MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS

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Middle School Course Guide

for the

2027 - 2028 School Year

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Michigan City Area Schools
Opportunity ★ Excellence ★ Pride

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Barker Middle School

STEM Course of Studies

	Grade 7	Grade 8
Core Classes	**Literacy/Language Arts** **Math** **Science** **Social Studies**	**Literacy/Language Arts** **Math** **Science** **Social Studies**
Related Arts (Directed Classes) Semester Class	**Wellness** **Gateway**	**Wellness** **Gateway** **College & Careers**
Related Arts (Choice Classes) Full Year Class	*Choose One:* **Band** **Chorus** **Digital Art I** **STEM Careers**	*Choose One:* **Band** **Chorus** **Digital Art II** **STEM Careers** **Spanish** **Citizenship & Civics**

Band, Chorus, Digital Art, & STEM Careers are year-long or 2 semesters.
All other courses are 1 semester each.

HIGH ABILITY: Course options will be available for identified high ability students, grades 7-8, in math, literacy/language arts, and related to the magnet theme of Barker Middle School.
Limited courses available for high school credit.

Barker Middle School

STEM & High Ability Course Descriptions

STEM COURSES

GATEWAY Prepares students for the ever-changing world of computers through the Project Lead the Way curriculum. 7th graders study Computer Science for Innovators and Makers. Students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. 8th graders study App Creators. Students will be exposed to computer science by computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development.

DIGITAL ART II (8TH GRADE) This course allows students to review and show off their digital design skills by independently creating a digital portfolio using different programs. Students will be exposed to the many career choices in digital art and graphic design. They will also employ skills and techniques digital media programs offer for advanced users.

DIGITAL ART I (7TH GRADE) Students will explore digital art methods through designing logos, digitally manipulating and enhancing photographs, and creating photo collages, flyers, and posters as a means of communicating their message effectively through effective graphic layouts and designs.

STEM CAREER DEVELOPMENT This course utilizes design, modeling, and manufacturing concepts and allows students to discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. Throughout the unit, they explore the concepts of design and modeling through a multitude of perspectives, such as conceptual modeling, mathematical modeling, and solid modeling. The course also provides a real-world connection to careers and reflects what is happening in STEM-related fields, resulting in a more engaging and meaningful learning experience for students as they can more clearly see the opportunities of their future.

HIGH ABILITY COURSES

HA PRE-ALGEBRA (7TH GRADE) This course is designed for students who are on track to take Algebra I in eighth grade. Instruction will include the application of skills to prepare students for Algebra I. The curriculum will include computation with rational numbers; conversions among fractions, decimals, and relations and functions; surface area and volume; linear equations and inequalities; data collection and display including box plots and scatter plots; probability for simple events; probability of independent and dependent events; and theoretical probabilities and experimental results.

HA ALGEBRA (8TH GRADE) Algebra I continues the study of algebraic concepts including operations with real numbers and polynomials, relations and functions, creation and application of linear functions and relations, and an introduction to nonlinear functions. Appropriate technology, from manipulative to computers, will be used regularly for instruction and assessment. To receive high school credit, students must earn a grade of “C” or higher, receive their teacher's recommendation, and must earn either 2 math credits or 2 credits in physics during the student’s last two years in high school.

HA ELA (7TH & 8TH GRADE) The high-ability classes follow the same curriculum pace as the general reading and language arts class, however, additional components are added to challenge this group of high achievers. Along with higher-level text and discussions, more advanced writing standards are required from the students while they learn rigorous writing skills and strategies. Additional reading requirements must be met throughout each quarter to meet the demands of this challenging class.

English 9 Academic Honors is designed for self-directed students who enjoy a challenging, accelerated learning environment and who have demonstrated highly proficient skills in reading, vocabulary development, and oral and written communication. Course content will focus on the seven Indiana Language Arts standards and the newly adopted National Core standards through integrated units of study in literature, composition, grammar, and vocabulary. The course of study is differentiated from the regular 9th grade curriculum in that it is fast-paced, in-depth, and based on previous student mastery of skills. It offers students a chance to engage in higher-level critical thinking skills including analysis and evaluation of literature. Students will also be required to read and analyze at least one novel per quarter; to demonstrate above-average writing skills in frequent, varied writing assignments; complete multimedia presentations; and utilize applied analysis in a variety of genres. Technology including the computer will be used to support the writing and learning process.
This course will use AP Curriculum and will be limited to identified High Ability students.

