

# **PROGRAM OF STUDIES 2025 - 2026**

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# **FJHS DIRECTORY**

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| TEACHING STAFF                          |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| 6th GRADE                               | 7TH GRADE                                 | 8TH GRADE                                 |  |
| Mindy Banks, English Language Arts      | Chrissie Blevins, English Lang Arts       | Harry Applegate, Science                  |  |
| Kimberly Daly, Math                     | Rachel Chamberlain, Science               | Eileen Ebeling, Math                      |  |
| Andy Enneking, Social Studies           | Kelly Courtney, Math                      | Matt Franklin, American History           |  |
| Jennifer Hillard, Social Studies        | Chelsea Jewell, Int Specialist            | Kristopher Gould, Intervention Specialist |  |
| Tyler Jewell, Intervention Specialist   | Heather Johnson, Int Specialist           | Chris Harris, Science                     |  |
| Kaitlyn Kibler, Intervention Specialist | Stephanie Jones, Eng Lang Arts            | Matt Kinser, American History             |  |
| Erin Maly, Math                         | Katie Kinser, Science                     | Nicole Lamb, Math                         |  |
| Miranda Manis, Science                  | Joe Lewis, Social Studies                 | Amanda Moore, Intervention Specialist     |  |
| Katie McFall, Intervention Specialist   | Jason Medaugh, Int Specialist             | Theo Oakley, English Language Arts        |  |
| Devon Monk, English Language Arts       | Leah Sams, Math                           | Georgia Rinck, Intervention Specialist    |  |
| Steve Sander, Intervention Specialist   | Laurie Soehner, Int Specialist            | Justin Rossi, Intervention Specialist     |  |
|   |   | Haley Saylor, English Language Arts       |  |
| ELECTIVES                               |   |   |  |
| Molly Bender, Art/Digital Art           | Jason Harris, PE/Health                   | Steven Lake, Music                        |  |
| Brad Childers, Health & PE              | Marth Janik-Landgraf, World<br>Languages  | Josh Long, Band                           |  |
| Becky Garrett, Technology               | Carolyn Kennedy, General Music &<br>Choir | Jamie Lafferty, STEM & STEM II            |  |

Dear students and families,

Franklin Junior High School is a place where everyone is welcomed, accepted, and appreciated. We have a very talented staff who is committed to serving our sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students and providing them with a world-class education. We work proactively to develop and sustain meaningful partnerships with families and community members to ensure students' personal growth. We look forward to providing students with a variety of learning experiences to help them reinforce their sense of pride, confidence, and respect in themselves. We hope every student will continue to strengthen their understanding of who they are as a person and how to value their place and the place of others in this world.

We hope this Program of Study will provide you with information and insight into our efforts to provide valuable learning opportunities for students through a rigorous curriculum. We have prioritized exploration when designing our elective paths as students move from 6th to 7th grade. Once students reach 8th grade, we have provided multiple options for students to dive deeper into content they find interesting and relevant. We have high standards and expectations for ourselves and our students and we are confident in our ability to provide students experiences that help them prepare for the "real world." We hope that each student will one day reflect on their time at Franklin Junior High School as a time that helped them develop into respectful, positive, thoughtful, and responsible members of society.

If you have any questions please reach out to anyone on our team and we will be happy to help. We look forward to partnering with you on this journey.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Alicia Mailhot

Mr. Garrett Luther

Franklin Junior High School Principal

Franklin Junior High School Assistant Principal

The Franklin City School District offers equal educational opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, gender/sex, and disability. All students of the Franklin City School District will have equal education opportunities. Students have the right to be free from discrimination on the basis of race, sex, marital status, pregnancy, national origin, citizenship status, disability, criminal record, political activity, religion, creed, or opinion in all decisions affecting admissions, membership in school-sponsored organizations, clubs, or activities, access to facilities, distribution of funds, academic evaluations or any other aspect of school-sponsored activities.

The Board of Education reserves the right to limit a student's participation in a school-sponsored activity for health and safety reasons. Any limitations with regard to participation in a school-sponsored activity will be based on criteria reasonably related to that specific activity.

