. Writing assignments will focus on students writing well developed multi-paragraph compositions. Students will have the opportunity to develop independent revision skills through the process of their writing. Vocabulary development and grammar study will include rules as well as patterns.

IMMERSION LANGUAGE ARTS: CHINESE

Immersion Language Arts will provide students a continuation of their language work and focus on improving their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Students will study various genres through reading and writing.

IMMERSION LANGUAGE ARTS: SPANISH

Immersion Language Arts will provide students a continuation of their language work and focus on improving their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Students will study various genres through reading and writing.

COMMUNICATIONS 7

This companion course to Language Arts provides students with opportunities to develop essential literacy skills including speaking, listening, argumentation, and persuasion. Students will participate

in class discussions, conduct intensive research, create multimedia projects, and engage in collaborative debates while learning critical literacy skills that build academic confidence through real-world applications. Students will maintain daily independent reading and reflective writing practices to develop their authentic voice and strengthen both written and oral communication abilities. This course is for non-immersion students. Immersion students will continue to have an additional Language Arts course in their target language

This course is for non-immersion students. *Immersion students will continue to have an additional Language Arts course in their target language*

Math

PRE-ALGEBRA 7

This course gives students an opportunity to strengthen foundational math skills (i.e., integers, rational numbers and order of operations) as well as learn beginning algebra and geometry skills such as solving linear equations, proportional reasoning, data variability, and three-dimensional geometry and measurement. Students will learn to problem-solve, make connections and develop habits of mathematical thinking and study. The topics and skills addressed in this course are intended to provide students with the solid foundations that are necessary for success in algebra and other future courses.

Topics in Pre-Algebra include an extension of algebraic concepts taught in Math 6. These topics include similarity, proportional reasoning, integers, three-dimensional geometry and measurement, probability and expected value, measures of central tendency, solving linear equations and data variability.

ALGEBRA 7*

Prerequisite: B- or higher in Pre-Algebra. Topics in Algebra include data handling, linear relationships, exponential relationships, quadratic relationships, solving linear equations and inequalities, solving with absolute value, solving systems of equations, solving quadratic equations, properties of radicals, properties of exponents and polynomial expressions.

*Note: Students can move from Math 6 in sixth grade to Algebra in seventh grade. The student must successfully complete the criteria outlined on page 15.

GEOMETRY 7*

Prerequisite: B- or higher in Algebra 6. This course will help the student better understand the nature of a mathematical system. Intuitive, inductive and deductive reasoning are used to develop the geometry of planes and space. Students will write formal proofs as they develop these types of reasoning. Topics studied include congruent triangles, angle relationships, parallel lines and planes, similarity, circles, right triangles area and volume.

Science

LIFE SCIENCE 7

In Life Science, students will study ideas such as cells, genetics, ecology and living organisms. Students will learn and use scientific procedures, the metric system, scientific tools and the scientific method. All students will be offered challenging learning experiences and all will be actively involved in their learning.

HONORS SCIENCE 7 (LIFE SCIENCE)*

In Honors Life Science students will study ideas such as cells, genetics, ecology and living organisms. Students in this course will complete complex activities and assignments which may require more time and effort than is expected in the general Life Science course. Students taking this course must be self-motivated, willing to accept the rigorous expectations and able to read and comprehend advanced non-fiction material.

ACCELERATED SCIENCE 7*

Accelerated Science Sequence is a three-year program. It begins in sixth grade and is targeted to meet the distinct needs of exceptional science students. This student has an advanced level of content knowledge, is innately curious and passionate about science, and is able to quickly comprehend and apply science concepts. To leverage these unique skills, our Accelerated Science sequence covers three years of middle school science curriculum (physical, life and earth) and one year of high school science requirements by compacting the essential concepts from each content area. The curriculum focuses on inquiry and project-based learning and includes an introduction to chemistry and physics (matter, elements, compounds, energy, waves, forces, motion), cell biology, living organisms, ecology, earth composition and structure, earth hydrosphere and atmosphere, and the solar system. The Accelerated Science Program targets students who have demonstrated

*See honors/accelerated course placement on pg. 15

exceptional scientific reasoning and a wide knowledge of general science concepts. Due to rigorous content and pacing, in addition to science skills, students must achieve at a highly advanced level in both math and reading in order to be eligible for placement in this course.

Social Studies

U.S. HISTORY

In this course, students will examine people, issues and events of significance to this nation's history from 1800 to the current era of globalization. They will analyze the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and Supreme Court decisions and determine the impact on the American people, economy and governance structure. Students study civics and economic principles in depth, drawing connections between these disciplines and history to explain the impact of various policies regarding how people lived, worked and functioned in society. They create and use detailed maps of places in the United States and conduct historical inquiry on a topic in the nation's history.

HONORS HUMANITIES 7*

Honors Humanities 7 is a two-period course that integrates advanced curriculum in social studies (US History) and language arts. This course is designed to meet the unique needs of exceptional readers and critical thinkers. Students will be encouraged to pose questions about the world as they engage in learning through history, literature and philosophy. They will be instructed to apply the knowledge they gain, making contemporary connections to historic philosophies and themes. Over time, students will develop a critical and dynamic world view that provides deeper understanding, respect for alternative perspectives and skills for leadership.

IMMERSION U.S. HISTORY: CHINESE

In this course, students will examine people, issues and events of significance to this nation's history from 1800 to the current era of globalization. They will analyze the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and Supreme Court decisions and determine the impact on the American people, economy and governance structure. Students study civics and economic principles in depth, drawing connections between these disciplines and history to explain the impact of various policies on how people lived, worked and functioned in society. They create and use detailed maps of places in the United States and conduct historical inquiry on a topic in

the nation's history. This course will be taught fully in the target language.

