

Linden Middle School



Course Guide

2025-2026



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This guide has been developed to help you better understand the courses and requirements for each grade level at LMS.

Each middle school student is required to take the core courses of Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

In addition to core courses, students will have two periods of Exploratory classes. Most Exploratory classes rotate each quarter, with the exception of Band (*full year*) and Spanish I (*full year*).

Most Exploratory classes cannot be repeated within a school year, but there are some exceptions, such as Physical Education.

Finally, all students at LMS begin their days with Eagle Time, a period focused on community building and social-emotional learning. All students also have a SOAR Time towards the middle of the day, focused on academic success and ownership of learning.

Some grades have specific Exploratory Requirements that students must meet:

6th Grade

- Language Arts (*full year*)
- Math (*full year*)
- Science (*full year*)
- Social Studies (*full year*)
- Positivity Project (*quarter*)
- PE (*quarter*)

7th Grade

- Language Arts (*full year*)
- Math (*full year*)
- Science (*full year*)
- Social Studies (*full year*)
- Healthy Living (*quarter*)
- EDP: Careers & Communication (*quarter*)
- PE (*quarter*)

8th Grade

- Language Arts (*full year*)
- Math (*full year*)
- Science (*full year*)
- Social Studies (*full year*)
- PE (*quarter*)
- EDP (*quarter*)

6th Grade Core Classes

Language Arts 6 *(full year)*

Instruction is primarily based on the SAVVAS/Realize "My Perspectives" program, which includes both the consumable workbook and online resources. We explore five main thematic units: Growing Up, Natural Allies, Living with Technology, Imagined Worlds, and Extraordinary People. All of our reading and writing activities are designed to explore these central themes. To broaden their literary experience, students also read whole class novels and participate in engaging literature circles, where they read, discuss, and analyze books with small groups of their peers. Writing assignments include poetry, personal narratives, short research reports, comparison and contrast essays, and argumentative essays. Students use technology to compose their essays and create oral presentations.

Math 6 *(full year)*

We use a new textbook called Reveal Math, which utilizes a seamless blend of print and digital delivery and materials to engage students. To ensure student success, our instructional model is based on findings from research on teaching and learning mathematics.

Launch, Explore and Develop, Reflect and Practice

[6th Grade Math Overview 24-25](#)

Science 6 *(full year)*

Students will explore science concepts through phenomena-based learning and inquiry. The Michigan Science Standards and Next Generation Science Standards will be the basis for three-dimensional learning of the structure and properties of matter, chemical reactions, energy transfer, forces and motion, as well as waves and electromagnetic radiation.

Social Studies 6 *(full year)*

Students will explore the content using the five themes of geography, geographic tools and a spatial way of thinking. The National Geography Standards and the Michigan K12 Standards for Social Studies will be the foundation for exploring key topics in geographic regions around the world. During this course, students will demonstrate social studies research skills and those associated with geography, develop an understanding of the terms relating to geography, and compare and contrast selected regions of the world.

6th Grade Exploratory Classes

Art 6 *(quarter)*

Middle School art builds on the students' Arts Education from elementary school. Through various projects and assignments, the students are challenged to solve problems creatively, utilize and strengthen their critical thinking skills and be persistent, even when projects aren't going their way. Students are able to experiment with many different materials, subjects, and styles of art, all within historical and cultural contexts. We will practice brainstorming, sketching and planning artworks, using our materials wisely to bring our idea to life, and reflecting on how the plan differed from the final product.

Band 6 *(full year)*

6th grade is where band begins at Linden Middle School. Students learn to play one of eight instruments in one classroom. Students will learn through nursery rhymes and world famous classical music to learn new techniques and notes on their instruments. Eventually, students learn to collaborate together for a full set of songs for several concerts throughout the year. At the final concert, we learn how to play Onward Linden, our school fight song!

Computer Science 6 *(quarter)*

In 6th grade computers, students learn the basics of the Google Suite, responsible computer use, and keyboarding skills.

Through a series of assignments and engaging classroom projects, students are taught how to use

- Google Docs
- Google Sheets
- Google Slides
- Google Drawings

Students also learn how to

- use an email account
- collaborate and share projects with other students

Students will develop a basic understanding of

- internet safety
- ethical computer use
- keyboarding
- opening and closing software files
- accessing and saving to the school server
- copying and pasting files or text

- copyright laws
- searching the Internet

They will also be introduced to coding through the use of MakeCode, an online coding platform. They will have the opportunity to code small microcomputers (BrainPad Arcade) using block coding where they will create basic versions of handheld video games.