In the event of any alleged discrimination because of race, color, national origin, gender/sex, and disability, the student or professional staff person should contact the Franklin City Schools Compliance Officer, Franklin City Schools, 150 East Sixth St., Franklin, Ohio, 45005 or call (937) 746-1699 for appropriate procedures.

# 6th Grade Program

#### **Course Selections**

#### Minimum Requirements

- English Language Arts 6
- Math 6
- Science 6
- Social Studies 6
- Health 6
- Physical Education 6\*\*\*
- Technology 6

Electives\*\*: Choose 1 semester class or 1 year-long class.

#### **Art Offerings:**

• Art (semester)

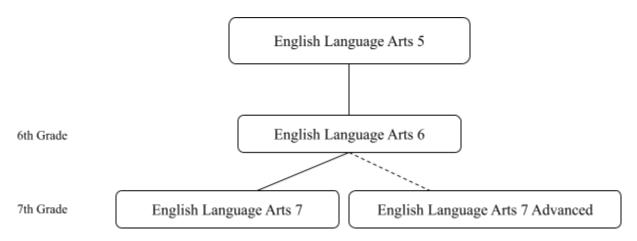
# Music offerings:

- 6th Grade Choir (semester)
- 6th Grade Band (year)\*\*\*
- 6th Grade General Music (semester)

\*\*ETEH (Extra Time, Extra Help) is designed to provide extra support for identified students in their academic classes. It also provides time for working on specific goals as identified in their IEPs. Students on 504s may also be placed in ETEH with a teacher's recommendation. Students assigned to ETEH will be placed in Health and Technology. If a student assigned to ETEH selects Band they will be exempted from the required Health, PE, and Technology courses for 6th grade.

\*\*\* Students who are in Band will not take 6th-grade Physical Education. However, they will have the opportunity to take PE in 7th and/or 8th grade.

#### English/Language Arts Course Sequence



# **English Language Arts 6**

# Prerequisite: None

Sixth graders will begin a focus on more complex texts including novels, dramas, and poems across various genres. They will increase their comprehension skills by analyzing themes, character development, and plot. They will continue to build background knowledge by connecting what they read to their own experiences. They will be expected to increase their reading stamina and comprehension abilities.

Sixth graders will explore different writing styles and purposes to develop their voice and confidence as writers. Students will be focusing on argumentative writing using clear textual evidence and logical reasoning. They will write essays, opinion pieces, and formal letters using textual evidence. They will also write informative pieces such as reports, explanations, and procedures as they learn to organize information logically with effective transitions.

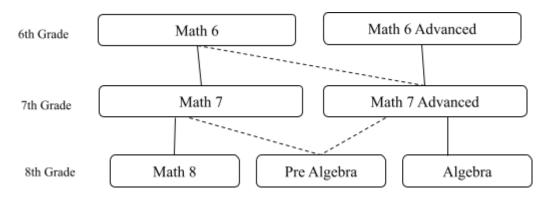
Sixth graders will participate in discussions, debates, and presentations to develop public speaking skills and active listening skills. They will integrate technology with visuals, audio, and video to enhance communication. Sixth graders will analyze and evaluate information that is presented orally to identify bias, ask clarifying questions, and form their own informed opinions. Finally, sixth graders will expand their vocabulary and learn strategies for decoding unfamiliar words. They will refine their understanding of grammar rules and sentence structure. They will use technology to research, write, and communicate while also developing critical thinking skills.

#### **English Language Arts 6 Advanced**

# Prerequisite: State and Local assessment scores/grades/recommendation

In addition to the content described above for English Language Arts 6, students will be presented with more complex reading, writing, speaking and listening, and research tasks that exceed the level of rigor demanded by the Common Core State Standards.

### Math Course Sequence



#### Math 6

# Prerequisite: None

Sixth graders will continue learning about Number Sense and Operations. By the end of sixth grade, they will be able to perform all operations with decimals fluently, including in word problems and real-world applications. Students will be introduced to complex fractions which will lay the foundation for future success in Algebra. Students will also be working with ratios and proportions by using problem-solving and exploring these relationships in a variety of contexts.

Students will be exploring 2D shapes, including the area and perimeter of composite figures. They will also work with 3D figures by finding volume and surface area. Practical applications will be emphasized to keep learning relevant and increase confidence in the real world.