IMMERSION U.S. HISTORY: SPANISH

In this course, students will examine people, issues and events of significance to this nation's history from 1800 to the current era of globalization. They will analyze the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and Supreme Court decisions and determine the impact on the American people, economy and governance structure. Students study civics and economic principles in depth, drawing connections between these disciplines and history to explain the impact of various policies on how people lived, worked and functioned in society. They create and use detailed maps of places in the United States and conduct historical inquiry on a topic in the nation's history. This course will be taught fully in the target language.

Required Electives

ART

This course encompasses broad visual art experiences. The course is designed to build knowledge of artists and art history, to create an awareness of visual art within their world and to develop techniques for creating and understanding artworks. To accomplish this, students will experience using a variety of art mediums which will include drawing, painting and sculpting.

HEALTH

Health is designed to help students gain the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to remain safe and healthy (physically, emotionally, socially, etc.) throughout their lives. Students will participate in American Red Cross CPR training with certification available. Additionally, students will be exposed to the risks and consequences of chemical use, the characteristics of healthy relationships, the reproductive system and disease prevention. Application of decision-making skills and knowledge will be stressed to encourage health promotion and life-long health.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course is designed to enhance students' interest and participation in lifetime fitness activities and a variety of lifetime sports. Opportunities will be provided for participation in individual, dual and team sports and activities. Throughout the course, emphasis will be placed on fundamentals, rules, strategies and individual physical fitness.

Electives

COMPUTER SCIENCE: GAMES & ANIMATION

In CS7, students will build on their programming experience as they program animations, interactive art and games in Code.org's Game Lab. Game Lab allows kids to toggle between blocks and text-based programming. Game Lab helps begin to bridge the gap between concept and the importance of syntax. Students gain a whole new appreciation for apps and games they play as they learn the inner workings of what it takes to create them. During this course, students will add to their Computer Science portfolio by learning CSS which contributes to a more visually appealing site. Students will leave this course with a personal portfolio website demonstrating their programming skills and can be added to in subsequent CS courses.

FORENSICS

This class will explore the key topics in forensic science, including forensic analysis, procedures and principles of crime scene investigation, trace evidence, and the law and courtroom procedures from the perspective of the forensic scientist! Reviewing crimes and the forensic files that go along with them is part of this class.

FRENCH: INTRODUCTION

Students in this French course will study basic vocabulary, grammar and culture. The intent of this course is to introduce students to the type of rigor and commitment that will be required in the yearlong eighth grade French course. Students will begin to communicate in French and appreciate French culture. The language will be taught through listening, speaking, reading and writing. An important component in the classroom is the teacher's use of a second language to enhance the development of good listening skills and pronunciation. Upon successful completion of this introductory course, students may continue in French: Level 1 in eighth grade.

GERMAN: INTRODUCTION

Students in this German course will study basic vocabulary, grammar and culture. The intent of this course is to introduce students to the type of rigor and commitment that will be required in the yearlong eighth grade German course. Students will begin to communicate in German and appreciate the German culture. The language will be taught through listening, speaking, reading and writing. An important component in the classroom is the teacher's use of a second language to enhance the development of good listening skills

and pronunciation. Upon successful completion of this introductory course, students may continue in German: Level 1 in eighth grade.

IMMERSION CHINESE – CULTURE AND ARTS

This quarter-long course is offered only to Chinese Immersion students. The course will focus on specific aspects of Chinese culture and arts as well as historically significant events. The goal of this course is to continue preparing students to be successful on the Chinese AP Language Exam which they will have the opportunity to take at the end of their ninth grade year.

IMMERSION SPANISH – CULTURE AND ARTS

This quarter-long course is offered only to Spanish Immersion students. The course will focus on specific aspects of Spanish culture and arts, as well as historically significant events. The goal of this course is to continue preparing students to be successful on the Spanish AP Language Exam which they will have the opportunity to take at the end of their ninth grade year.

INTRODUCTION TO FINANCIAL LITERACY

In this course, students will learn the basics of managing money and making informed financial decisions. We will explore topics such as budgeting, saving, investing and credit. Through engaging activities, real-life scenarios and guest speakers, students will gain practical skills to help them understand how to spend, save and invest money wisely. Students may also explore job related skills, including resumes, job hunting and job applications. By the end of the course, students will feel confident in their ability to make smart financial choices that will benefit them now and in the future.

SPANISH: INTRODUCTION

Students in this Spanish course will study basic vocabulary, grammar and culture. The intent of this course is to introduce students to the type of rigor and commitment that will be required in the yearlong eighth grade Spanish course. Students will begin to communicate in Spanish and appreciate the Spanish culture. The language will be taught through listening, speaking, reading and writing. An important component in the classroom is the teacher's use of a second language to enhance the development of good listening skills and pronunciation. Upon successful completion of this introductory course, students may continue in Spanish: Level 1 in eighth grade.

STEM 7

This course is a combination of engineering design and robotics. It will encourage students to explore the world of product development through researching existing products and creating their own designs based on ergonomic data and survey input. The design unit culminates in students creating 3-D models of their product. The robot unit uses LEGO Mindstorms programming to deliver hands-on math and science experiments with the robots. Students learn group skills while working in both the design and robot units.

TOP TENS OF HISTORY

Students will study the greatest, the most impactful (and sometimes the worst) leaders, events, inventions, turning points, etc. in history. We'll discuss how historians go about making these lists, why different lists on the same subject differ, and sometimes debate which list is better. Discussions will help students understand how people and events impact the course of history. Student research will enhance class discussion and debate. Students will have input on what subjects we look into and have an opportunity to form their own top 10 lists. So, what's your top 10 list of the most influential people in American history? Why them?

