RAYMOND CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Junior High School (6-8) Course Catalog

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Junior High Course Lists

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
English 6	English 7	English 8
Math 6	Math 7	Math 8 or Algebra 8
Social Studies 6	Social Studies 7	Social Studies 8
Science 6	Science 7	Science 8
Reading 6	Engage, Career and Life Readiness 7	Weights
Choir 7	Choir 7	Choir 8
Band 6	Band 7	Band 8
PE 6	PE 7	PE 8
Art 6	Study Skills 7	Art 8
Keyboarding 6	Introduction to Business Technology 7	Introduction to Business Technology 8
STEM 6	FCS7	Industrial Tech 8
	Health 7	Speech 8
	Ag 7	STEM 8
	Weights	

In 6th grade, students get the option of choosing Band and/or Choir.

In 7th grade, students can choose Band, Choir, or Band/Choir or neither for their selection. All the other courses are required.

In 8th grade, students take Math 8 or Algebra 8 depending on their 7th grade math cscores. Students can choose Band, Choir, or Band/Choir for their music selection. All the other courses are required.

6th grade Explore Courses are STEM 6, Art 6, and Keyboarding 6. They currently work on a trimester rotation.

7th grade Explore courses are Ag 7, FCS 7, Engage Career & Life Readiness 7, Introduction to Business Technology 7, Health 7, Reading, and Weights. They either work in a semester or trimester rotation.

8th grade Explore Courses are Speech 8, STS 8, Weights, Introduction to Business Technology 8 Art 8, & STEM 8. They currently work on a semester or trimester rotation.

English/Reading Courses

Course	Description
English 6	In this Grade 6 English Language Arts course, students develop their reading, writing, speaking, and research skills through evidence-based inquiry and analysis. The course is structured around three engaging thematic units: • **Greek Mythology – *The Lightning Thief*** Students explore classic myths through a contemporary lens by reading *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan. As they follow modern characters inspired by ancient gods and heroes, students analyze how myths from another time and place continue to shape stories today. • **Critical Problems and Design Solutions – *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*** Through the true story of William Kamkwamba, students examine how research and innovation can solve real-world problems. This unit focuses on how design thinking and perseverance helped confront the devastating effects of famine in Malawi. • **Remarkable Accomplishments in Space Science – *Hidden Figures*** Students delve into the often-overlooked contributions of African American women at NASA through *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly. This unit emphasizes research, argument writing, and recognizing achievement in science and history. Throughout the course, students engage in close reading, conduct meaningful research, and present arguments grounded in textual and informational evidence. The curriculum supports the development of critical thinking and effective communication across disciplines.
English 7	English 7 is a course focused on building communication skills in several ways. Students will work to improve skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking. The course will consist of learning about grammar, spelling, vocabulary, short stories, novels, poetry, creative writing, and expository essays using the formal writing process.
English 8	In Grade 8 English Language Arts, students strengthen their reading, writing, speaking, and research skills through the study of complex texts and real-world issues. Emphasizing evidence-based analysis and argument, the course is structured around three interdisciplinary thematic units: • **Folklore of Latin America – *Summer of the Mariposas*** Students explore Latin American folklore through *Summer of the Mariposas* by Guadalupe García McCall, analyzing theme, point of view, and characterization. They then modernize a character from Latin American mythology in an original narrative and write expository essays exploring the relevance of folklore today. Final projects are published on student-created websites showcasing their work. • **Food Choices – *The Omnivore's Dilemma*** Using Michael Pollan's *The Omnivore's Dilemma* and excerpts from the *Nourish Life* video series, students examine how authors communicate purpose, evaluate opposing viewpoints, and use various media to inform. Students conduct research on issues affecting access to healthy food, write expository and argumentative essays, and present their claims on the best food choices for their community to a live audience. • **Lessons from Japanese American Internment – *Farewell to Manzanar*** Through the memoir *Farewell to Manzanar* and its film adaptation, students analyze the relationships between individuals, ideas, and historical events. They write literary argument essays assessing the filmmakers' interpretive choices and explore how communities today apply lessons learned from Japanese American internment. Research findings are shared through presentations to authentic audiences. This course challenges students to think critically, write with clarity and purpose, and speak with confidence about topics that matter—both in literature and in life.

Course	Description
Reading 6	Online reading course uses Studysync to build reading fluency, comprehension, creativity, and the use of context clues to improve reading.

Math Courses

Course	Perquisites	Description
Math 6	None	Students will communicate number sense, algebraic, geometric, and data analysis/probability concepts using multiple representations to reason, solve problems, and make connections within mathematics and across disciplines.
Math 7	None	Basic math with emphasis on operations of numbers (whole, decimals, fractions, and percentages). Introduction to geometric concepts with a focus on shapes, area and volume. Introduction to Pre - Algebra skills including operations, using variables, and solving equations. Introduction to the concepts of integers and graphs, and using statistics and probability is included
Math 8	none	Students move from working problems that are mostly numerical to solving those that require more advanced reasoning skills that require working with variables. They will be introduced to a variety of practical reasoning skills which are used in other classes and outside of school.
Algebra 8	Successfully meets the Algebra requirements	This course reviews the concepts covered in Math 7 and delves into more detail in the way those concepts are used, and expands them into more complex operations and problem solving skills that prepares the student for Geometry and Algebra 3 / 4. These concepts will include: geometry, statistics, data analysis, probability and discrete mathematics.