Krueger Middle School

Environmental Science Course of Studies

	Grade 7	Grade 8
Core Classes	**Literacy/Language Arts** **Math** **Science** **Social Studies**	**Literacy/Language Arts** **Math** **Science** **Social Studies**
Rotation I **(Directed Rotations)**	**Wellness** **Computer Science**	**Wellness** **Computer Science** **College & Careers**
Rotation II **(Choice Rotations)**	*Choose One:* **Band** **Chorus** **Environmental Science** **Digital Art**	*Choose One:* **Band** **Chorus** **Environmental Science** **Digital Art** **Spanish** **Citizenship & Civics**

Band & Chorus are year-long or 2 semesters. All other courses are 1 semester each



HIGH ABILITY: Course options will be available for identified high ability students, grades 7-8, in math, literacy/language arts, and related to the magnet theme of Krueger Middle School. **Limited courses available for high school credit.**

Krueger Middle School
Environmental Course Descriptions

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE courses use the KMS campus as an outdoor classroom. The classes are for one semester. If a student receives an A or B in both the seventh and eighth grade classes, they will receive one Environmental Science high school credit.

SEVENTH GRADE class is designed as two nine-week units and focuses on land-based activities that impact the local environment including terrestrial and atmospheric systems.

EIGHTH GRADE class is designed as two nine-week units. Students analyze interactions between plant, animal, and human activity that determine the overall health of our local habitat.

KRUEGER WELLNESS combines physical education and health classes with an environmental emphasis. The focus is the enjoyment of the outdoors, as well as education and stewardship of our natural resources. The goal is to give students the knowledge and the skills to be active in their environment and to increase participation and sensitivity to management and preservation efforts. Orienteering, outdoor lawn games, fishing, and archery are units that have been added to the curriculum.

COMPUTER SCIENCE works on preparing students for the ever-changing world of computers through the Project Lead the Way curriculum. Seventh grade studies Computer Science for Innovators and Makers. Students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. Eighth grade studies App Creators. Students will be exposed to computer science by computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development.

DIGITAL ART I — SEVENTH GRADE Students will explore digital art methods through designing logos, digitally manipulating and enhancing photographs, and creating photo collages, flyers, and posters as a means of communicating their message effectively though effective graphic layouts and designs.

DIGITAL ART II — EIGHTH GRADE This course allows students to review and show off their digital design skills by independently creating a digital portfolio using different programs. Students will be exposed to the many career choices in digital art and graphic design. They will also employ skills and techniques digital media programs offer for advanced users.



Krueger Middle School
Academic Honors Course Descriptions

<table>
<tr><th>7th GRADE</th><th>8th GRADE</th></tr>
<tr><td>7th Grade Advanced Science is an accelerated science class for students who excelled in elementary science. This class is an accelerated class that squeezes 7th and 8th grade science into one year with a faster pace and by deleting all of the life science 7th and 8th grade standards. Students who do well in this class will be eligible to take Biology in 8th grade.</td><td>Biology I is high school Biology. (Students will receive high school credit if they earn a grade of C or above.) Students focus on Biology I standards.</td></tr>
<tr><td>7th Grade Pre-Algebra prepares students for Algebra I. The curriculum includes, but is not limited to, computation with rational numbers, solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, Pythagorean Theorem, and problem solving.</td><td>Algebra I continues the study of algebraic concepts including operations with real numbers and polynomials, relations and functions, creation and application of linear functions and relations, and an introduction to nonlinear functions. Appropriate technology, from manipulative to computers, will be used regularly for instruction and assessment.

In order to receive high school credit, students must earn a grade of “C” or higher, receive their teacher’s recommendation, and earn either two (2) math credits or two (2) credits in physics during the student’s last two years in high school.</td></tr>
<tr><th>7TH & 8TH GRADE</th><td rowspan="2">English 9 Academic Honors is designed for self-directed students who enjoy a challenging, accelerated learning environment and who have demonstrated highly proficient skills in reading, vocabulary development, and oral and written communication. Course content will focus on the seven Indiana Language Arts standards and the newly adopted National Core standards through integrated units of study in literature, composition, grammar, and vocabulary. The course of study is differentiated from the regular 9th grade curriculum in that it is fast-paced, in-depth, and based on previous student mastery of skills. It offers students a chance to engage in higher-level critical thinking skills including analysis and evaluation of literature. Students will also be required to read and analyze at least one novel per quarter; to demonstrate above-average writing skills in frequent, varied writing assignments; complete multimedia presentations; and utilize applied analysis in a variety of genres. Technology, including the computer will be used to support the writing and learning process.
This course will use AP Curriculum and will be limited to identified High Ability students.</td></tr>
<tr><td>HA LANGUAGE ARTS follows the same curriculum pace as the general reading and language arts class, however, additional components are added to challenge this group of high achievers. Along with higher-level text and discussions, more advanced writing standards are required from the students while they learn rigorous writing skills and strategies. Additional reading requirements must be met throughout each quarter to meet the demands of this challenging class.</td></tr>
</table>

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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Courses offered for high school credit are the equivalent of the high school course and students must receive a grade of "C" or higher to receive high school credit. The grade(s) earned will be placed on the high school transcript and be calculated in their cumulative GPA. Eligible courses are noted throughout this course guide.