Music Electives

BAND

In this course, a variety of music literature will be studied and all students will have multiple performance experiences each year. During year two, advanced instrumental musicianship will be the focus and emphasis will be placed on reflective individual learning. Instructional methods will include standard ensemble rehearsal techniques, cooperative learning and aural training. Assessments will include both formative and summative performance skill assessments, quarterly music playing exams and some written assessments.

CHOIR

In this upbeat ensemble-based course, students work together as a team to develop their vocal skills. Choir members will work on proper vocal technique, rehearsal skills, and will be given a well-rounded background in music fundamentals. Each student will develop independent singing and reading skills to attain a high level of musicianship and confidence. If possible, students may be placed in a changing voices choir or a treble voices choir to enhance the opportunities for developing voices. There are two evening performances during the school year.

MUSIC

Music 7 is an exciting course that offers each student an opportunity to play guitar as well as a variety of other instruments. Students will grow in their musical knowledge and skill (music elements, history, literacy and so forth) as they explore a diverse assortment of topics. Examples of units include: Pulse to Pitch, Garage Band, Noteflight Composition Creation, Guitar I, West African Drumming, Keyboards and Music and the Media.

ORCHESTRA

In this course, students will build on previous skills learned in orchestra. Students will have multiple performance experiences each year, including a field trip in February. In seventh grade, students will continue to develop their rhythmic skills while focusing on intonation, tone production and bowing techniques. They will also have an introduction to more advanced techniques, such as shifting and vibrato. In addition to the large group rehearsal every other day, students will also receive several small-group lessons each quarter. Assessments will include both formative and summative performance skill assessments and some written assessments.

Multilingual Learner (ML) Support Classes

ML SUPPORT CLASS

ELL Support Class is a structured and supportive environment for learning and practicing academic English in the language domains of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Designed as a resource for English Learners (ELs), this class provides language support in the content areas of language arts, math, science and social studies. Students receive direct instruction in grammar, vocabulary, literacy and critical thinking skills in a small group setting. Additional support is provided with pre-teaching, re-teaching, test review and small group testing.

ML LANGUAGE ARTS

As a content area course, ELL Language Arts promotes the development of both social language and academic literacy skills for English Learners (ELs) through the language domains of listening, speaking, reading, writing and viewing. Reading instruction focuses on fiction and nonfiction texts in a variety of forms and purposes, with grammar embedded in instruction. Robust vocabulary learning focuses on Sadlier Oxford word lists, text specific words, and Greek and Latin roots and affixes. Students use technology to develop, enhance and communicate their ideas in this small group setting.

8th Grade Course Descriptions

Language Arts

LANGUAGE ARTS 8

Language Arts will focus on preparing students for high school with a heavy emphasis on developing their critical thinking skills in their reading, writing, and speaking. Students will explore multiple genres of reading, both independently and as a class, to build their capacity in navigating complex texts. The majority of writing will pair with the varied texts and include a heavy focus on literary analysis and expository writing. Students will study vocabulary in a variety of formats and work to integrate this vocabulary in their speaking and writing.

HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS 8*

Honors Language Arts will focus on preparing students for high school with a heavy emphasis on developing their critical thinking skills in their reading, writing, and speaking. Students will explore multiple genres of reading, both independently and as a class, to build their capacity in navigating complex texts. The majority of writing will pair with the varied texts and include a heavy focus on literary analysis and expository writing. Students will study vocabulary in a variety of formats and work to integrate this vocabulary in their speaking and writing. Students will apply their knowledge in a variety of ways and will work more independently, discuss regularly, and engage with texts on a deeper, more critical level. The same applies to the writing produced in class.

IMMERSION LANGUAGE ARTS: CHINESE

Immersion Language Arts will provide students a continuation of their language work and focus on improving their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Students will study various genres through reading and writing and will continue to develop interpersonal, interpretive and presentational communication skills that will prepare them for the high school AP Language and Culture course.

IMMERSION LANGUAGE ARTS: SPANISH

Immersion Language Arts will provide students a continuation of their language work and focus on improving their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Students will study various genres through reading and writing and will

continue to develop interpersonal, interpretive and presentational communication skills that will prepare them for the high school AP Language and Culture course.

Math

ALGEBRA 8

Topics in Algebra include data handling, linear relationships, exponential relationships, quadratic relationships, solving linear equations and inequalities, solving with absolute value, solving systems of equations, solving quadratic equations, Pythagorean Theorem, radicals, properties of exponents, factoring and polynomial expressions.

GEOMETRY 8*

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 7

This course will help students better understand the nature of a mathematical system. Intuitive, inductive and deductive reasoning are used to develop the geometry of planes and space. Students will write formal proofs as they develop these types of reasoning. Topics studied include congruent triangles, angle relationships, parallel lines and planes, similarity, circles, right triangles, area and volume.

ALGEBRA 2 - 8*

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Geometry 7

The course reviews and extends basic concepts learned in previous algebra courses. Topics covered in the first semester will include properties of the real number system, matrices, equations, inequalities, factoring, functions and graphing. Second semester topics include irrational numbers, the complex number system, conic sections, logarithms, exponential functions, combinations and permutations.

Science

PHYSICAL SCIENCE 8

Physical Science is a course that focuses on concepts in physics and chemistry. Students will learn and implement the scientific method as they explore and experiment. The study of matter focuses on states of matter, atoms, elements, compounds and mixtures. The study of waves is introduced through the investigation of light and sound. Lastly, students will study concepts of forces,

motion and energy while spotlighting Newton's Laws of Motion.

HONORS SCIENCE 8 (PHYSICAL SCIENCE)*

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Honors Science 7 or meet the criteria on page 15

Physical Science is a course that focuses on concepts in physics and chemistry. Students will learn and implement the scientific method as they explore and experiment. The study of matter focuses on states of matter, atoms, elements, compounds and mixtures. The study of waves is introduced through the investigation of light and sound. Lastly, students will study concepts of forces, motion and energy while spotlighting Newton's Laws of Motion.