Intro to Spanish 6 *(quarter)*

The Introductory Spanish class is an introduction to the Spanish-speaking world, its language and culture. The goal of this course is to introduce students to some vocabulary and expressions in Spanish, and culture in the Spanish-speaking world.. In this course students begin to communicate in Spanish using basic structures to speak, read, write and listen in the target language. Some of the thematic units include: Greetings, the Alphabet, Numbers, cognates, days of the week, months of the year, the classroom and school, colors and parts of the body.

PE 6: Outdoor Seasons *(quarter)*

During the course of the year we will be emphasizing the importance of fitness and skill training. We will also do a modified fitness test at the beginning and end of the quarter to check for student improvement. Activities such as, but not limited to: Frisbee, soccer, football, basketball, softball, kickball, spikeball, Kan Jam.

PE 6: Winter Season *(quarter)*

During the course of the year we will be emphasizing the importance of fitness and skill training. We will also do a modified fitness test at the beginning and end of the quarter to check for student improvement. Activities such as, but not limited to: Soccer, floor hockey, basketball, volleyball, pickleball, badminton, table tennis, kickball, spikeball, Nitroball.

Positivity Project 6 *(quarter)*

This class will help you build positive relationships by recognizing character strengths in yourself and others by becoming more self-aware and empathetic.

Course Objectives

- Promote positive actions that lead to good feelings and positive self-image.
- Utilize positive actions such as problem-solving, decision-making and thinking skills.
- Exercise positive actions such as kindness, and being respectful, that allow us to get along with others.
- Promote positive actions such as admitting mistakes and taking responsibility for our actions, which allow us to be honest with others and ourselves.

- Use positive actions, such as goal-setting, that lead to personal growth and improvement.

STEM Lab 6 (*quarter*)

STEM Lab is an exciting nine week course that gives you an opportunity to use a variety of hands-on activities and computer programs to explore some of these technologies. This class is based on Creative Learning Systems Smart Lab materials, activities, and curriculum.

Class Organization

Students will work with partners or by themselves to complete various activity centers or “Engagements.” Each engagement will cover a separate technology. Some of the engagements we will be using this year are as follows:

Computer Graphics and Animation	Mechanics and Structure
Engineering	Robotics
Circuitry	Information Technology
Computer Simulation	

Study & Life Skills 6 (*trimester*)

This course is designed to equip students with essential study habits and life skills to help them succeed in middle school and beyond. Throughout the semester, we will cover practical strategies for organization, time management, effective communication, and personal well-being. This is a hands-on class where students will actively apply the skills they learn.

The class will have new content on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Tuesdays and Thursdays are designated "Independent Work & Enrichment" days, where students can work on assignments, review material, or read quietly.

Units of Study

- Unit 1: Introduction & Organization Basics
- Unit 2: Time Management & Planning
- Unit 3: Note-Taking & Active Listening
- Unit 4: Verbal Communication Skills
- Unit 5: Non-Verbal & Digital Communication
- Unit 6: Basic Financial Literacy
- Unit 7: Socio-Emotional Learning
- Unit 8: Goal Setting & Self-Motivation
- Unit 9: Problem-Solving & Decision Making
- Unit 10: Digital Citizenship & Review

7th Grade Core Classes

Language Arts 7 *(full year)*

Teachers use various resources as mentor texts including the SAVVAS/Realize “My Perspectives” consumable workbook and the online resource program. Teachers use various resources as mentor texts. Units include, but are not limited to, fiction (short stories, mystery, and mythology) and non-fiction (memoir and research). Students read the novel, *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie. Students write a memoir (personal narrative), a research paper, and an argumentative essay on various topics. Students use Chromebooks to publish writing and complete assignments.

Math 7 *(full year)*

In seventh grade, our primary resource for instruction comes from the McGraw-Hill Reveal textbook. In addition to the print textbook, students will have access to the online Reveal dashboard. This dashboard can be accessed via the internet through Clever using the student’s Google account.. The 7th-grade curriculum contains 6 main units of study: 1) The Number System, 2) Ratios and Proportional Relationships, 3) Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities, 4) Geometry, 5) Statistics, and 6) Probability. To ensure student success, our instructional model is based on findings from research on teaching and learning mathematics, which includes a Launch into the lesson, time to Explore and Develop the concept, and the opportunity to Reflect and Practice what was learned.