Career & Technical Education

Preparing College & Careers
Grade 8
1 Semester
This course earns 1 high school credit.

Preparing for College & Careers addresses the knowledge, skills, and behaviors all students need to be prepared for success in college, career, and life. The focus of the course is the impact of today's choices on tomorrow's possibilities. Topics to be addressed include twenty-first century life and career skills; higher order thinking, communication, leadership, and management processes; exploration of personal aptitudes, interests, values, and goals; examining multiple life roles and responsibilities as individuals and family members; planning and building employability skills; transferring school skills to life and work; and managing personal resources. This course includes reviewing the 16 national career clusters and Indiana's College and Career Pathways, in-depth investigation of one or more pathways, reviewing graduation plans, developing career plans, and developing personal and career portfolio.

Engineering & Technology Education

Computing Foundations for a Digital Age
Grade 8
1 Semester
This course earns 1 high school credit.

Computers and the internet have revolutionized the way we access and disseminate information. As technology continues to change at an ever-increasing pace, the need for students to gain a foundational understanding of computer science is clear. Computing Foundations for a Digital Age is designed to introduce students to five major topics within computer science including computing systems, networks and the internet, data and analysis, algorithms and planning, and impacts of computing. The course introduces foundational computing concepts while exploring current events and building critical thinking, collaboration, problem solving, and other important skills that are invaluable for life in a global and technologically advancing society.

Health & Wellness

Health & Wellness is a combination of physical and health education. Students participating in middle school wellness classes work both in the classroom and in physical education settings.

Health & Wellness
Grade 7-8
1 Semester Per Year
Required for all students.

Middle School Health & Wellness provides for the continued development of attitudes and behaviors related to becoming a health-literate individual as part of a planned, sequential, comprehensive health education curriculum that uses the Indiana Academic Standards for Health and Wellness to support student development of essential health skills within the ten health content areas. Developmentally appropriate concepts of personal and community health; safety and injury prevention; nutrition and physical activity, mental health; alcohol, tobacco and other drug use; and family life and human sexuality are areas of focus. The adolescent student has instructional opportunities to investigate how health behaviors impact health, well-being, and disease prevention and to accept personal responsibility for health-related decisions. Along with the current academic standards for this subject, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development.

Literacy/Language Arts

Literacy/Language Arts
Grade 7 - Core Class
2 Semesters

Literacy/Language Arts, Grade 7, based on Indiana's Academic Standards for English Language Arts, is integrated instruction emphasizing reading, writing, speaking and listening in interest-and age-appropriate content. Students develop advanced skills and strategies in reading fiction and nonfiction. They build on their understanding of root words to understand vocabulary in science, social studies, and mathematics. Writing focuses on narrative, persuasive and research papers and a variety of sentence structures. They deliver argumentative presentations that state their position in support of an argument or proposal. Students also self-select books and read for enjoyment. They also listen to literature read aloud and write independently.

Literacy/Language Arts
Grade 8 - Core Class
2 Semesters

Literacy/Language Arts, Grade 8, based on Indiana's Academic Standards for English Language Arts, is integrated instruction emphasizing reading, writing, speaking and listening in interest-and age-appropriate content. Students begin to compare different types of writing as well as different perspectives on similar topics or themes. They evaluate the logic of nonfiction text, and also read and respond to fiction text. Students self-select books and read for enjoyment. Students write narratives, persuasive essays, and research papers using a variety of techniques and sentence structures. They deliver a variety of presentations and respond to questions and concerns from the audience. Students also listen to literature read aloud to them and write independently for enjoyment.

Language Arts Lab
Grade 7 & 8
1 or 2 Semesters
Selected students based on teacher recommendations, test scores, and past performance.

Middle School Language Arts Lab is supplemental to language arts to provide students with individualized or small group instruction designed to support success in completing language arts studies aligned with Indiana's Academic Standards for English/Language Arts in grades 7-8.

English 9 Academic Honors
Grade 8
2 Semesters
This course earns 1 high school credit per semester.
This course will use AP Curriculum and will be limited to identified High Ability students.