ACCELERATED SCIENCE 8*

Prerequisite: Accelerated Science 6 and 7

This course provides an introduction to the areas of chemistry, physics, and research methodology. The course is taught with an emphasis on open and guided inquiry, and project-based learning. Topics include units of measurement, introductory chemistry, and introductory physics. Measurements include activities on mass, volume, density, temperature, and heat. Chemistry involves topics relating to solubility, atomic structure, chemical reactions, formulas and symbols, naming elements, and compounds. Physics topics include nuclear energy, heat, light, sound, electricity, forces, and motion. Both inductive and deductive activities are used with emphasis on the development and use of higher math skills. In addition, students will develop advanced scientific research skills in guided activities and projects.

Social Studies

GLOBAL STUDIES 8

Students in Global Studies explore the regions of the world using geographic information from print and electronic sources. They analyze important trends in the modern world such as demographic change, shifting trade patterns, and cultural interactions due to globalization. Students participate in civic discussion on contemporary issues, conduct historical inquiry and study events (political, social and economic) over the last half century that have shaped the contemporary world. They analyze connections between revolutions,

**See honors/accelerated course placement on pg. 15*

independence movements and social transformations, and understand reasons for the creation of modern nation states.

HONORS GLOBAL STUDIES 8*

Students in Honors Global Studies are introduced to the type of rigorous curriculum they can expect to find in the honors and AP courses taught at Minnetonka High School. In addition to the content standards, the course also implements relevant technology and research skills through balanced assessments and differentiated performance tasks. Students should be prepared for significant reading, writing and other course work outside of class time. Students will also be expected to read, study and master the course text in preparation for class lectures, discussions and other activities.

IMMERSION GLOBAL STUDIES: CHINESE

Students in Global Studies explore the regions of the world using geographic information from print and electronic sources. They analyze important trends in the modern world such as demographic change, shifting trade patterns, and cultural interactions due to globalization. Students participate in civic discussion on contemporary issues, conduct historical inquiry and study events (political, social and economic) over the last half century that have shaped the contemporary world. They analyze connections between revolutions, independence movements and social transformations, and understand reasons for the creation of modern nation states. This course will be taught fully in the target language.

IMMERSION GLOBAL STUDIES: SPANISH

Students in Global Studies explore the regions of the world using geographic information from print and electronic sources. They analyze important trends in the modern world such as demographic change, shifting trade patterns, and cultural interactions due to globalization. Students participate in civic discussion on contemporary issues, conduct historical inquiry and study events (political, social and economic) over the last half century that have shaped the contemporary world. They analyze connections between revolutions, independence

movements and social transformations, and understand reasons for the creation of modern nation states. This course will be taught fully in the target language.

Required Electives

HEALTH 8

This course will meet for one quarter and help students continue to build the knowledge and skills to make healthy, informed and responsible choices. Throughout the quarter students will continue to explore the components of health, nutrition, chemical classifications, personal safety, and healthy relationships. The lessons and skills taught in this class will align with adopted state standards for Health and give the students the opportunity to not only learn the content for the class, but practice the skills associated with the standards and content learned. The course includes infant and child CPR training aligned with American Heart Association guidelines. Instruction during the class will use a variety of activities and learning experiences to meet the needs of all students and promote active participation.

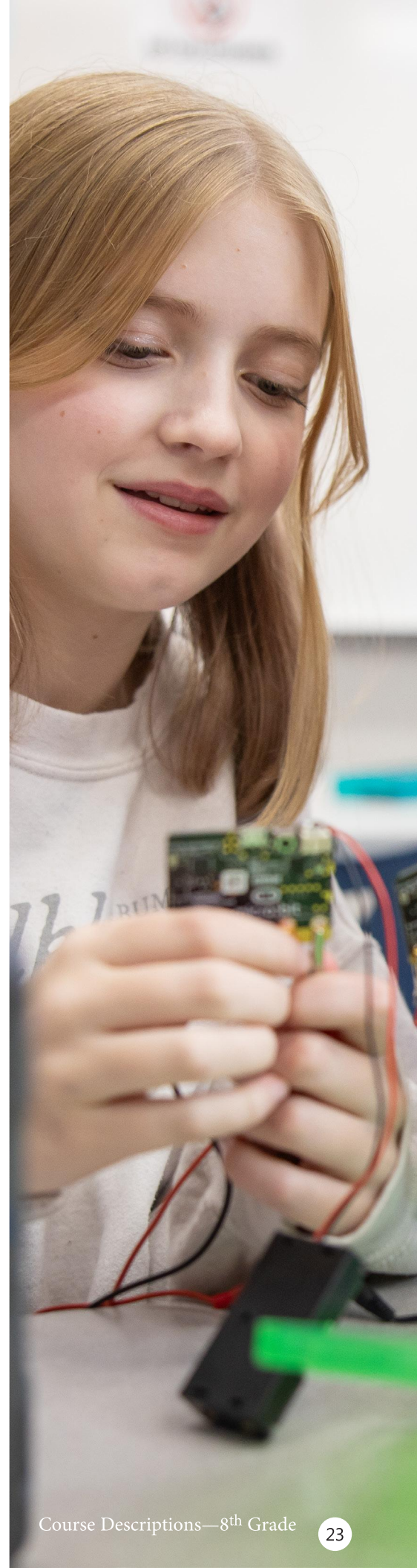
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course is designed to enhance students' interest and participation in lifetime fitness activities and a variety of lifetime sports. Opportunities will be provided for participation in individual, dual and team sports and activities. Throughout the course emphasis will be placed on fundamentals, rules, strategies and individual physical fitness.