Science 7 *(full year)*

Students will explore science concepts through phenomena-based learning and inquiry. The Michigan Science Standards and Next Generation Science Standards will be the basis for three-dimensional learning of structure, function, and information processing, growth, development, and reproduction of organisms, natural selection and adaptations, as well as energy in ecosystems.

Social Studies 7 *(full year)*

Students will study world history in its early ages. Topics will include Foundations of History, The Rise of Civilization, Ancient Egypt and the Middle East, Ancient India, Ancient China, Ancient Greece, and Ancient Rome. We also study the origins and spread of Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Christianity, as they relate to ancient history.

7th Grade Exploratory Classes

Art 7 *(quarter)*

Middle School art builds on the students' Arts Education from elementary school. Through various projects and assignments, the students are challenged to solve problems creatively, utilize and strengthen their critical thinking skills and be persistent, even when projects aren't going their way. Students are able to experiment with many different materials, subjects, and styles of art, all within historical and cultural contexts. We will practice brainstorming, sketching and planning artworks, using our materials wisely to bring our idea to life, and reflecting on how the plan differed from the final product.

Band 7 *(full year)*

7th grade students are beginning their band experience a year later than usual this year. Students learn to play one of eight instruments in one classroom. Students will learn through nursery rhymes and world famous classical music to learn new techniques and notes on their instruments. Eventually, students learn to collaborate together for a full set of songs for several concerts throughout the year. At the final concert, we learn how to play Onward Linden, our school fight song!

Computer Science 7 *(quarter)*

In 7th grade computers, students continue to learn the basics of the Google Suite, responsible computer use, and keyboarding skills.

Through a series of assignments and engaging classroom projects, students are taught how to use

- Google Docs
- Google Sheets
- Google Slides
- Google Drawings
- Google Sites

Students also learn how to

- use an email account
- collaborate and share projects with other students

Students will be introduced to basic block coding while programming Sphero Bolts using the Sphero online platform.

EDP 7: Careers & Communication *(quarter)*

7th graders will be introduced to Xello, a career-readiness software program that will allow them to take a Matchmaker quiz and explore matched careers. They will also take a learning style assessment to better understand their strengths and possible helpful strategies for learning. We will explore types of communication: verbal, non-verbal, written, listening, and visual. Students will get a chance to practice using good communication skills through various engaging activities.

Healthy Living *(quarter)*

7th graders will be introduced to multiple health concepts throughout the quarter. These concepts include; Social & Emotional Health & Safety, Tobacco and Vaping, Alcohol & Other Drugs, Nutrition & Physical Activity, Mental Health/Illnesses/Disorders & Suicide, and HIV & STIs. Healthy Living also involves being active 2-3 days a week. Monday - Thursday we discuss the health topics above and do a variety of activities and projects that help the students further their learning. These days may also include; mediation, walking, and game play. On Friday's, the students participate in team building activities and make smoothies.

PE 7: Outdoor Seasons *(quarter)*

During the course of the year we will be emphasizing the importance of fitness and skill training. We will also do a modified fitness test at the beginning and end of the quarter to check for student improvement. Activities such as, but not limited to: Frisbee, soccer, floor hockey, football, basketball, volleyball, pickleball, badminton, table tennis, softball, kickball, spikeball, Nitroball.

PE 7: Winter Season *(quarter)*

During the course of the year we will be emphasizing the importance of fitness and skill training. We will also do a modified fitness test at the beginning and end of the quarter to check for student improvement. Activities such as, but not limited to: Frisbee, soccer, floor hockey, football, basketball, volleyball, pickleball, badminton, table tennis, softball, kickball, spikeball, Nitroball.

STEM Lab 7 *(quarter)*

STEM Lab is an exciting nine week course that gives you an opportunity to use a variety of hands-on activities and computer programs to explore some of these technologies. This class is based on Creative Learning Systems Smart Lab materials, activities, and curriculum.