English 9 Academic Honors is designed for self-directed students who enjoy a challenging, accelerated learning environment and who have demonstrated highly proficient skills in reading, vocabulary development, and oral and written communication. Course content will focus on the seven Indiana Language Arts standards and the newly adopted National Core standards through integrated units of study in literature, composition, grammar, and vocabulary. The course of study is differentiated from the regular 9th grade curriculum in that it is fast-paced, in-depth, and based on previous student mastery of skills. It offers students a chance to engage in higher-level critical thinking skills including analysis and evaluation of literature. Students will also be required to read and analyze at least one novel per quarter; to demonstrate above-average writing skills in frequent, varied writing assignments; complete multimedia presentations; and utilize applied analysis in a variety of genres. Technology including the computer will be used to support the writing and learning process.

Mathematics

Mathematics
Grade 7 - Core Class
2 Semesters

Mathematics, Grade 7 continues the trajectory towards a more formalized understanding of mathematics that occurs at the high school level that began in Grade 6. Students extend ratio reasoning to analyze proportional relationships and solve real-world and mathematical problems; extend previous understanding of the number system and operations to perform operations using all rational numbers; apply properties of operations in the context of algebraic expressions and equations; draw, construct, describe, and analyze geometrical figures and the relationships between them; apply understandings of statistical variability and distributions by using random sampling, making inferences, and investigating chance processes and probability models. As in all mathematics courses, the Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

Mathematics
Grade 8 (or **High Ability Grade 7**) - Core Class
2 Semesters

Mathematics, Grade 8 continues the trajectory towards a more formalized understanding of mathematics that occurs at the high school level that was begun in Grades 6 and 7. Students extend their understanding of rational numbers to develop an understanding of irrational numbers; connect ratio and proportional reasoning to lines and linear functions;

define, evaluate, compare, and model with functions; build understanding of congruence and similarity; understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem; and extend their understanding of statistics and probability by investigating patterns of association in bivariate data. As in all mathematics courses, the Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

Algebra I
Grade 8 (**High Ability**)
2 Semesters
This course earns 1 high school credit per semester.

Algebra I continues the study of algebraic concepts including operations with real numbers and polynomials, relations and functions, creation and application of linear functions and relations, and an introduction to nonlinear functions. Appropriate technology, from manipulative to computers, will be used regularly for instruction and assessment.

Middle School Mathematics Lab
Grade 7 & 8
1 or 2 Semesters
Selected students based on teacher recommendations, test scores, and past performance

Middle School Mathematics Lab provides students with individualized instruction designed to support success in completing mathematics content aligned with Indiana's Academic Standards for Mathematics. Mathematics Lab is to be taken in conjunction with the study of mathematics, and the content of Mathematics Lab should be tightly aligned to the corresponding content being studied. Mathematics Lab should relate and reinforce mathematics skills students have learned previously, fill in gaps and misconceptions of previous content, and present the current content in concrete and hands-on methods.

Science

Science
Grade 7 - Core Class
2 Semesters

Incorporating the crosscutting concepts, disciplinary core ideas, and science and engineering practices, students in grade seven apply Newton's third law, investigate what determines a change in an object's motion, determine the factors that affect the strength of electric and magnetic forces, investigate gravitational interactions and other forces. Students investigate how arrangement of objects changes the amount of potential energy in the system and what relationships affect kinetic energy in a system. Students will understand that all living things are made of cells and be able to describe the structure, function, and overall interactions of cells. Students will investigate how rock strata tell the age of the planet, how geoscience processes have changed the Earth's surface, and how Earth's materials drive cycling and flow of energy. Students will learn how previous natural catastrophes inform the development of technologies to mitigate their effects.

Science
Grade 8 - Core Class
2 Semesters

Incorporating the crosscutting concepts, disciplinary core ideas, and science and engineering practices, students in grade eight will understand basic chemistry including the atomic structure of simple elements and molecules, laws of

conservation of mass, and simple chemical reactions. They will also learn that synthetic materials come from natural resources and how substances react when thermal energy is provided to a system. Students will learn about reproduction in plants, genetic factors that influence the growth of organisms, and basic statistics of genetic variation. They will analyze the fossil record for organisms that have gone extinct that resemble organisms present today and investigate how humans can manipulate genetic traits. Students will also investigate the interactions of the Earth's systems, its climate, and its weather and how humans impact Earth's systems.

Biology I
Grade 8 - Core Class
2 Semesters
(Offered at Krueger Middle School)
This course earns 1 high school credit per semester.