Art Electives

3D ART AND DESIGN

This visual art class provides you with hands-on opportunity to make and model your ideas in three-dimensional forms. Activities will guide students in methods for construction and carving a variety of materials including clay, metal, wood, chipboard, and paper. Students will develop skills needed to visualize and represent realistic, symbolic and abstract sculptural forms.



8th Grade course descriptions, continued

DIGITAL ART AND DESIGN

This visual arts course explores topics of contemporary art and graphic design and engages you with connections to creative careers. Hands-on learning experiences include traditional art making and digital art applications. Students will cover themes of typography and logo design, advertising and visual marketing strategies, digital photography, basic video and animation. Students will design and develop visual imagery and understand the power of art to influence and inspire us as both creators and consumers.

DRAWING AND PAINTING

This visual art class engages you with hands-on experiences and artmaking by emphasizing creative problem-solving and personal exploration. Working with a variety of tools and materials, students will encounter learning opportunities in two-dimensional art forms. Activities include illustration, advanced drawing techniques, painting, design and mixed media collage. Students will use traditional media and digital applications to develop ideas and imagery that reflects their personal voice, values and perspectives.

INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA

Drama is a performance-based introductory course where students are exposed to various elements of theater production. An emphasis will be placed on creative expression and communication through a variety of verbal and non-verbal means. Students will also enhance their stage presence and collaboration skills as they explore the nuances of performing with and in front of others. Activities may include voice and movement exercises, theater games, improvisation and memorization and play reading.

Electives

ADVANCED ROBOTICS

Students will continue working with LEGO Mindstorms from their Technology Education class, while developing more advanced programs focusing on engineering concepts. Math and science principles are incorporated in the hands-on activities. Students will be expected to work in small groups.

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

Animal Behavior introduces students to the scientific study of how animal behaviors develop through learning, conditioning, and evolution. Students

explore classical and operant conditioning through structured, hands-on investigations with chicks and conduct behavioral observations of Betta fish by creating written ethograms. The course also includes an overview of the classification of the animal kingdom and the relationships among stimulus and response, as well as cause and effect. By the end of the course, students will develop a deeper scientific understanding of why both animals and humans behave the way they do. Students should be prepared to participate in class and small-group discussions, master new vocabulary, and engage in reflective, higher-level thinking.

CHINESE IMMERSION FILM APPRECIATION

Designed for Chinese immersion students, this course offers a fun and interactive exploration of Chinese films while enhancing language skills and cultural understanding. Students will enjoy watching a diverse selection of movies and engaging in discussions about the content, themes, and cultural contexts. Through activities, students will also practice language use, write film reviews, conduct analysis and share ideas.

COMPETITIVE TEAM + DUAL SPORTS

Competitive Team and Dual sports is a participation-based course for the student that enjoys physical activity and team competition. This course is based on learning the knowledge and skills needed to participate in a variety of team sports. A strong emphasis is placed on active participation, teamwork, respect for others, sportsmanship, and promotion of a good self-concept. Students should be aware that this is a highly competitive course and should have an expectation for strong participation in games, tournaments, and contests.

COMPUTER SCIENCE 8

In Computer Science 8, students will learn about basic computer science skills through a series of creative projects. Students will work in an environment that allows them to code in either blocks or text, allowing students of all levels and experience to find success. Students will learn to design and code their own simple apps. They will also be introduced to physical computing through a unit using Adafruit's circuit playground: a device that utilizes the same hardware inputs and outputs that are seen in many smart devices.

COMPUTER SCIENCE 8 ADVANCED

In this course, students will build on previous coding skills to learn how to create more complex programming products. Students will learn about programming languages, and the important idea of syntax, as they learn to program without using blocks in a fully text based environment. Students will problem solve together to write algorithms to solve real world problems. This course is recommended for students who have successfully completed a previous computer science course, or have a significant amount of previous coding experience.

CREATIVE WRITING

Creative Writing is a course for students who have a high interest in stretching their imagination and writing across a variety of genres (e.g., short story, journal, novella, scripts and poetry). The course will give students the opportunity to work individually and in small groups to create and refine their work through the writing process. Students should expect to read selections from a variety of genres as well as writing multiple pieces of various lengths.

CULINARY INNOVATIONS

In this course, students will use their creativity to develop a food company. Students will study marketing, advertising and nutrition surrounding the food industry and will work in small groups to create, prepare and learn how to market healthy snacks. This course incorporates consumerism and entrepreneurship.

FASHION: DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

This course combines the creativity of art with hands-on projects in fashion design. Students will explore the elements and principles of design through fashion, gaining an understanding of career opportunities in fashion merchandising, design, and related fields. From sketching and mood board creation to constructing wearable or artistic projects using various materials, this course emphasizes creativity, problem-solving, and craftsmanship. Students will also learn basic sewing techniques and explore the creative process of upcycling garments and designing unique projects. The course is perfect for students interested in both artistic expression and hands-on work, blending design, construction, and innovation.

FOOD & CULTURE

Students will take a journey and explore a variety of cultures from around the world. This course is a great opportunity

to expand food preparation skills and increase global awareness. Some of the course topics may include Asian, French, Spanish and Italian cuisines. There will also be a strong focus on kitchen safety. Students will learn about different regions of the world and work in small groups to prepare a variety of ethnic foods.

FOOD CHEMISTRY

In Food Chemistry, we will delve into how chemical reactions make our food taste good. We're a lab-based class so the majority of our time will be performing lab experiments. We will research how chemical reactions in our food affect rising and browning to make delicious food, including pancakes. We will delve into solubility and supersaturation and make rock candy. We'll explore how the pH scale affects food and make pickles. We will calculate calories in typical snack foods and how the macromolecules of food provide the nutrition we need. And we'll conclude the quarter by exploring how thermal energy transfer affects freezing point depression for making ice cream!

