CURRICULUM GUIDE



Our Administrative Staff:



Chad Johnson- Assistant Principal/Athletic Director MAPS 1 and MAPS 2



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REQUIRED COURSES

Language Arts Math Science Social Studies Advisory Physical Education / Health

Language Arts

6th grade: Students will acquire depth of knowledge and practice in all areas of English Language Arts throughout the year. They will be reading various forms of literature, informational text, poetry, and various short stories: dissecting them for purpose and meaning. Language Acquisition will focus on vocabulary and grammar. The 6th grade writing curriculum follows a writing process as they plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish their writing. We focus on three main areas of writing: narrative, informational, and argumentative pieces. Speaking and listening involve adapting speech to a variety of contexts and tasks.

7th Grade: The goal of the Language Arts class is to develop students' writing, speaking, listening, and reading skills. Writing assignments focus on the four core traits of writing: content, organization, conventions and fluency. Students write narratives as well as argumentative and informative essays. In addition, students read and analyze a variety of texts including poetry, nonfiction, novels, and short stories. Overall, learning is a collaborative process and emphasis is placed on students interacting with the materials and with each other in the process of learning.

8th Grade: The goal of the Language Arts class is to develop students' writing, speaking, listening, and reading skills. We focus writing assignments on the four core traits of writing: content, organization, conventions and fluency. Students write narratives as well as argumentative and informative responses. In addition, students read and analyze a variety of texts including poetry, nonfiction, novels, and short stories. Overall, learning is a collaborative process and emphasis is placed on students interacting with the materials and with each other in the process of learning.

Social Studies

6th grade: This course focuses on the ongoing theme of social, political, cultural, and economic development in the Western Hemisphere. Students will determine and explain the historical context of key groups, products, events, and ideas over time through the exploration of a variety of cultures and ancient civilizations including Mesoamerica and South America. Social Science will integrate the study of history, geography, basic economics, civics, and government. This course has a central literacy component: students will be expected to read, write, and speak on a regular basis.

7th grade: This World History course is a study of the Eastern Hemisphere. Students will explore the relationships of human beings to the world in which they live. Areas of focus will include the emergence of ancient cultures in Europe, Asia and Africa, study of the Medieval World, and study of the Renaissance, Reformation, and Age of Exploration. A major ongoing

theme will be the development of major world religions including Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam. Social science will integrate the study of history, geography, government, civics, economics, anthropology, and current events. This course has a strong literacy component: students will be expected to read, write, and speak on a regular basis.

8th grade: This is an American History course with an emphasis on the 18th and 19th centuries. Students study the development of colonial America, the Constitution and government, western expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and the Closing of the Frontier. Students will continue with geographic skills and studies, and explore topics in economics, personal finance and tribal sovereignty.

Mathematics

Integrated 6

This course is designed for students to meet the 6th grade state math standards through the math curriculum. This course offers a wide range of math concepts. Students will gain a thorough foundation of ratio & rate, division of fractions, rational numbers, area, surface area, volume, expressions & equations, and statistical thinking. It is the goal of this course for students to develop an understanding of the concepts and their applications. This course will focus on skills necessary for Integrated 7 the following year. Students will show understanding of concepts by verbally making sense of the math, completing a series of quizzes, tests, as well as a number of individual and group projects.

Integrated 7

This class emphasizes the state standards for math in 7th grade, focusing on priority standards as determined by the district. Students in this course will study concepts under the following: proportional relationships, linear equations, scale drawings, geometric constructions, surface area, volume, angles, and inferences on sample populations. Problem solving, collaboration, and thinking skills are emphasized throughout the school year, and students practice basic skills in addition to writing solutions to open-ended questions. Successful completion of this course prepares a student to take Integrated 8 the following year.

Integrated 8

This class emphasizes the state standards for math in 8th grade, focusing on priority standards as determined by the district. Students in this course will study concepts under the following categories: bivariate data, systems of linear equations, functions, Pythagorean Theorem, two and three dimensional figures using distance, angle, congruence, and similarity. Problem solving, collaboration, and thinking skills are emphasized throughout the school year and students practice writing solutions to open-ended questions. Successful completion of this course prepares a student to take Integrated I the following year.

Science

6th grade: Students will learn the foundations of science and how to use the scientific method by exploring science through the theme of systems - how pieces work together to create the complex natural work around us. Studies begin with the smallest unit of life: understanding cells and the anatomy of plant and animal cells. Students will learn how human body systems are organized and how body systems work together to complete life tasks like movement and respiration. Students will study thermal energy transfer and apply that knowledge to the water cycle, ocean currents, weather, and how those all contribute to global climate zones. Students will study the adaptations of growth and reproduction of organisms around the world, and finish the course with our (human) role in the world and impacts on the environment.