Biology I provides a study of the structures and functions of living organisms and their interactions with their environment. At a minimum, this study explores the functions and processes of cells, tissues, organs, and systems within various species of living organisms and the roles and interdependencies of organisms within populations, communities, ecosystems, and the biosphere. Students have opportunities to:

(1) gain an understanding of the history of the development of biological knowledge,
(2) EXPLORE THE USES OF Biology in various careers, and
(3) cope with biological questions and problems related to personal needs and social issues.

In order to receive high school credit, students must earn a grade of "C" or higher and take the ILEARN Biology Exam.

Social Studies

Social Studies
Grade 7 - Core Class
2 Semesters

Students in grade seven explore the history, geography, civics and government, economic systems, current issues, and cultures of the Eastern World with an emphasis on: (1) Asia, (2) Africa, (3) the Middle East, (4) the Pacific Islands, (5) Australia, and (6) New Zealand. Learning experiences for students in grade seven should help them to make the transition from concrete information to abstract ideas, concepts, and generalizations. In-depth studies provide greater understanding of environmental influences on economic, cultural, and political institutions. Opportunities to develop thinking and research skills include reading and interpreting maps, graphs, and charts. Decision-making and problem-solving activities should include the following: (1) identifying problems, issues and questions; (2) information gathering; (3) hypothesizing; and (4) evaluating alternative solutions and actions. Along with the current academic standards for this subject, the History/Social Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development.

Social Studies
Grade 8 - Core Class
2 Semesters

Students in grade eight focus on United States history. This study begins with a brief review of early history, including the Revolution and Founding Era, and the principles of the United States and Indiana constitutions, as well as other founding documents and their applications to subsequent periods of national history and to civic and political life. Students then

study national development, westward expansion, social reform movements, the Civil War, and the Reconstruction Period. Students examine major themes, issues, events, movements, and figures in United States history through the Reconstruction Period (1877) and explore relationships to modern issues and current events. Along with the current academic standards for this subject, the History/Social Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development.

Citizenship & Civics
Grade 8
2 Semesters

Citizenship & Civics is an overview of citizenship roles and responsibilities designed to help students become independent thinkers and conscientious citizens. This course deals with political trends and behavior which citizens consider to be relevant to the most pressing issues of the day. The course provides students with experiences that will develop attitudes of citizenship within a democratic society. Topics include: (1) the policymaking process, (2) public participation in policymaking, (3) citizenship rights and responsibilities in a changing society, and (4) the relationship between modern society and government. Study of the local government should be a component of this course. The course is project based, and students complete 3-4 projects during the course.

Special Education

The following courses will be implemented in accordance with each student's Individual Education Plan. The courses will be taught in accordance with Indiana College & Career Ready Standards with a variety of methodologies and instructional strategies being utilized to assist each student to reach their full potential.

⭐Only for students in the certificate track for graduation.

Learning Lab
2 Semesters

Resource is open to students at all grade levels. It is designed to assist students with assignments from the general education classroom and their goals listed on their IEP. Resource also provides the opportunity for the students to have tests read and other adaptations that require the resource setting.

Life Skills Curriculum⭐

The Life Skills Curriculum is one that seeks to enhance a person's ability to become a vital and active participant in their home, workplace, and community. All instruction is in accordance with each student's IEP. In all classes in the Life Skills Curriculum, students work on learning to demonstrate an awareness of their own feelings as well as those of others and taking responsibility for their own behavior. The curriculum is based on the State Standards outlined on the ISTAR, state assessment. All students participating in this curriculum will participate in the ISTAR or the ISTEP state assessments.

Functional Academics⭐
2 Semesters

Functional Academics class focuses on the necessary math and reading skills needed to live and work in the community. Students will work on skills such as money, shopping, finances, banking, budgeting, functional sight words, communication skills, telling time and temperature, current events, and scheduling.

Personal Management⭐
2 Semesters

In Personal Management classes students are required to demonstrate, to the best of their ability, homemaking skills needed to maintain both home and budget, display problem-solving skills that are adequate for dealing with daily situations, and demonstrate the ability to develop and follow a schedule. Students improve basic grooming and hygiene skills necessary for the maintenance of personal health. They work on developing an understanding of the cycle of life and their related responsibilities. Within the community students generalize these skills in a real life environment while increasing their knowledge of community services and resources. *(This class is offered in a two-period block to allow for community interactions.)*

Recreation and Leisure⭐
2 Semesters

Recreation and Leisure skills provide students with an opportunity to learn to interact more appropriately with their peers and others in leisure settings, both within the school environment and in the community. Students work on skills such as following rules, taking turns, sharing, and using appropriate social etiquette, among others. Students learn to interact in more ways to be able to make use of the wide range of recreational resources within the community.