Social Studies Courses

Course	Description
Social Studies 6	In this course students "deepen their understanding of the Earth and its peoples through the study of history, geography, politics, culture, and economic systems. Students examine the world by exploring the location, place, and spatial organization of the world's ancient civilizations." -Nebraska State Standards.
Social Studies 7	Class covers Nebraska State Standards inclusive to the study of ancient times from the birth of civilization in Asia, Europe and Africa up to the late Renaissance.
Social Studies 8	Class covers United States History from the Age of Discovery up to Reconstruction, in compliance with the Nebraska State Standards

Science Courses

Course	Description
Science 6	Gather, analyze, and communicate evidence of energy, the relationship between structure and function in living things, the inheritance and variation of traits, factors and interactions that affect weather and climate, and the flow of energy and cycling of matter associated with Earth's materials and processes.
Science 7	This course covers the following topics of investigation: How to design and conduct scientific investigations, the nature of science, proper use of laboratory equipment, composition of various materials, chemical reactions, how organisms interact with each other and their environment, how the earth has changed throughout history, the cycling of earth's materials and resource sustainability.
Science 8	This course covers the following topics of investigation: How to design and conduct scientific investigations, the nature of science, how objects move in response to forces,the forces of electricity and magnetism, behavior of waves and electromagnetic radiation, principles of heredity and genetics, how populations change through evolutionary principles, space materials and forces.

Music Courses

Course	Prerequisites	Description
Choir 6	None	Choir 6 serves as a precursor to Junior High Choir. We explore the elements of music through the performance of vocal music.
Band 6	One year of band, or individual consultation and a plan made with the instructor.	Band is a year-long course that continues to build students' instrumental music skills in a collaborative ensemble setting. The band consists of second-year instrumentalists who play flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, and percussion. Other instruments could be introduced to those who are interested in growing the instrumentation of the ensemble, including bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, french horn, and tuba. The class focuses on developing individual technical skills through challenging ensemble performances. Opportunities for solos and small groups are also available in the spring.
JH Choir		Choir is a year-long course that explores choral music from a wide variety of cultures and time periods through study and performance. This class is designed for students to create musical experiences in a collaborative environment. The core curriculum for this class includes the development of vocal technique, sight singing with the use of the solfege system, performance skills, and the ability to work together as a team to produce music at the highest level possible.
7th Band	Prior band instruction or individual consultation and a plan made with the instructor.	Band is a year-long course that continues to grow the skills and abilities of instrumentalists through collaborative ensemble practices and performances. Students study and perform a wide variety of music to build their individual musicianship as well as ensemble performance skills. Students also have the opportunity to expand their interest into other instruments to help balance and grow the instrumentation of the band. These could include bass clarinet, tenor and bari saxophones, french horn, and tuba. Same opportunities for solo / small group contests and honor bands are available.
8th Band	Prior band instruction or individual consultation and a plan made with the instructor.	Band is a year-long course that continues to grow the skills and abilities of instrumentalists through collaborative ensemble practices and performances. Students study and perform a wide variety of music to build their individual musicianship as well as ensemble performance skills. Students also have the opportunity to expand their interest into other instruments to help balance and grow the instrumentation of the band. These could include bass clarinet, tenor and bari saxophones, french horn, and tuba. Same opportunities for solo / small group contests and honor bands are available.

Physical Education

Course	Description
PE 6	Sixth grade physical education provides students the opportunity to learn through a developmentally appropriate, comprehensive sequentially planned PE program aligned with the Nebraska physical education content standards. In sixth grade, the content standards emphasize working cooperatively to achieve a common goal. The focus is the development of movement skill combinations and movement skill knowledge; the assessment and maintenance of physical fitness to improve health, and the knowledge of fitness concepts; and the application of physiological and sociological concepts (self-responsibility, positive social interaction, and group dynamics in the learning environment. Units include: physical fitness (development and maintenance), cooperative activities: throwing and catching skills and lead-up games (team handball/flag football); volleying skills and lead-up games (paddle tennis/small-sided volleyball games); racket skills and lead-up games (badminton, pickleball, or tennis); dribbling skills (hand and foot dribble) and lead-up games (small-sided basketball and soccer games).
PE 7	Seventh grade physical education provides students the opportunity to learn through a developmentally appropriate, comprehensive sequentially planned PE program aligned with the Nebraska physical education content standards. In seventh grade, the content standards emphasize working cooperatively to achieve a common goal. The focus is the development of movement skill combinations and movement skill knowledge; the assessment and maintenance of physical fitness to improve health, and the knowledge of fitness concepts; and the application of physiological and sociological concepts (self-responsibility, positive social interaction, and group dynamics in the learning environment. Units include: physical fitness (development and maintenance), cooperative activities: throwing and catching skills and lead-up games; volleying skills and lead-up games; racket skills and lead-up games ; dribbling skills and lead-up games.
PE 8	Eighth grade physical education provides students the opportunity to learn through a developmentally appropriate, comprehensive sequentially planned PE program aligned with the Nebraska physical education content standards. In eighth grade, the content standards emphasize working cooperatively to achieve a common goal. The focus is the development of movement skill combinations and movement skill knowledge; the assessment and maintenance of physical fitness to improve health, and the knowledge of fitness concepts; and the application of physiological and sociological concepts (self-responsibility, positive social interaction, and group dynamics in the learning environment. Units include: physical fitness (development and maintenance), cooperative activities: throwing and catching skills and lead-up games; volleying skills and lead-up games; racket skills and lead-up games; dribbling skills and lead-up games.