7th Grade:

Science is fully integrated, emphasizing the dynamics of living systems, genetic diversity, atoms, matter, motion, and forces. Inquiry Lab Science is woven throughout each year and applies information to student and teacher created experiments in a lab setting. In all areas of science, students will be able to learn through hands-on, differentiated units.

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Advisory

This class will benefit all students and cover state requirements including digital citizenship. Students will be taught study skills, vocab strategies, career curriculum, and social emotional learning.

Physical Education (3-quarters) Health (1-quarter)

Physical Education

Students participate in a variety of activities to develop individual fitness, fundamental movement skills and personal interests. Emphasis is placed on muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, and cardiovascular conditioning. Weight Training classes are offered in addition to traditional PE classes.

Health 6

This course covers different topics related to health and awareness such as allergies and asthma, cells and cell function, eating right, safety, stress, addiction, and immunity/diseases.

Students also study human growth and development covering the reproductive system, puberty, and hygiene.

Health 7
This course is an introduction to wellness with emphasis given to specific topics in social, mental, emotional, and physical health. Topics include nutrition, a healthy self-concept, the changes of puberty, risks associated with tobacco and alcohol use and personal responsibility in the development of a healthy lifestyle.

Health 8
Personal safety, mental health and wellness, and sexual health are the primary focus of this course. Unintentional injury prevention, the effects of drug use, depression and suicide, stress management and sexual health are the central topics of study. Decision-making skills are emphasized to promote health lifestyle choices.

English Language Development
The goal for English Language Learners (ELL) is to develop ENglish Language Proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking, including the acquisition of academic English which can be used in a variety of content areas. The ELD program will provide equal, meaningful, and relevant access to the core curriculum to achieve academic success.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Culinary Arts
You will be introduced to culinary basics such as food safety and sanitation, kitchen safety, cooking terms, proper use of kitchen tools/equipment, how to measure ingredients properly, interpreting recipes and basic food preparation skills. We will also be learning to cook quick breads, scones, desserts, cookies, pizza, soup, and some dinner recipes. Nutrition analysis and diet. You will be cooking and enjoying the food that you and your kitchen team prepare! Through hands-on cooking labs with your team, you will be learning not only culinary basics, but developing your leadership skills, communication skills, and employability skills.

Explore Baking (8th grade)

Exploratory baking provides a brief introduction to food safety and culinary arts. Students may choose to take courses later that allow them to pursue this topic in more depth. Topics may vary widely and span multiple subject areas within one course.

Spanish (8th grade) HS credit
This course provides students with the opportunity to develop beginning communication skills in Spanish. Students will learn basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a new language. This class covers the same content taught in high school Spanish I classes. Successful completion may make students eligible for Spanish II in the ninth grade (Prerequisite - Passing

English 7 and meeting the State Testing bench-mark). Students successfully completing this course may earn high school credit.

STEM I & II (Robotics)
In this fabrication class, students will learn how to solve design challenges through the Design Thinking process. Students will research, design, prototype, evaluate and present a number of creative projects. Aside from being creative and making products, students will also learn 3D and 2D CAD (Computer Aided Design), laser cutting, CNC work, woodworking tools and machines, programmable microcontrollers, and we also have an electric go-kart to build!

Exploratory robotics provides a brief introduction to robotics including building through LEGO construction projects designed to demonstrate key principles of engineering, and code with an intuitive drag-and-drop program to bring their creations to life. Students may choose to take computer and engineering courses later that allow them to pursue the topics introduced in more depth. Topics may vary widely and span multiple subject areas within one course.

Advanced Tech
Students will take a wide lens on computer science by discovering topics such as problem solving, programming, physical computing, user centered design, and data while learning to build websites, apps, animations, games and physical computing systems. Students will also learn introductory block coding concepts using platforms such as Scratch and Tynker.

Explore Video Production

Exploratory video production provides a brief introduction to media. Students may choose to take courses later that allow them to pursue the topics introduced in more depth. Topics may vary widely and span multiple subject areas within one course.

Art- World Culture
See the world through the eyes of an artist. This course offers the opportunity to create art and crafts using a variety of materials in a fun and interesting way, while learning about art history and famous artists. Students will learn how to see things with their right brain enabling them to create artwork using a creative process. They will learn how to use many different materials including pencil, watercolor, acrylic paints, mosaics, oil pastels and more. Don't miss this class!