Vocational Training⭐
2 Semesters

Vocational Training is a four-year course of study designed to prepare students with special needs for the world of work. Students are placed at in-school training sites to work on skills such as following directions, interactions with coworkers, accomplishment of tasks, and other related work skills. As students mature in these skills, they may be placed at job sites outside the school environment. These work sites prepare students to be active, vital participants in the community. (*This class is offered in a two-period block to allow for community interactions.*)

Visual Performing Arts

Instrumental Music (Band)
Grades 7-8
2 Semesters

Instrumental Music, Middle Level is based on the Indiana Academic Standards for Ensemble Music and provides students the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills learned in the elementary music curriculum by beginning or continuing to play an instrument. The instrumental classes provide instruction in any of the following areas: strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, guitar, and keyboard instruments, including electronic instruments. Ensemble and solo activities are designed for students to develop basic elements of musicianship including tone production, technical skills, and intonation. Activities include improvising; composing; reading, notating, and sight-reading music; listening; analyzing; evaluating; and experiencing historically significant styles of literature. Students are given opportunities to participate in performances outside of the school day that support and extend the learning in the classroom. Along with the current academic standards, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated in the teaching of this subject with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development.

Vocal Music (Chorus)
Grades 7-8

2 Semesters

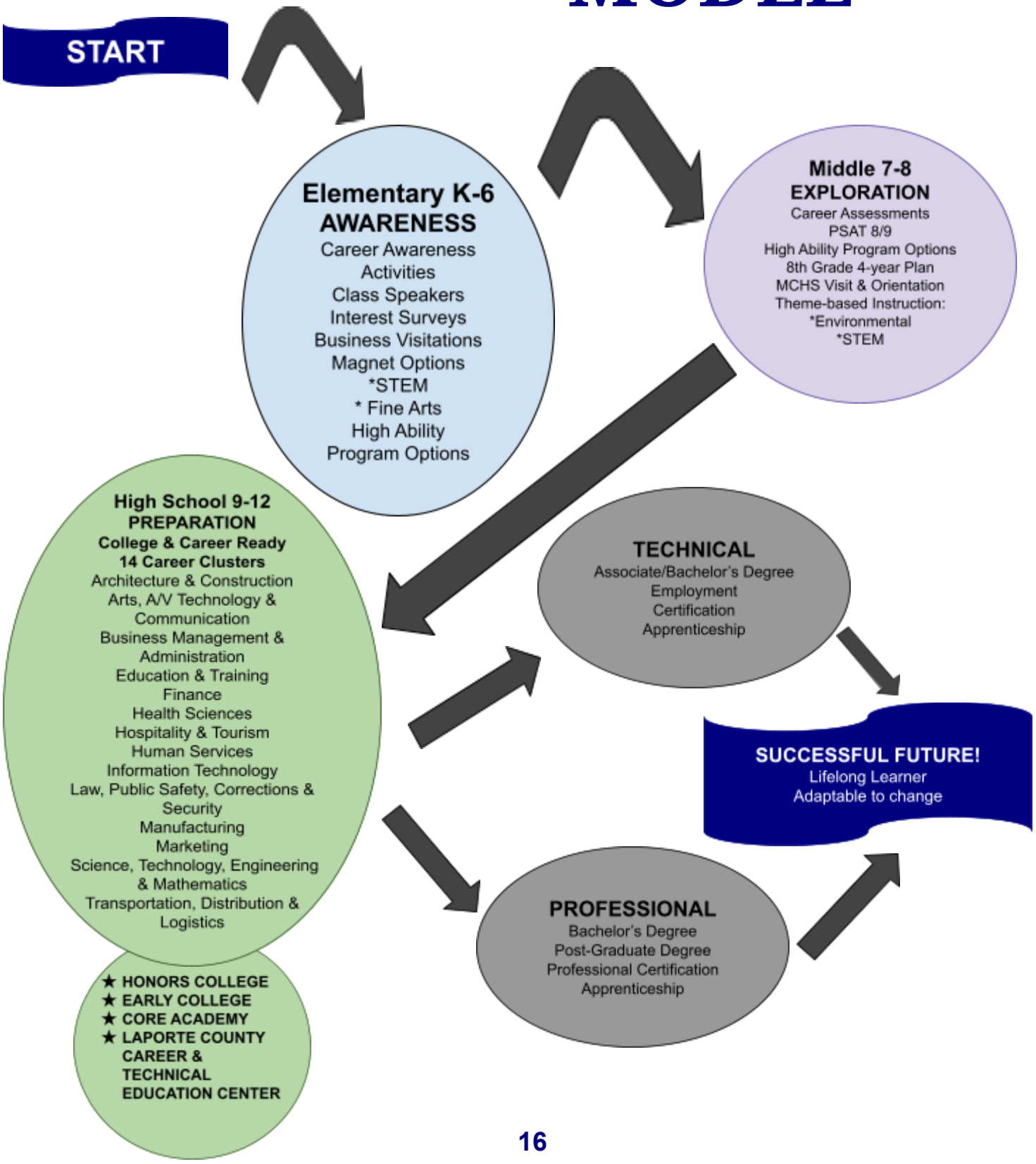
Vocal Music Middle Level is based on the Indiana Academic Standards for Music and provides students the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills learned in the elementary music curriculum by participating in choral ensemble classes. Ensemble classes provide group and solo activities and are designed to develop students' musicianship including vocal production, technical skills, and intonation. Activities and experiences include improvising and composing music; listening to, analyzing, and evaluating music; and performing vocal literature of various styles, historical periods, and world cultures. Students also participate in performance opportunities outside of the school day that support and extend the learning in the classroom. Along with the current academic standards, the Science/Technical Studies Content Area Literacy Standards are incorporated in the teaching of this subject with the expectation of a continuum of reading and writing skills development.