By the end of sixth grade, students will also be able to write and solve simple algebraic expressions and equations which will lay the groundwork for future coursework in algebra. In addition, students will work with data as they collect, analyze, and interpret through graphs and measures of center.

#### Math 6 Advanced

# Prerequisite: State and Local assessment scores/grades/recommendation

This is the first year of a two year optional program designed to compress 6th, 7th, and 8th grade math standards into two years. The content of the first year will address all of the 6th-grade content and a portion of the 7th grade content. This course is aligned with the state standards. This course followed by Math 7 Advanced prepares students to take Algebra in 8th grade. Students in Math 6 Advanced will take the 6th grade Ohio State Test.

#### Science 6

# Prerequisite: None

Ohio's 6th-grade science curriculum emphasizes hands-on activities and experiments. Students get to test their hypotheses, gather data, and draw conclusions through engaging activities that make learning fun and memorable. Sixth graders learn to think critically, analyze information, and solve problems using scientific methods. The 6th-grade curriculum connects scientific concepts to real-world issues, encouraging students to think about the impact of science on society and their own lives.

Sixth graders will continue to learn about Earth and Space as they explore planets, moons, and other objects in the sky and learn about their unique characteristics. They will learn about rocks and

minerals and how to identify different types as well as how they were formed and their importance to our everyday lives. They will also learn about weather patterns and perform weather experiments.

In Life Science, students will explore cells and their parts, functions, and how they work together. Students will learn about diverse ecosystems and how living things interact with each other and their environment. They will also learn about the human body and its major organs and systems and how they work together to keep us healthy.

Finally, in the world of Physical Science, students will investigate the properties of matter and the flow of energy. They will explore the concepts of states of matter, forces, and motion. They will experiment with light waves and learn about reflection, refraction, shadows, and rainbows. They will also investigate the world of electricity and magnetism while they build simple circuits and explore conductors and insulators.

# Social Studies 6 Prerequisite: None

Ohio's 6th grade Social Studies curriculum encourages active learning through simulations, debates, role-playing, and collaborative projects. Students don't just passively receive information; they become detectives, uncovering knowledge through research and inquiry. Sixth graders cultivate a sense of global citizenship, understanding the interconnectedness of our world and appreciating the diversity of cultures and perspectives. They'll learn to see themselves as part of a larger global community and work towards a more peaceful and sustainable future.

Sixth graders will explore the Eastern Hemisphere and the cultures, traditions, and history of Africa, Asia, Australia, and Europe. They will learn about the rise and fall of empires, innovations, and pivotal events that shaped the Eastern Hemisphere. They will also learn about economic connections and how trade has shaped cultural exchange and global interdependence.

Sixth graders develop their critical thinking skills, learning to analyze primary sources, evaluate evidence, and form their own interpretations of historical events. Sixth graders bridge the gap between history and current events, recognizing the influence of historical forces on modern-day societies and issues.

#### **6th Grade Electives**

# **Physical Education 6**

Prerequisite: None

The Physical Education program is designed to instill in students the significance and benefits of maintaining a physically active lifestyle. The curriculum encompasses a range of advantages spanning personal health, social skills, self-esteem, motor skills, and foundational knowledge. Our academic standards in physical education aim to ensure that students not only grasp the acquired knowledge but also apply it to their daily lives. This equips them to make informed decisions, fostering a healthful lifestyle.

The course emphasizes cultivating a genuine appreciation for physical education content, preparing students to become active members of a diverse society. Students are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary for sustained physical activity throughout their lifespan. Valuing physical activity and recognizing its contribution to a healthful lifestyle are integral components of our program. We aim to nurture joy in movement, enthusiasm for physical activity, and the development of skilled performance.

Our goal is to inspire students to pursue a lifetime of healthful physical activity, encouraging the adoption of behaviors that lead to healthy and active lifestyles. To maintain the highest standards of student hygiene, each participant is required to change into proper physical education clothing daily.