Explore Pottery

Exploratory pottery provides a brief introduction to clay and the tools needed to create. Students may choose to take visual arts courses later that allow them to pursue the topics introduced in more depth.

Leadership
This course is designed to provide a basic introduction to leadership by focusing on what it means to be a good leader. The course will examine topics such as: understanding leadership;

recognizing leadership traits, engaging people's strengths; understanding philosophy and styles; attending to tasks and relationships; developing leadership skills; creating a vision' establishing a constructive climate; listening to other group members; handling conflict; addressing ethics in leadership and overcoming obstacles. Students in Leadership will be learning the basics of studio production for the Morning Show as well as participating in planning school-wide events. Application with teacher recommendation is required for this course.

This course is designed to develop students' skills in yearbook production by providing experiences in selected aspects of yearbook production. Students learn basic principles of yearbook production and develop skills that include writing copy, captions and headlines, digital photography, desktop publishing and using appropriate technology tools for media production. English teacher recommendation as well as parent support is required.

Future Readiness
This exploratory course helps students identify their skills and interests while providing direction toward possible college and career choices. This course will help students develop personal learning plans/career learning plans through experiential learning, activities, real-world applications, and project-based learning. Students will work on building skill in organization, note-taking, time management, personal finance, Socratic seminar and philosophical chairs.

Sports & Entertainment Marketing
Students will cover a broad area of marketing basics while diving deep into sports and entertainment marketing skills. This course has students cover all the newest trends in the marketing world. The class will explore the basic concepts and also apply a simulation project where students will actually prepare a sports and entertainment marketing plan. Each student will develop leadership and problem-solving skills, understand the importance of making ethical decisions, develop public speaking and presentation skills, proper social and business etiquette, analyze possible solutions to specific business problems, develop business leadership skills, and develop an increased understanding of the business world.

Explore Drama- Theater

Exploratory Drama provides a brief introduction to theater, plays, staging, and script writing. Students may choose to take fine arts courses later that allow them to pursue the topics introduced in more depth. Topics may vary widely and span multiple subject areas within one course.

FAB Lab/ Construction Technology
Students will dive into the basics of several important home construction techniques and processes. Students will work collaboratively and individually on multiple projects that include making birdhouses and step stools. Measurement, the use of tools and tool safety will be emphasized. This class will involve hands-on activities in which students will practice the engineering process from problem to solution while including detailed, accurate designs. In this

course, safety is a priority while we work to understand how to take care of a home and learn the basics of these vocational trades.

Photography

Creative Writing

Histories Mysteries

Game of Life

Comprehensive Personal Finance (8th grade) HS credit

Music

Band

Beginning Band is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students This course is open for students who are interested in beginning to learn about music and band. Students do not need to have any previous music experience as they will learn to read and play music. This is a necessary course for students who would like to participate in band in grades 7-12. THis is a fun and exciting course that offers the following instruments: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, baritone, tuba, and percussion family.

Intermediate/Advanced Band **At least one year of playing experience in elementary school/beginning band or teacher permission needed to participate.* This is a skill-based course designed to provide students with a successful musical experience. Each student is expected to participate in after-school performances as well as daily classroom rehearsals. Musicians who successfully complete the skill-based curriculum of Advanced Band are ready to continue their musical experience at the high school level. Home practice is *required.*

Choir

If you would like to improve your singing skills or just plan love to sing, this class is for you! Singers work each quarter toward their final exam - out concert! In addition to learning songs, students will spend time perfecting rhythms, mastering vowels, singing solos (optional), reading music, and learning how to deliver the meaning of each song to our audience.

Ensemble

**Students who would like to be in this class in 8th grade must have a minimum ½ year choir experience in 7th grade.* This group performs more difficult repertoire, at a higher level of musicianship and commitment. All 7th graders with at least ½ year of choir experience are welcome and auditions may occur.

Orchestra

This course is offered for students who play the orchestral string instruments: violin, viola, cello and string bass. Individuals signing up for orchestra must be able to read music and have at least one year of playing experience on their instrument. In addition to the regular class time, students are expected to practice at home and attend four to five evening concerts per school year.

Thoughts and Questions to ask:

Medford School District provides equal opportunity and access to all educational services, facilities, and/or employment to every person. Medford School District does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, martial status, religion, national origin, age, or disability. Inquires or complaints regarding the District's non-discrimination policies and compliance can be directed to:

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