World Languages

Spanish I
Grade 8
2 Semesters
This course earns 1 high school credit per semester.

Spanish I, a course based on Indiana's Academic Standards for World Languages, introduces students to effective strategies for beginning Spanish language learning and to various aspects of Spanish-speaking culture. This course encourages interpersonal communication through speaking and writing, providing opportunities to make and respond to basic requests and questions, understand and use appropriate greetings and forms of address, participate in brief guided conversations on familiar topics, and write short passages with guidance. This course also emphasizes the development of reading and listening comprehension skills, such as reading isolated words and phrases in a situational context and comprehending brief written or oral directions. Additionally, students will examine the practices, products and perspectives of Spanish-speaking culture; recognize basic routine practices of the target culture; and recognize and use situation-appropriate non-verbal communication. This course further emphasizes making connections across content areas.

CAREER EDUCATION MODEL



INDIANA DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

CURRENT & FUTURE INDIANA DIPLOMA: COMPARISON

The new diploma structure includes a base (minimum requirements) for every student, plus the opportunity to earn readiness seals aligned with their unique path. Students are encouraged to seize this flexibility by personalizing their high school experience. The new seals provide additional intentionality to maximize readiness and are designed to be permeable, allowing students to update their graduation plan and pivot, if their original interests and goals change. Students who do not earn a seal must still complete components 2 and 3 of Graduation Pathways.

	CURRENT INDIANA CORE 40	FUTURE NEW INDIANA DIPLOMA
ENGLISH	8 CREDITS	8 CREDITS • 2 credits: English 9 • 1 credit: Communications-focused course • 5 additional English credits
MATH	6 CREDITS • 2 credits: Algebra I • 2 credits: Geometry • 2 credits: Algebra II	7 CREDITS • 2 credits: Algebra I • 1 credit: Personal Finance • 4 additional math credits
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND ENGINEERING	6 CREDITS • 2 credits: Biology I • 2 credits: Chemistry 1, Physics I, or Integrated Physics • 2 credits: Any Core 40 science course	7 CREDITS • 2 credits: Biology I • 1 credit: Computer Science • 2 additional science credits • 2 STEM-focused credits
SOCIAL STUDIES	6 CREDITS • 2 credits: U.S. History • 1 credit: U.S. Government • 1 credit: Economics • 2 credits: World History/Civilization or Geography/History of the World	5 CREDITS • 2 credits: U.S. History • 1 credit: U.S. Government • 2 credits: World Perspectives (Flexible options, including advanced world language or world-focused social studies courses)
PE/HEALTH	3 CREDITS • 2 credits: Physical Education • 1 credit: Health & Wellness	2 CREDITS • 1 credit: Physical Education • 1 credit: Health & Wellness
DIRECTED ELECTIVES	5 CREDITS Any combination of World Languages, Fine Arts, and/or Career & Technical Education	N/A
PERSONALIZED ELECTIVES	6 CREDITS	12 CREDITS Students are encouraged to utilize the new readiness-seals to align these personalized electives with their unique goals. Personalized electives can include a variety of courses, such as CTE, Performing or Fine Arts, and World Languages.
COLLEGE & CAREERS	N/A	1 CREDIT • 1 credit: Preparing for College & Careers
TOTAL	40 CREDITS	42 CREDITS

Hoosier high school students have the opportunity to earn approximately 60 credits.

Note: The federally-required alternate diploma for students in special education with a significant cognitive disability is still available.

