

Middle School Course Description Guide

Mission Statement

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools, in cooperation with parents and the community, will educate and prepare all of our students to be knowledgeable, responsible, contributing members of a global society.

COURSE OFFERINGS INTRODUCTION

The information in this booklet is intended to provide an overview of the middle school curriculum and briefly describe each course offered. Students and parents are encouraged to seek additional information from teachers, counselors and administrators. Not all courses are offered at each building. Please check your school's course selection sheet for specific classes that will be offered at your school.

We sincerely hope that each student will give a great deal of thought to the classes selected. Course selection is especially important because it will influence personal development, career preparation and success at the middle school level.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) DEPARTMENT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 2 Years Required

Two years of English Language Arts (ELA) courses are required in grades 7 and 8.

ELA 7 E 0174 Grade 7 Year

This year-long course is the required English course for all seventh grade students. It will focus on both literature and composition. Students will develop effective communication and literacy skills through rigorous and relevant units of instruction and engaging learning experiences. Students will strengthen their skills by viewing, listening to, and reading many forms of literature. Plays, short stories, poems, non-fiction, biographies, and essays will be used to inspire and model writing. Students will employ the writing process to write paragraphs for various purposes, to improve sentence structure and style, and to write a variety of compositions throughout the school year, in accordance with the Common Core State Standards.

ACCELERATED ELA 7 E0176 Grade 7 Year

This year-long course is an advanced class for qualified seventh grade students. It will focus on reading various forms of literature, reading informational texts, writing for multiple purposes, language usage, and speaking and listening skills. The course will provide students with opportunities for hands-on and self-directed learning experiences. Students will go beyond the grade-level expectations of the Common Core State Standards throughout this course. Students must meet and sustain specific requirements to be placed and continue in this course.

ELA 8 E 0184 Grade 8 Year

This year-long course is the required course for all eighth grade students. It will focus on both literature and composition. Students will develop effective communication and literacy skills through rigorous and relevant units of instruction and engaging learning experiences. Students will strengthen their skills by viewing, listening to, and reading many forms of literature. Plays, short stories, poems, non-fiction, biographies, and essays will be used to inspire and model writing. Students will employ the writing process to write paragraphs for various purposes, to improve sentence structure and style, and to write a variety of compositions throughout the school year, in accordance with the Common Core State Standards

ACCELERATED ELA 8 E0186 Grade 8 Year

This year-long course is an advanced class for qualified eighth grade students. It will focus on reading various forms of literature, reading informational texts, writing for multiple purposes, language usage, and speaking and listening skills. The course will provide students with opportunities for hands-on and self-directed learning experiences. Students will go beyond the grade-level expectations of the Common Core State Standards throughout this course. Students must meet and sustain specific requirements to be placed and continue in this course.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

MATHEMATICS 2 Years Required

Two years of Mathematics courses are required in grades 7 and 8. Courses may include: Mathematics 7, Advanced Mathematics 7, Pre-Algebra, Algebra, and Geometry. It is not recommended to bypass any level of the mathematics sequence or courses in preparation for the High School Mathematics requirements for graduation.

MATHEMATICS 7 M 0173 Grade 7 Year

This course is designed to expand and maintain computational skills with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and integers. Additional topics include ratios, proportions, percents, inequalities, geometric concepts, algebraic equations and problem solving.

ACCELERATED

MATHEMATICS 7 M 0273 Grade 7 Year

This course is designed to prepare students for entrance into Algebra in the eighth grade. Strong emphasis will be placed on number theory, higher order thinking skills, abstract reasoning and problem solving. Topics include fractions, decimals, integers, ratios, proportions and percents with heavy emphasis on application. Equations, inequalities, functions, systems of linear equations and geometric concepts will also be stressed. Students must meet and sustain specific requirements to be placed and continue this course.

PRE-ALGEBRA M 0283 Grade 8 Year

This course is designed to prepare a student for success in their required High School Algebra course. Topics include integers, rational numbers, real numbers, number theory, equations, square roots, graphing, geometry, functions, statistics, systems of linear equations and problem solving.

ALGEBRA I M 0383 Grade 7/8 Year

This course will provide students a variety of opportunities to explore Algebra. Course content includes but is not limited to in-depth explorations of number systems (including complex numbers), evaluation and simplification of algebraic expressions, graphing and solving equations and inequalities. Course work will also allow for opportunities to explore families of functions including linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic and polynomial. The course content will reflect the Algebra I course content expectations as developed by the Michigan Department of Education. Successful completion of this course will count as a high school credit. Students must meet and sustain specific requirements to be placed and continue in this course.

GEOMETRY M 6500 Grade 8 Year

This course will explore mathematical reasoning using both inductive and deductive methods. Students will write and evaluate proofs. Students will spend time exploring the relationship between geometric ideas and their representations in the coordinate plane. Time will also be used to investigate the properties of triangles, quadrilaterals, circles and geometric solids. Right triangle trigonometry will also be addressed. Students will explore various transformations in the plane using sketches, coordinates and vectors. The course content will reflect the Geometry course content expectations as developed by the Michigan Department of Education. Successful completion of this course will count as a high school credit. Students must meet and sustain specific requirements to be placed and continue in this course.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

SCIENCE 2 Years Required

Two years of Science courses are required in grades 7 and 8.