#### Health 6

# Prerequisite: None

The content in this course includes patterns of a wellness lifestyle, the practice of a positive personal regimen, fundamental concepts of mental health, prescription opioid abuse prevention and the connection to other drugs, harmful effects of drugs of abuse/alcohol/tobacco/electronic smoking devices, phases of human growth and development, and the relationship between nutrition and fitness. In addition, developmentally appropriate instruction in child sexual abuse prevention, venereal disease, personal safety, and assault prevention will be provided unless a parent/guardian has submitted a written request to excuse the student from any/all of these topics.

#### Art 6

# Prerequisite: None

Students will focus on learning & mastery of the Elements of Art and be introduced to the Principles of Art through projects (both 2D & 3D), research, and writing. Each project will focus on an Element of Art, using a different type of material and technique. The class will consist of only 6th graders.

# General Music 6 Prerequisite: None

An introduction to all things music! With many activities reviewing and expanding on information learned in elementary music. Units of study include Elements of Music, Music History, Note and Rhythm Reading, and Bucket Drumming. This is not a performance class (i.e., band or choir).

# Technology 6 Prerequisite: None

Students will learn typing skills, complete research projects on how technology is constantly changing our world, and learn how to use digital learning tools and resources (such as Google) to accomplish defined tasks, locate, evaluate and use information, and construct knowledge. Students will understand the importance of digital citizenship and security. Students will be introduced to the ideas of coding such as debugging, creating algorithms, and understanding variables.

# 6th Grade Band—Instrument and Method Book required Prerequisite: None

Band is open to all students who are interested in learning to play and perform on a wind or percussion instrument (Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Tuba, Bells, Drums). This band may perform two to three formal evening concerts throughout the year. This group will focus on developing proper musicianship skills through daily rehearsals and participation. No previous experience is necessary.

# 6th Grade Choir Prerequisite: None

6th Grade Choir is for any student interested in singing in a group. No prior experience is necessary! Students will take part in this year-long class and learn the basics of vocal technique, vocal health, and music theory. This will be a co-ed class. There are 3 required evening performances throughout the year that do not conflict with school athletics or other activities.

# 7th Grade Program

# **Course Selections**

#### Minimum Requirements

- English Language Arts 7
- Math 7
- Science 7
- Social Studies 7
- STEM I (semester)
- Introduction to World Languages (semester)

Electives\*\*: Choose 2-semester classes or 1 year-long class

#### **Art Offerings:**

• Art (semester)

#### Music offerings:

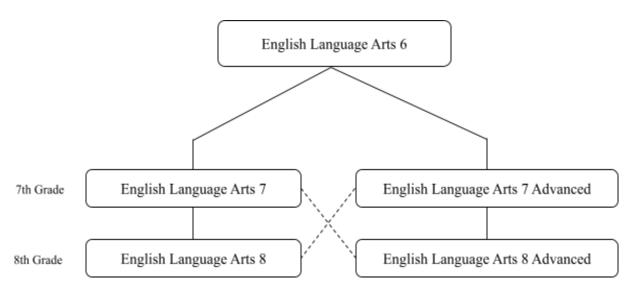
- 7th Grade Choir (year)
- 7th grade Band (year)
- 7th grade General Music (semester)

### **Physical Education Offerings**

Physical Education 7 (semester)

\*\*ETEH (Extra Time, Extra Help) is designed to provide extra support for identified students in their academic classes. It also provides time for working on specific goals as identified in their IEPs. Students on 504s may also be placed in ETEH with a teacher's recommendation. Students assigned to ETEH will be placed in STEM I and may choose one additional semester elective. Students assigned to ETEH who choose Band or Choir will have no semester elective choices.

# English/Language Arts Course Sequence



# **English Language Arts 7**

#### Prerequisite: None

Students will demonstrate an emerging sophistication in their ability to analytically read increasingly complex texts. By the end of grade seven, students should be able to recognize the interplay between setting, plot, and characters and provide an objective summary of a text apart from their reaction to it. They become adept at stepping back to compare and contrast different interpretations of a topic, identifying how authors shape their presentation of key information, and choosing to highlight certain facts over others.

In the Speaking and Listening Standards, in discussions and writing, students make their reasoning clear to their listeners and readers, constructively evaluating others' use of evidence while offering several sources to back up their claims. Their vocabulary has developed to the point where they can distinguish between denotative and connotative meanings and can analyze the effect of specific word choices on tone.