Class Organization

Students will work with partners or by themselves to complete various activity centers or “Engagements.” Each engagement will cover a separate technology. Some of the engagements we will be using this year are as follows:

Computer Graphics and Animation

Virtual Architecture

Mechanics and Structure

Engineering

Circuitry

Multimedia and Production

Information Technology

Computer Simulation

World Languages 7 *(quarter)*

World Languages is a class in which students explore some basic skills in Spanish and French. Students will learn how to speak, write, read, and listen in the target languages as well as learn about culture in Spanish and French speaking countries. Some of the topics we will be exploring in both languages include numbers, days of the week, months of the year, birthdays, age, animals and colors. We will also be comparing and contrasting the similarities and differences between the two target languages as well as the English language. Furthermore, we will be doing a country research project where all students will be choosing a world language based on interest, and /or on their own heritage.

8th Grade Core Classes

Language Arts 8 (*full year*)

Teachers use various resources as mentor texts including the SAVVAS/Realize “My Perspectives” consumable workbook. Students also use the online program “Success Maker” to practice grammar, spelling, and reading comprehension skills at their individual reading level. Students complete novel studies on *The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton and *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. Students do an extensive study of the Holocaust and read the play version of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Students read independent choice novels and complete book projects. Students write personal narratives, biography research essays, and argumentative essays on various topics. Students are encouraged to level up their speaking and listening skills by participating in Socratic Seminars.

Algebra I (*full year*)

Algebra 1 is a full year course designed for the student who has shown proficiency in basic mathematics. Topics included in the course are linear functions and their graphs, solutions to open sentences and word problems in one and two variables, exponential and quadratic functions and their graphs, polynomial and rational expressions, and the use of calculators.

Math 8 (*full year*)

In eighth grade, our primary resource for instruction comes from the McGraw-Hill Reveal textbook. In addition to the print textbook, students will have access to the online Reveal dashboard. This dashboard can be accessed via the internet through Clever using students’ Google accounts. The 8th grade curriculum contains 6 main units of study: 1) Real Numbers, Exponents and Scientific Notation, 2) Proportional and Nonproportional Relationships and Functions, 3) Solving Equations and Systems of Equations, 4) Transformational Geometry, 5) Measurement Geometry, 6) Statistics. To ensure student success, our instructional model is based on findings from research on teaching and learning mathematics, which includes a Launch into the lesson, time to Explore and Develop the concept, and the opportunity to Reflect and Practice what was learned.

Science 8 (*full year*)

Students will explore science concepts through phenomena-based learning and inquiry. The Michigan Science Standards and Next Generation Science Standards will be the basis for three-dimensional learning of space systems, the history of Earth, Earth’s systems, weather and climate, as well as human impacts on Earth.

Social Studies 8 *(full year)*

This course examines US History from the American Revolution through Reconstruction, focusing on key themes like founding documents, government structures, westward expansion, and the Civil War. Students analyze primary sources and develop historical reasoning skills to understand how events shaped American democracy.

History Alive! The United States Through Industrialism, published by Teacher's Career Institute (TCI), immerses students in a powerful journey through the history of the United States from its earliest foundations to the age of industrialism.

8th Grade Exploratory Classes

Art 8 *(quarter)*

Middle School art builds on the students' Arts Education from elementary school. Through various projects and assignments, the students are challenged to solve problems creatively, utilize and strengthen their critical thinking skills and be persistent, even when projects aren't going their way. Students are able to experiment with many different materials, subjects, and styles of art, all within historical and cultural contexts. We will practice brainstorming, sketching and planning artworks, using our materials wisely to bring our idea to life, and reflecting on how the plan differed from the final product.

Band 8 *(full year)*

8th grade band consists of students with 6 months of experience and students who are starting brand new! This class moves a little faster than 6th or 7th grade bands. This expedited learning experience will launch our band members into a world of music that brings them to playing multiple parts within each section and increasing their musical independence.

Business & Gaming *(quarter)*

This course merges the dynamic worlds of gaming and business. Students will explore the burgeoning esports industry, learning about its history, culture, and economic impact. Alongside this, they will develop a strong foundation in entrepreneurial principles, including business planning, marketing, and team management. Through hands-on projects, students will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge by creating and managing their own esports-related ventures.

Choir 8 *(quarter)*

In choir, we learn to use the voice to express ourselves through song. Students will learn how to match pitch. Singing through scales, using Solfege, helps establish a center of sound within the ensemble. Students will also build more confidence in their voices through the middle school years.