FRENCH: LEVEL 1

Students in this course will study practical vocabulary, grammar and culture. It is similar to the Level 1 course taught at the high school level, but without high school credit. One important component in the classroom is the teacher's use of the second language to enhance the development of good listening skills and pronunciation. Students will learn to express themselves and communicate with others on topics closely related to their own experiences and daily life. Students will frequently read and write, relating to the units being studied. French culture will be explored through songs, films and personal experiences. Skits, dialogues, games, partner/group activities, videos and technology supplement the student textbook and foster increased language use and understanding. Upon successful completion of this course, students have the following grade 9 options at Minnetonka High School (MHS): • B or above: students should go to French II Honors • B- to C: students should go to French II G • C- to F: students should repeat French 1 at MHS or choose a new language

GERMAN: LEVEL 1

Students in this course will study basic practical vocabulary, grammar,

culture and pronunciation. It is similar to the Level 1 course taught at the high school, but without high school credit. One important component in the classroom is the teacher's use of the second language in order to enhance the development of good listening skills and pronunciation. Students will learn to express themselves and communicate with others on topics closely related to their own experiences and daily life. Students will frequently read and write relating to the units that are being studied. Students will explore culture through songs, useful phrases and videos. Skits, dialogues, games, partner/ group activities, videos and technology supplement the student textbook and foster increased language use. Upon successful completion of this course, students have the following options for grade 9 at Minnetonka High School (MHS): • B- or above: students should go to German II • C+ or less: students should go to German I • F: students should repeat German I at MHS or choose a new language

HISTORY OF SPORTS IN THE USA

Did you know that football used to be played without helmets or that the original basketball hoop was a broken peach basket? In this course students will learn about the history of sports in the United States and their cultural, political and economic impact on American society. We will also keep up with current sporting events and important topics throughout the year. In the fall semester, students will also have the opportunity to analyze NFL statistics, matchups, injuries, and bye weeks to prepare to draft and manage a fantasy football team. In the spring semester, students will research different men's and women's NCAA basketball programs to fill out their Final Four bracket and right before March Madness begins!

JOURNALISM AND PUBLICATIONS

This course offers students the opportunity to engage in the exciting world of journalism and design by creating the school yearbook and a student-run newspaper. Participants will develop essential skills in writing, editing, photography, graphic design, and teamwork. This hands-on elective fosters creativity, communication, and leadership while encouraging students to express their voices and capture school memories.



8th Grade course descriptions, continued

MYTHS, LEGENDS, AND TALL TALES

In this course, students will explore the captivating world of myths, legends, and tall tales from diverse cultures around the globe. Through a wide range of stories—featuring gods, heroes, tricksters, and mythical creatures—students will discover the importance of these tales in shaping our cultures, shared histories, and values.

The course will examine the similarities and differences between various types and structures of stories, comparing myths that explain the mysteries of the universe, legends that celebrate historical heroes, and tall tales that exaggerate human feats. Students will explore the unique purposes behind these stories, from teaching moral lessons and explaining natural phenomena to preserving cultural traditions and entertaining audiences. By comparing the lessons embedded in these stories and the reasons they are told in particular ways, students will gain a deeper understanding of the power of storytelling in shaping our worldviews.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE AND LEARNING

Students will be outside daily to learn about the natural world in their community. They will learn the importance of local plants and waterways and understand the benefits of spending time in nature. Students will start a garden and harvest the food in the fall. Each quarter or semester scope and sequence would be based on that season's weather and growing timeframes. The class would take advantage of the proximity to the MN Landscape Arboretum and Minnewashta Regional Park. Students with executive functioning needs and anxiety would greatly benefit from the time outside and hands-on learning.

PERSONAL FITNESS AND SKILLS

In this class, we would pre-test students on their fitness levels - CV, strength, flexibility PLUS skills like balance, agility and coordination. Students would then embark on a program of activities to develop these components before repeating the tests at the end of the course.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXERCISE SCIENCE

Students will focus on the scientific and real-life application side of Physical Education. Students will gain a deeper understanding of how movement and exercise relate to the human body

through personal and guided inquiry. Students will apply this information to real-life projects that include a self created fitness plan focusing on their personal goals. This allows the student to focus on their interest/passion, including a sport they are passionate about or a general fitness goal they want to achieve. This course uses daily mini-lessons and various activity labs to research exercises to understand their impact on overall health, fitness, and wellness. It may use specific sports skills to help understand movement concepts and how the body works. To fully understand exercise science, there will be both a classroom and physical activity component related to each day's objectives.

PODCASTING 101

Unlock the power of audio storytelling in this Podcast Creation course! Whether you're a seasoned storyteller or a complete beginner, this hands-on course will guide you through the process of conceptualizing, recording, editing, and distributing your own podcast. Learn industry-standard tools, explore narrative techniques, and discover how to engage your audience effectively. Join us and unleash your creativity in the world of podcasting!

SPANISH: LEVEL 1

Spanish is a fast-paced course where students study basic vocabulary, grammar and culture. It is similar to the Level 1 course taught at the high school, but without high school credit. One important component in the classroom is the teacher's use of the second language in order to enhance the development of good listening skills and pronunciation. Students will learn to express themselves and communicate with others on topics closely related to their own experiences and daily life. Students will frequently read and write related to the units that are being studied. Culture will be explored through songs, movies and personal experiences. Dialogues, games, partner/group activities, videos and technology supplement the student textbook and foster increased language use. Upon successful completion of this course, students have the following options for grade 9 at Minnetonka High School (MHS): • B or above: students should go to Spanish II Honors • B- to C: students should go to Spanish II G • C- to F: students should repeat level 1 at MHS or choose a new language.

SPANISH LINGUISTICS

This course is designed to elevate Spanish

proficiency by immersing students in real-life language scenarios and shrink the gap between students' "immersion-ese" and authentic Spanish spoken by native speakers. This class will tackle semantics, slang and social language, pronunciation, linguistic variation and dialects of Spanish, plus translation and interpretation skills. This course is designed to build both students' competence and confidence with Spanish, particularly in social settings.