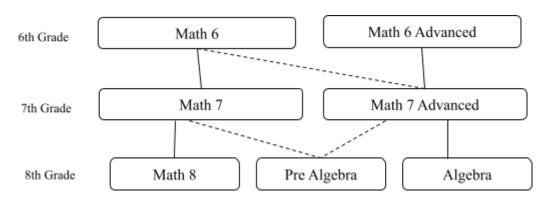
The Writing Standards specify that students can cite several sources of specific, relevant evidence when supporting their point of view about texts and topics. Their writing is more structured, with clear introductions and conclusions as well as useful transitions to create cohesion and clarify relationships among ideas. In their writing, they acknowledge the other side of a debate or an alternative perspective while avoiding any trace of plagiarism. Students will engage in both short and extended research projects to provide written analysis and present findings.

#### **English Language Arts 7 Advanced**

#### Prerequisite: State and Local assessment scores/grades/recommendation

In addition to the content described above for English/Language Arts 7, students will be presented with more complex reading, writing, speaking and listening, and research tasks that exceed the level of rigor demanded by the Common Core State Standards.

### Math Course Sequence



#### Math 7

#### Prerequisite: None

In grade seven, students will focus on four areas: (1) developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions and working with 2-D and 3-D shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. This course is aligned with the state standards.

#### Math 7 Advanced

# Prerequisite: State and Local assessment scores/grades/recommendation

This is the second year of a two-year optional program designed to compress 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade Mathematics standards into two years. The content of this course will address the remaining content from 7th grade not covered in Math 6 Advanced and the entire 8th grade Mathematics content. Upon completion of this course, students may be placed into Algebra (HS credit) or Pre-Algebra based on 7th-grade state and district assessments, as well as teacher recommendation. Students completing Math 7 Advanced will take the 7th grade Math OST.

#### Science 7

# Prerequisite: None

Students in grade seven science will focus on the major areas of Earth/Space Science, Physical Science, and Life Science. Earth/Space Science topics focus on Earth's hydrologic cycle, the relationship between thermal energy and currents, and the relative position and movement of the Earth, sun, and moon. Physical Science topics focus on the conservation of mass and energy and the transformation and transfer of energy. Life Science topics focus on the impact of matter and energy transfer within the biotic component of ecosystems. Students will use scientific processes to construct their knowledge of science concepts. This course is aligned with the state standards.

# Social Studies 7 Prerequisite: None

The seventh grade year is an integrated study of world history, beginning with ancient Greece and continuing through global exploration. All four strands of social studies are used to illustrate how historical events are shaped by geographic, cultural, economic, and political factors. Students develop their understanding of how ideas and events from the past have shaped the world today. Social Studies 7 covers 750 B.C. to 1600 A.D.: Ancient Greece to the First Global Age. This course is aligned with the state standards.

#### **7th Grade Electives**

#### Art 7

### Prerequisite: None

Students will focus on learning & mastery of both the Elements and Principles of Art through projects (both 2D & 3D), research, and writing. Projects will differ from those offered in 6th Grade so students can take 7th-grade Art whether they have taken art as 6th grader or not. Each project will focus on a specific Element and/or Principle of Art, and use a different type of material and technique. Classes will consist of only 7th graders and possibly a combination of both first & second-year students.

# General Music 7 Prerequisite: None

An introduction to the piano! Students will learn proper piano technique and how to read and perform simple melodies. Students will also learn basic music theory and music history about specific piano composers. This is not a performance group (i.e. band or choir).

# **Introduction to World Languages**

### Prerequisite: None

Students will be introduced to the language and culture of both French and Spanish. Students will have the opportunity to learn the basics of each language like learning the alphabet, colors, numbers, days of the week, and short dialogues and exposure to various customs in countries where each language is spoken.

# Physical Education 7

# Prerequisite: None

The Physical Education program is designed to instill in students the significance and benefits of maintaining a physically active lifestyle. The curriculum encompasses a range of advantages spanning personal health, social skills, self-esteem, motor skills, and foundational knowledge. Our academic standards in physical education aim to ensure that students not only grasp the acquired knowledge but also apply it to their daily lives. This equips them to make informed decisions, fostering a healthful lifestyle.