Blueprint for Success: Readiness-Seals

Readiness seals are meant to be flexible, so students can change their graduation plans if their interests or goals change. While earning these seals is optional, we encourage students to use the guidelines below to help them earn credits in a way that connects to their future goals. Students can earn one seal or multiple seals and should consider their plans for after high school when making their course selections. Completing any seal will fulfill the requirements for graduation pathways. For more information, visit the Indiana Department of Education website: https://www.in.gov/doe/diplomas/#Final_Diploma_Rule

ENROLLMENT SEALS

Thinking of attending a two (2) or four (4) year college or university, follow the course requirements below. For example, looking to apply to IU Bloomington, Purdue, Notre Dame, Butler, or any other institution immediately after high school. Earning the enrollment seal can also support students that are enlisting in the military or joining the workforce.

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Complete at least 4 World Language and 6 Social Studies credits
Complete at least 8 Math credits

Algebra I plus Geometry, Algebra II, and Pre-Calculus or any advanced math credits aligned to their course of study

Complete at least 6 Science credits

Biology I plus Chemistry and Physics or any advanced lab science credits aligned to their course of study

Earn a C or higher in ALL courses and earn a cumulative B average
Complete ONE of the following:

Earn 4 credits in AP, IB, or Cambridge courses and take corresponding exams
Earn 6 college credits
Score a 1250 on the SAT or a 26 on the ACT
Earn two of the following:

At least 3 college credits
2 credits in AP courses and take corresponding exams
2 credits in IB courses and take corresponding exams
2 credits in Cambridge courses and take corresponding exams

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<td>Earn the Honors Enrollment Seal, <u>plus:</u>

Earn a credential of value* that may include for example:

Associate degree;
Technical Certificate;
Indiana College Core;
AP Scholar with Distinction;
Cambridge AICE Diploma; or
IB Diploma

Complete at least 75 hours of work-based learning (may include multiple experiences that are paid, unpaid, on-site, or simulated)
Demonstrate skill development in the following areas: Communication, Collaboration, and Work Ethic

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*Note: the credential of value levels are currently being determined by business and industry.

EMPLOYMENT SEALS

Thinking of an apprenticeship, trade/technical school or entering the workforce, follow the course requirements below. For example, applying for an apprenticeship, a CTE program at Ivy Tech, or looking to enter the workforce immediately after high school.

	• Complete one of the following:
	  ○ A market-driven credential of value* aligned to a specific occupation
	  ○ 3 courses in a Career and Technology Education (CTE) pathway
	  ○ An approved career preparation experience aligned to Indiana's CSA program, or
	  ○ An approved, locally-created pathway
	• Complete 150 hours of work-based learning (may include multiple experiences that are paid, unpaid, on-site, or simulated)
	• Demonstrate skill development in Communication, Collaboration, and Work Ethic
	• Meet attendance goal

	Earn the Honors Employment Seal, **plus:**
	
	• Earn a market-driven credential of value* that may include for example:
	  ○ Associate degree;
	  ○ Technical Certificate;
	  ○ Indiana College Core; or
	  ○ Advanced industry certificate
	• Complete additional work-based learning (total of 650 hours in one or more experiences) that may include, for example:
	  ○ Pre-Apprenticeship
	  ○ Modern Youth Apprenticeship
	• Demonstrate skill development in Communication, Collaboration, Work Ethic, and any additional skills determined locally

*Note: the credential of value levels are currently being determined by business and industry.

ENLISTMENT & SERVICE SEALS

Thinking of entering the military, follow the course requirements below. For example, wanting to enlist in the Armed Forces immediately after high school.

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Complete one of the following:

Introduction to Public Service course or approved locally-created equivalent

Emphasis on developing an awareness of the physical standards and character required for service

One year of JROTC in high school

Achieve a score of 31 on the ASVAB and complete one of the following:

All three components of the Career Exploration Program
A career exploration tool approved by IDOE

Meet attendance goal
Demonstrate skill development in Communication, Collaboration, and Work Ethic

Externally verified through a mentorship experience with current military personnel, veterans, or other public safety professionals

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<td>Earn the Honors Enlistment Seal, <u>plus:</u>

Complete one of the following:

Achieve a score of 50 or higher on the ASVAB
Enrollment in ROTC at the collegiate level
Acceptance to a service academy

Demonstrate excellence in leadership through one of the following:

Completion of at least 100 hours of public service;
Holding a leadership role in a co/extracurricular activity;
Completion of two seasons of a team-based physical sport or activity

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*Note: the credential of value levels are currently being determined by business and industry.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Michigan City Area Schools
Opportunity ★ Excellence ★ Pride

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