EDP 8 *(quarter)*

The purpose of the EDP (Education Development Plan) & Career Exploration course is to prepare students for their future in high school and beyond. The work done in this course will give students the opportunity to build self-knowledge and learn how to explore careers based on their interests, skills, preferences and aspirations. They will explore their options

and learn about a variety of possibilities and educational pathways by engaging in activities and lessons. They will then create a plan that includes the steps needed to achieve school, career and life goals. Students will develop an understanding that as they change, gain experiences, build skills and increase their knowledge they can reassess their goals and plans to create a new plan for their future career and life goals. In this class 8th grade students will use a variety of tools to assist in their exploration along with Xello, a college and career readiness program to create and develop their EDP.

Media Production 8 *(quarter)*

In media production class, students are able to be a part of the media production team responsible for collaborating and putting the morning announcements together on a daily basis. The students will work individually and in groups to create a wide variety of projects. They will learn to use the video editing software, Final Cut Pro and iMovie. Students film an assortment of school events and topics to be shared with their school community.

This class introduces the basics of video production utilizing camcorders, video editing software and digital work flows. We study video technologies, basic equipment operation, video composition, audio production and visual storytelling.

Students work in groups to create projects for a variety of purposes and audiences. They will become aware of assorted multimedia tools that can be used to enhance future educational or work-related projects and presentations.

PE 8: Outdoor Seasons *(quarter)*

During the course of the year we will be emphasizing the importance of fitness and skill training. We will also do a modified fitness test at the beginning and end of the quarter to check for student improvement. Activities such as, but not limited to: Frisbee, soccer, floor hockey, football, basketball, volleyball, pickleball, badminton, table tennis, softball, kickball, spikeball, Nitroball.

PE 8: Winter Season *(quarter)*

During the course of the year we will be emphasizing the importance of fitness and skill training. We will also do a modified fitness test at the beginning and end of the quarter to check for student improvement. Activities such as, but not limited to: Frisbee, soccer, floor hockey, football, basketball, volleyball, pickleball, badminton, table tennis, softball, kickball, spikeball, Nitroball.

Spanish I *(full year)*

Spanish I is a valuable class that introduces students to speaking, writing, listening, and reading in Spanish. Students will learn cultural differences and similarities between the United States and Spanish speaking countries. These topics will include but are not limited to the ACTFL's standard: historic events, political figures, political issues, economy, imports, exports, geography, major cities, climate, current events, daily routines, food, health, activities, time with family and friends, holidays, festivals, art, music, sports, and icons from the past and present. You will learn important grammar concepts and vocabulary based on thematic units. You will take verbal tests, make videos, and do presentations that will encourage you and your classmates to speak in the target language. This Spanish class is a High School level class and students that pass the class shall receive HS credit. Therefore, students will be prepared to take Spanish II in 9th grade if they attend Linden High School.

STEM Lab 8 *(quarter)*

STEM Lab is an exciting nine week course that gives you an opportunity to use a variety of hands-on activities and computer programs to explore some of these technologies. This class is based on Creative Learning Systems Smart Lab materials, activities, and curriculum.

Class Organization

Students will work with partners or by themselves to complete various activity centers or "Engagements." Each engagement will cover a separate technology. Some of the engagements we will be using this year are as follows:

Graphics and Animation

Virtual Architecture

Mechanics and Structure

Engineering

Circuitry

Multimedia and Production

Information Technology

Computer Simulation

Study & Life Skills 8 *(quarter)*

This course is designed to equip students with essential **study habits and life skills** for academic and personal success. We will cover a range of practical strategies, from managing your time and organizing your materials to communicating effectively and handling stress. This is a hands-on class where you will actively apply what you learn to your schoolwork and daily life.

The class meets on **Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays** for new content. **Tuesdays and Thursdays** are "Catch-Up Days" for working on assignments, reviewing material, or reading.

Units of Study

- Unit 1: Introduction & Organization
- Unit 2: Time Management & Planning
- Unit 3: Effective Note-Taking
- Unit 4: Reading Comprehension
- Unit 5: Test-Taking & Memory
- Unit 6: Goal Setting & Motivation
- Unit 7: Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
- Unit 8: Communication & Presentation
- Unit 9: Stress Management & Well-being
- Unit 10: Financial Literacy

Yearbook 8 *(3 quarters- 1, 2 & 3)*

As part of the yearbook staff, students will create our school yearbook. Each staff member will be an integral part of the yearbook process. While creating the yearbook, they will learn:

- Photography
- Journalism
- Creating page layouts
- Theme development
- Marketing
- Team work
- Real world skills

Their contributions will create lasting memories and a lifelong middle school experience in the form of a book that THEY will create.