The course emphasizes cultivating a genuine appreciation for physical education content, preparing students to become active members of a diverse society. Students are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary for sustained physical activity throughout their lifespan. Valuing physical activity and recognizing its contribution to a healthful lifestyle are integral components of our

program. We aim to nurture joy in movement, enthusiasm for physical activity, and the development of skilled performance.

Our goal is to inspire students to pursue a lifetime of healthful physical activity, encouraging the adoption of behaviors that lead to healthy and active lifestyles. To maintain the highest standards of student hygiene, each participant is required to change into proper physical education clothing daily.

#### STEM I

# Prerequisite: None

STEM 1 introduces students to the fundamentals of engineering design and provides them with the tools and skills to become innovative problem solvers. Through hands-on projects and practical applications, students learn to:

- Apply the Engineering Design Process: Identify problems, research solutions, brainstorm ideas, create prototypes, test and refine designs, and communicate findings.
- Develop essential soft skills: Teamwork, communication, critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving, preparing students for future success in any field.
- Experience introductory coding: Explore basic programming concepts and languages, building a foundation for future digital literacy.
- Discover 3D printing: Understand the principles of 3D printing, design models, and utilize 3D printers to bring their ideas to life.
- Grasp Computer-Aided Drafting (CAD): Learn basic CAD principles, translate ideas into technical drawings, and develop spatial reasoning skills.

#### 7th Grade Band

# Prerequisite: None (Instrument and Method Book required)

Band members will continue to learn the fundamentals of playing a band instrument as well as full-band rehearsal skills in this daily class. Band members will develop appropriate tone quality, technique and an understanding of basic musical concepts. An emphasis on rhythm and note reading will prepare the student for 8th Grade Band. Regular practice at home is a requirement for this class, as well as attendance at all evening concerts (2-3 concerts). Students not previously enrolled in 6th Grade Beginning Band will meet with the director to determine instrument selection.

# 7th Grade Choir Prerequisite: None

7th Grade Choir is for any student interested in singing in a group. No prior experience is necessary. Students will participate in this year-long class and learn the basics of vocal technique, vocal health, and music theory. There are 3 required evening performances throughout the year that do not conflict with school athletics or other activities. This class may be co-ed pending student course requests.

# 8th Grade Program

#### **Course Selections**

#### Minimum Requirements

- English Language Arts 8
- Math 8
- Science 8
- American History 8

Electives \*\*- Choose 4 semester classes, 2 year long classes, or 1 year long and 2 semesters

#### **Art Offerings:**

- Art 8 (semester)
- Digital Art (semester)

#### World Language:

- French I\* (year)- HS credit
- Spanish I\* (year)- HS credit

### Music offerings:

- General Music 8 (semester)
- Band 8 (year)
- Wildcat Choir (year)

# **Physical Education Offerings:**

• Physical Education\* - HS credit (semester)

# <u>Technology Offerings:</u>

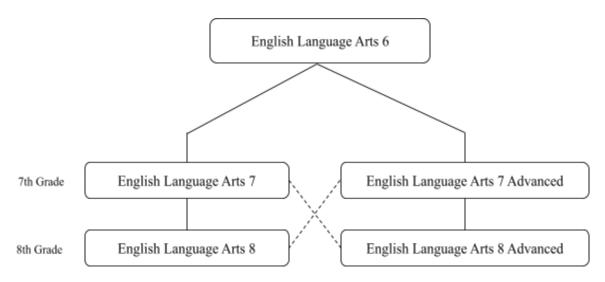
- STEM II (semester)
- Technology 8 (semester)

Study Hall will be available for students by request as space permits.

<sup>\*</sup>High school level course taken for high school credit; students must meet the requirements for Advanced ELA to be placed in Spanish or French.

<sup>\*\*</sup>ETEH (Extra Time, Extra Help) is designed to provide extra support for identified students in their academic classes. It also provides time for working on specific goals as identified in their IEPs. Students on 504s may also be placed in ETEH with a teacher's recommendation. Students assigned to ETEH will only select 1 year-long or 2-semester elective choices.