SPEECH AND DEBATE

This course is for students who like to think and talk about issues involving the world around us. Students will develop their ideas and ways to express their opinions about a variety of topics, critically listen to the ideas of others, and learn debate strategies to help win an argument. Multiple avenues will allow student interest to guide and determine the subjects being discussed and debated. Students will explore elements of logic, ways to research a topic and form an argument; and how to be effective public speakers. At times entertaining and other times serious, this class will help build student confidence in their ability to form and communicate ideas.

SPORTS PSYCHOLOGY

This course will dive into the intriguing world of sports psychology. Students will explore how the mind influences sports, exercise, and physical activity. Topics include the psychological factors that drive athletes, managing performance anxiety, and how to enhance team dynamics. By the end of this course, you will learn some strategies for enhancing performance and having more fun with your activities, as well as how to apply these strategies to everyday life.

UNIFIED PE

Unified Physical Education combines students with and without disabilities together as teammates, focusing on the physical, intellectual and social growth of all participants. Training, playing and competing together leads to understanding, acceptance and friendship in and out of class. Students will not only strengthen their fitness, improve their sports skills and develop social skills, they will challenge existing stereotypes about people with disabilities. Unified PE will provide a welcoming environment for all students to help empower them to their full potential.

VIDEO PRODUCTION AND BROADCAST

This class instructs students on each step of video production, from pitching ideas to writing scripts, all the way to the actual broadcast. Students will learn how to use the tools and software available to produce high quality content for streaming and publishing. Students will produce a regularly broadcast program highlighting the positive stories from MMW/MME and create a community experience focused on belonging and joy.

WEB DESIGN

This course will teach students the foundations of the growing field of web design. Students will begin by studying HTML, the language used to create websites. Then students will learn to use CSS to adjust the design and appearance of the site. Finally, students will explore Bootstrap, an HTML and CSS framework for developing responsive, professional websites. The course will culminate with students creating a personal portfolio website to showcase their middle school projects.

WOODS

Students will create a variety of fun projects while learning the basic skills of woodworking tools, machines and materials. Each project will utilize construction techniques. Project planning, drafting and layout skills developed in this course may be used throughout one's life at home, in hobbies and careers. Students will feel a real sense of accomplishment as craftsmanship and precision are the cornerstones of any project. Instructional methods will consist of hands-on lab time including lecture, demonstration, guest speakers and instructional videos. Assessments include project quality, safety habits and tests.

Music Electives

BAND

In this course, a variety of music literature will be studied and all students will have multiple performance experiences each year. In the first year, the fundamentals of instrumental musicianship will be reviewed and emphasized. Instructional methods will include standard ensemble rehearsal

techniques, cooperative learning and aural training. Assessments will include both formative and summative performance skill assessments, quarterly music playing exams and some written assessments. The eighth grade band may also be selected to represent the Minnetonka School District at various community events and contests. Instructional methods will include standard ensemble rehearsal techniques, cooperative learning and aural training. Assessments will include both formative and summative performance skill assessments, quarterly music playing exams and some written assessments.

CHOIR

Choir is an upbeat ensemble-based course in which students work together as a team to develop their vocal skills. Choir members will work on proper vocal technique, rehearsal skills, and will be given a well-rounded background in music fundamentals. Each student will develop independent singing and reading skills to attain a high level of musicianship and confidence. If possible, students may be placed in a changing voices choir or a treble choir to enhance the opportunities for developing voices. There are three evening performances during the school year, and a variety of performance field trips opportunities.

MUSIC 8

Music 8 is an exciting course that offers students the opportunity to grow in their musical knowledge and skill (music elements, history, literacy etc) by playing a variety of instruments, creating, composing, performing, improvising, and so forth. Examples of units include Guitar II, Hand Chimes, Pulse to Pitch II, Caribbean Drumming, Rock Through the Decades and Keyboard II.

ORCHESTRA

In this course, students will build on previous skills learned in orchestra. Students will have multiple performance experiences each year, including a field trip in February. Using a variety of musical literature, the fundamentals of instrumental musicianship will be reviewed and emphasized throughout the course. In eighth grade, students will continue developing rhythmic skills while also focusing on and developing more advanced skills like vibrato and shifting. In addition to the large group rehearsal every other day, students will also receive several small-group lessons each

quarter. Assessments will include both formative and summative performance skill assessments and some written assessments.

Multilingual Learner (ML) Support Classes

ML SUPPORT CLASS

ML Support Class is a structured and supportive environment for learning and practicing academic English in the language domains of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Designed as a resource for Multilingual Learners (MLs), this class provides language support in the content areas of language arts, math, science and social studies. Students receive direct instruction in grammar, vocabulary, literacy and critical thinking skills in a small group setting. Additional support is provided with pre-teaching, re-teaching, test review and small group testing.

ML LANGUAGE ARTS

As a content area course, ML Language Arts promotes the development of both social language and academic literacy skills for Multilingual Learners (MLs) through the language domains of listening, speaking, reading, writing and viewing. Reading instruction focuses on both fiction and nonfiction texts in a variety of forms and purposes, with grammar embedded in instruction. Robust vocabulary learning focuses on Sadlier Oxford word lists, text specific words, and Greek and Latin roots and affixes. Students use technology to develop, enhance and communicate their ideas in this small group setting.



How to Speak Like a Skipper

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CREW ACADEMY

Crew Academy is a grade specific, alternating-day half-block course that is designed to equip students with the essential skills needed to thrive at Minnetonka Middle Schools and beyond. Crew Academy integrates core competencies such as self-management, critical thinking, organization, and planning. In this course, students will strengthen their academic, personal, and life skills, preparing them to successfully navigate both school and the wider world with confidence and care.

NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress)

Computer adaptive test administered yearly for grades K-8 in math and reading. Results are used to measure student growth from year to year, to identify areas of support needed, and as part of consideration for placement in honors courses. Note: This measure has a ceiling of eleventh grade achievement according to national norms. Many Minnetonka students reach the ceiling of these tests during middle school and growth measures may be less reliable beyond tenth grade achievement levels.

MCAs

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments, administered in spring of each year, grades 3-11. MCAs measure achievement in reading, math, and science. Used for school accountability, and to indicate if students are mastering grade level state standards in those areas.

MyMINNETONKA SINGLE SIGN ON

MyMinnetonka Single Sign On (MY SSO) allows you to access your web-based applications from any internet connection using our District network login and password. You will need to enter your individual credentials for each application one time to initiate MY SSO.

SCHOOLOGY

The District's web-based e-learning tool that provides teacher classroom webpages, interactive study tools personalized to the class and a document repository for classroom assignments, notes and resources. Students use their computer ID and password to access classroom information anytime, anywhere. Schoology provides formative and summative grades throughout the quarter.

SKYWARD

The District's student information system that holds final quarter grades, attendance, lunch account information, state test scores, and report cards. Parents are mailed log-in information each August. Students are provided their log-in information the first week of school.

TONKA PRIDE

A district-wide committee of parents dedicated to celebrating our students and our schools. Tonka Pride sells spirit wear online at www.tonkapride.com.

Registration

SCHOOL TOURS

Visiting our school is the best way to know if it is the right fit for your child. Call now to schedule your building tour. Meet a grade-level counselor and receive answers to your questions about middle school in Minnetonka.

Tours are customized for each family based on the interests of each student and typically last 30-45 minutes. To schedule a tour, please contact:

MME

Main Office
(952) 401-5200

MMW

Main Office
(952) 401-5300

COMPLETE THE ENROLLMENT PROCESS

For new residents, open enrollment and transfer students ONLY, please contact the District office to receive enrollment instructions.

Visit www.minnetonkaschools.org/enroll to learn more about the enrollment process or to connect with an Enrollment Specialist.

REGISTER FOR CLASSES

In the spring, MME and MMW students have the opportunity to select electives they would like to take. Students who enroll after registration closes will complete elective course registration during the enrollment process. Contact your middle school's Counseling Office with any questions about registration.

MME Counseling Office – (952) 401-5209

MMW Counseling Office – (952) 401-5311

Immunizations—Minnetonka participates in the No Shots, No School program. Your child's immunization record must be up to date and on file at your child's school before they may attend. Most seventh grade students need new immunizations. Please complete the immunizations and mail the records to school before August 1.

Minnesota Open Enrollment—Minnetonka Public Schools welcome non-resident students through Minnesota's Open Enrollment Program. The application deadline for open enrollment is January 15 of each year. Students who wish to enroll after January 15 should apply for a Non-Resident Agreement the first year and complete an Open Enrollment Application by the following January 15 for continuous enrollment. Once a student enrolls as an Open Enrollment student, he or she has the right to stay in the District through graduation.

For more information on open enrollment, call the District Office at (952) 401-5000.



Student Services

HEALTH SERVICES

Minnetonka Schools have licensed school nurses who supervise health office staff. If your child is ever required to take medication while at school, we ask that you follow the policies posted on our website at www.minnetonkaschools.org/health. If your child has allergies or other chronic conditions, please record this important information on the Annual School Health Form included with our registration materials.

TRANSPORTATION

Families within District boundaries are eligible for bus service to Minnetonka Schools. The School District provides transportation at no charge for all students who reside more than two miles from the school. A transportation fee is assessed for bus service to resident students who reside within two miles of their school. Non-resident students may access our bus system through an existing stop within the District. Students must register annually for bus service to and from their middle school.

All students that will be riding the bus need to register with the Transportation Department. The Transportation Department will assess a transportation fee for bus service for all public and private school students who reside within two miles of the school they attend. Non-resident students may access our bus system through an existing bus stop within the District by filling out a transportation form. Please note there will be a fee assessed if the stop is less than two miles from the school.

Learn more on the website by visiting www.minnetonkaschools.org/transportation.

NUTRITION SERVICES

Minnetonka Public Schools Child Nutrition Services offer a wide variety of healthy breakfast and lunch choices that teach kids how to develop healthy, lifetime eating habits. Current research reinforces the importance of fruits, vegetables and whole grains in the diet. Minnetonka Schools receive fresh

bakery products with no trans fats or preservatives. Additionally, the District participates in a federal fresh produce program, helping the District defray costs and offering a wide variety of fruits and vegetables for lunch.

In mid-August, all students receive a food service personal identification number (PIN) and instructions for purchasing meals, making payments and checking balances online.

Visit the District website to:

- view lunch menus
- make payments
- check account balances
- and see other information about Child Nutrition Services

BUILDING HOURS

The student school day is from 9:20 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Doors to the middle schools open at 8:00 a.m. Students are to enter the school via the cafeteria entrance and will be supervised. There are no structured activities for students in the cafeteria before school. Light breakfast or snack items are available. Students may participate in our after-school supervision and homework support time. Students must be registered to access the before and after school supervised sessions. A minimal fee may be charged.

District Service Center

Enrollment Information
5621 County Road 101
Minnetonka, MN 55345
(952) 401-5000
Office Hours 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
www.minnetonkaschools.org



Minnetonka Middle School East

17000 Lake Street Extension
Minnetonka, MN 55345
(952) 401-5200
Office Hours 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Minnetonka Middle School West

6421 Hazeltine Blvd.
Excelsior, MN 55331
(952) 401-5300
Office Hours 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.