Art Courses

Course	Description
Art 6	This course is closely related to the elements of art as we dig into the basics of line, shape, form, color, and space.
Art 8	This course builds on the elements of art and principles of design to expand their visual arts knowledge and skills to help prepare them for high school curriculum.

Computer Courses

Course	Description
Keyboarding 6 6th Grade	Keyboarding is identified as a foundation knowledge and skill area for all students regardless of career interest. This middle-level course is designed for students to learn touch typing techniques and proper keystroking while continuing to develop composition and proofreading skills as well as speed and accuracy. Students will demonstrate acceptable ethical and social behavior while developing keyboarding skills. Emphasis in Google Suite Applications and Chromebook use.
Introduction to Business Technology 1 7th Grade	This middle-level course is designed to emphasize digital life, use business productivity applications, and explore Information Technology careers. Students will master keyboarding skills; compose, create, edit, and format word processing documents; organize and manipulate data in a spreadsheet; and prepare a digital presentation. An introduction to basic principles in digital media and computer science will be included. (Part 1)
Introduction to Business Technology 2 8th Grade	This middle-level course is designed to emphasize digital life, use business productivity applications, and explore Information Technology careers. Students will master keyboarding skills; compose, create, edit, and format word processing documents; organize and manipulate data in a spreadsheet; and prepare a digital presentation. An introduction to basic principles in digital media and computer science will be included. (Part 2)

Explore Courses

Course	Description
Ag 7	This *required* seventh grade course is an introduction to the world of agriculture and how it affects our daily lives. Students will explore a wide variety of subject areas including commodities, FFA & leadership skills, horticulture industry, natural resources, and careers.
FCS 7	Family Consumer Sciences is a subject area that provides students with the opportunity to build skills needed to be successful in middle/high school and beyond. Topics that may be discussed in FCS 7 include; Foods and Nutrition, Textiles, Child Development, Consumer/Money Management, Housing or Relationships
STEM 6	The STEM acronym stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. All of these academic disciplines rely heavily on each other, and are integrated in the professional and academic world. This course will integrate the STEM fields through project based learning; frequent hands-on activities geared towards challenging students in active research and problem solving real world situations.
STEM 8	The STEM acronym stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. All of these academic disciplines rely heavily on each other, and are integrated in the professional and academic world. This course will integrate the STEM fields through project based learning; frequent hands-on activities geared towards challenging students in active research and problem solving real world situations.
STS 8	This course will expose students with a basic overview of what skill technical science is and can be. Specific units include: shop safety, measuring, bridges and small wood projects like a wooden piggy bank, box, and camel.
Speech 8	This required course provides the student with an introduction to speech communication and provides a background for additional speech courses and for speech competition. The course includes the general areas of introduction to communication and informal communication.
Health 7	Middle School Health Education provides students with a broad scope of knowledge and skills they need to be healthy throughout their lifetime. The curricula should motivate students to maintain and improve their health; advocate for self and others; prevent disease; form healthy relationships; and avoid or reduce health-related risk behaviors
Engage! Career & Life Readiness 7	This is a project based course designed to help middle school students explore career options using the Nebraska Career Education Model and understand the Nebraska Career Readiness Standards. The course is organized by three themes - Making it My Choice, A World of Options and Charting a Direction - with culminating individual and group projects. Students will define career clusters and pathways, describe examples of career readiness, utilize self-assessments to better understand interests, establish a career portfolio and create a personal learning plan to provide direction to high school and post-high school activities. This course is aligned to American School Counselor Association Standards for Students and integrates EducationQuest tools and resources for middle school students.
Weights 7 & 8	The Focus of this class is to learn how to safely develop overall strength as it relates to health, safety, and athletic performance while experiencing the many benefits of lifting for physical, mental, and social health.
Reading 7	This course will provide students with support and enrichment within the reading context! Reading 7 will include strategies to improve reading fluency and comprehension.