### **English Language Arts Course Sequence**



# **English Language Arts 8**

# Prerequisite: None

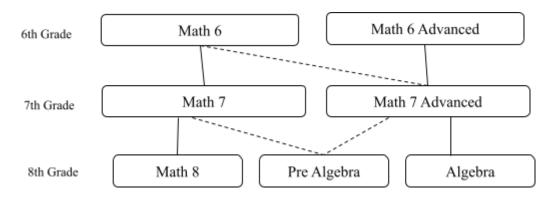
Students will interact with high-quality, increasingly complex nonfiction texts and great works of literature. Starting in grade eight, the focus of informational texts begins to shift from narrative to exposition. Students who leave grade eight know how to cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis or critique. Students will engage in both short and extended research projects to provide written analysis and present findings. The Speaking and Listening Standards detail how students are to draw evidence from what they have read, come to discussions prepared, and be able to justify their views based on evidence presented both in text and discussions. By grade eight, students have developed a rich vocabulary of academic words, which they use to speak and write with more precision. The Writing Standards specify that students should be able to distinguish their claims from alternate or opposing claims and use words and phrases to clarify the relationships and transitions among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

# **English Language Arts 8 Advanced**

#### Prerequisite: State and Local assessment scores/grades/recommendation

In addition to the content described above for English/Language Arts 8, students will be presented with more complex reading; writing, speaking, and listening; and research tasks that exceed the level of rigor demanded by the Common Core State Standards.

### Math Course Sequence



#### Math 8

#### Prerequisite: None

In grade eight, students will focus on three areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with linear equations, solving linear equations, and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and (3) analyzing 2-D and 3-D space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. This course is aligned with the state standards.

# Pre-Algebra

# Prerequisite: State and Local assessment scores/grades/recommendation

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated strong mathematical proficiency and are ready to accelerate their learning, but are not quite prepared for Algebra 1. This course will cover all 8th Grade Mathematics State Standards for Ohio, providing a deeper exploration of key concepts. In addition to the 8th-grade curriculum, this course will introduce students to foundational pre-algebra concepts, offering a preview of the skills and knowledge necessary for success in Algebra 1. This "preview" will not be a full Algebra 1 course, but rather a bridge, connecting 8th grade math to the more abstract thinking and problem-solving required in algebra. Students completing Pre-Algebra will be well-prepared to take Algebra 1 in 9th grade. Students completing this course will take the 8th grade Mathematics Ohio State Test (OST).

# <u>Algebra I</u> \*Graduation Requirement (or Applied Alg I or Honors Alg I)

# Prerequisite: State and Local assessment scores/grades/recommendation

This course is designed to focus on all major algebra concepts necessary for success in subsequent courses with an emphasis on real-world applications. Topics include functions, linear and exponential equations and graphs, manipulation of algebraic expressions, exponential expressions and solutions of equations and inequalities. Students will take the Algebra I end-of-course exam within this course.

\*Important note for students who take Algebra I in 8th grade: students who do not earn at least a B average in the course, as well as score a 3 on the End-of-Course exam, will repeat the course in 9th grade.

#### Science 8

# Prerequisite: None

Students in grade eight science will focus on the major areas of Earth Science, Physical Science, and Life Science. Earth Science topics focus on the physical features of Earth and how they are formed. This includes plate tectonics and how it shapes the Earth. Physical Science topics focus on forces and motion within, on, and around the Earth and within the universe. Life science topics focus on the diversity of species and on the continuation of species. During the years five through eight, all students will use scientific processes to construct their knowledge of science concepts. This course is aligned with the state standards.

# American History 8 Prerequisite: None

The eighth grade year continues the historical focus of European exploration and the early years of the United States. This course incorporates all four social studies strands of history, geography, government, and economics into a chronological view of the development of the United States. Students examine how historical events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic and political factors. American Studies covers 1492 to 1877: Exploration through Reconstruction. This course is aligned with the state standards.

#### **8th Grade Electives**

#### Art 8

### Prerequisite: 6th or 7th-grade Art

Students will focus on mastery of both the Elements and Principles of Art through projects (both 2D & 3D), research, and writing. Projects will differ from those offered in 6th & 7th Grade so students can be challenged as advanced artists. Each project will focus on a specific Element and/or Principle of Art, and use a different type of material and technique. Classes will consist of only 8th graders who are second-year art students. A student who is creative and has a good work ethic could be considered with teacher approval.

#### **Digital Art 8**

#### Prerequisite: 6 or 7th Grade Art

Students learn basic tools and techniques for an online editing program, then move into creative digital projects they use the learned tools and techniques to complete. Students should have a solid understanding of creativity, elements, and principles. Classes will consist of only 8th graders who are second-year art students. A student who is creative and has a good work ethic could be considered as well with teacher approval. This is a fast-paced class so students with attendance issues might struggle.

# General Music 8 Prerequisite: None

An introduction to the guitar! Students will learn proper guitar technique and how to read and perform guitar tablature. Students will also learn how to read chord windows and will study the history of Rock n' Roll. This is not a performance group (i.e. band or choir).

#### **Physical Education (HS Credit)**

**Prerequisite: None** 

For eighth-grade students, successful completion of the course qualifies them for high school physical education credit, ensuring a seamless transition to advanced levels of physical education. The Physical Education program is designed to instill in students the significance and benefits of maintaining a physically active lifestyle. The curriculum encompasses a range of advantages spanning personal health, social skills, self-esteem, motor skills, and foundational knowledge. Our academic standards in physical education aim to ensure that students not only grasp the acquired knowledge but also apply it to their daily lives. This equips them to make informed decisions, fostering a healthful lifestyle.

The course emphasizes cultivating a genuine appreciation for physical education content, preparing students to become active members of a diverse society. Students are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary for sustained physical activity throughout their lifespan. Valuing physical activity and recognizing its contribution to a healthful lifestyle are integral components of our program. We aim to nurture joy in movement, enthusiasm for physical activity, and the development of skilled performance.

Our goal is to inspire students to pursue a lifetime of healthful physical activity, encouraging the adoption of behaviors that lead to healthy and active lifestyles. To maintain the highest standards of student hygiene, each participant is required to change into proper physical education clothing daily.

#### STEM II

Prerequisite: STEM I

STEM II builds upon the foundation laid in STEM I, STEM II propels students towards deeper engagement with real-world challenges and innovative solutions. We dive into complex projects that spark curiosity, ignite creativity, and nurture young minds into trailblazing problem solvers.

# **Technology 8**

Prerequisite: None

Students will have the opportunity to continue learning coding in the form of HTML and Javascript. They will be using coding applications like Scratch and working with robots like Sphero to write programs. Students will have the opportunity to create multimedia projects like videos and to understand the importance of digital literacy.

#### 8th Grade Band

Prerequisite: 7th Grade Band

Band members will continue to develop their individual performance ability, music reading skills, and understanding of musical concepts while exploring intermediate-level band music in a cooperative large-group setting. Students will be expected to actively participate in class, to practice regularly at home, and to attend all evening performances (2-3) as required parts of the quarterly evaluation.

#### 8th Grade Wildcat Choir

#### Prerequisite: Vocal audition in 7th grade year

8th Grade Wildcat Choir is an auditioned singing group where you learn the basics of proper vocal technique, vocal health, music theory, and performing. No prior experience is necessary! Must audition at the end of your 7th-grade year and will be assessed on vocal ability, behavior in classes, and school attendance. We have 3 performances throughout the year that happen in the evenings and do not conflict with other after-school activities.

#### French I

# Prerequisite: Must meet requirements for Advanced ELA

Students learn the language through listening, speaking, reading and writing. Dialogues and conversations are used to familiarize the students with the language. While listening and speaking are emphasized, a formal approach to grammar is also presented. In addition, students will explore the culture. (This is a high school level course taken for high school credit.)

#### Spanish I

# Prerequisite: Must meet requirements for Advanced ELA

Listening and speaking skills are emphasized with stress on the importance of proper pronunciation. Students will have the opportunity to talk about themselves, their interests, their feelings, and their activities. Reading and writing are also stressed for a balanced approach. Students discuss the Hispanic way of life, attitudes and customs in dialogues, readings, drawing, photographs, and songs. (This is a high school level course taken for high school credit.)

#### **Study Hall**

### Prerequisite: None

Study Hall will be available by request on a limited basis. This will be a self directed class where students are expected to remain engaged and on task. Students will not have access to content teachers at this time and must be able to work independently.