SCIENCE 7 D 0173 Grade 7 Year

This course integrates life and physical sciences. Specific topics include cells and heredity, Natural Selection, and exploring properties of matter. Inquiry and reflection are also incorporated with technology to allow for a deeper understanding of the topics covered

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SCIENCE 8 D 0183 Grade 8 Year

This course integrates earth and space sciences. Specific topics include geologic history, tectonic activity, severe weather, fluid and solid earth, climate change, and Earth-Sun-Moon interactions. Inquiry and reflection are also incorporated with technology to allow for a deeper understanding of the topics covered.

ACCELERATED SCIENCE 8 D0184 Grade 8 Year

This course integrates earth and space sciences. Specific topics include geologic history, tectonic activity, severe weather, fluid and solid earth, climate change, and Earth-Sun-Moon interactions. Inquiry and reflection are also incorporated with technology to allow for a deeper understanding of the topics covered. This course takes a more in-depth integration into the covered topics, including research projects, laboratory activities, and application to real-world settings. Because of the nature of the course, regular attendance is important for success in this class. Students must meet and sustain specific requirements to be placed and continue in this course.

SOCIAL SCIENCE/STUDIES DEPARTMENT

SOCIAL STUDIES 2 Years Required

Two years of Social Studies courses are required in grades 7 and 8.

WORLD STUDIES II S 0873

Grade 7 Year

This is a year-long required course for 7th grade students. The seventh grade social studies curriculum focuses on ancient world history and geography with a deliberate focus on content literacy skills. They explore major and significant changes in each era through a chronological organization. Students learn about the earliest humans and explore early migration and settlement patterns. Students examine how the emergence of pastoral and agrarian societies set the stage for the development of powerful empires, trade networks, and the diffusion of people, resources, and ideas. Extending students' study of World History through Era 4 (300 CE – 1500 CE) places world religions and the development of empires in their historical context.

ACCELERATED WORLD STUDIES S 0874 Grade 7 Year

This is a year long course for qualified 7th grade students; students in the advanced class will

go beyond the grade level expectations and course description expectations throughout the year. The seventh grade social studies curriculum focuses on ancient world history and geography with a deliberate focus on the content literacy skills. They explore major and significant changes in each era through a chronological organization. Students learn about the earliest humans and explore early migration and settlement patterns. Students examine how the emergence of pastoral and agrarian societies set the stage for the development of powerful empires, trade networks, and the diffusion of people, resources, and ideas. Extending students' study of World History through Era 4 (300 CE – 1500 CE) places world religions and the development of empires in their historical context. Students must meet and sustain specific requirements to be placed and continue in this course.

AMERICAN HISTORY S 1181 Grade 8

This is a year-long required course for 8th grade students. Students will study in depth the development of the United States from its prehistory to the Reconstruction. Emphasis will be placed on significant people, events, economic aspects and political ideas. The development of reading, writing, interpretation, critical thinking and problem solving skills will be stressed.

ACCELERATED AMERICAN HISTORY S 1280 Grade 8 Year

This class is an advanced class for qualified eighth graders. Students will study in depth the development of the United States from its prehistory to the Reconstruction. Emphasis will be placed on significant people, events, economic aspects and political ideas. This course will provide students opportunities with self directed learning experiences. Emphasis on reading primary and secondary sources, writing, interpretation, critical thinking, and problem solving skills will be stressed throughout this course. Students will go beyond the state grade-level expectations throughout this course. Students must meet and sustain specific requirements to be placed and continue in this course.

ELECTIVES

7th & 8th

Selections include courses in the following areas of interest: art, business, world languages, technology, industrial arts, music, career exploration, health and physical education.

WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

FRENCH I F 1174 Grade 7 & 8 Year

Students in the first level will develop the necessary skills to communicate effectively about everyday situations. He/She will be introduced to the history, geography, life and customs where French is spoken. Each chapter has an accompanying video highlighting French teens and their daily activities. Successful completion of this course will count as a high school credit.

FRENCH II F 1184 Grade 8 Year

The second level reviews and expands the language skills acquired in the first year. Students will add to their ability to converse about a wider range of topics and will have the opportunity for reading French materials of greater depth. He/She will solidify and add to his/her understanding of the structural concepts of the language. Prerequisite French I. Successful completion of this course will count as a high school credit.

SPANISH I F 0174 Grade 7 or 8 Year

The student in Spanish 1 will develop the skills necessary to understand, to read, and to write basic sentences. In addition, the student will be able to hold a limited conversation on a variety of topics. The ability to use a verb correctly in the present tense, to understand the concept of agreement of adjectives and be able to correctly describe a noun are to be mastered at this stage. The specific vocabulary presented in the first year text will also be mastered. In addition, the student will gain knowledge of geography and social customs of Spanish speaking countries. Successful completion of this course will count as a high school credit.

SPANISH II F 0184 Grade 8 Year

The student in Spanish II will have mastered the basic skills of Spanish I. Stress will be placed upon improving conversational, reading and writing skills. Mastery of the two past tenses and additional grammar topics is expected at this level. Vocabulary presented in the second year will also be mastered. Students will be expected to increase the length and complexity of the sentences by correct use of prepositional phrases, pronouns and conjunctions. They will also demonstrate an ability to understand and reply to a conversation, based on a familiar topic, and spoken at a conversational speed. Prerequisite Spanish I. Successful completion of this course will count as a high school credit.

VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

DRAWING & PAINTING A3270 Grade 7/8 Semester

This course will allow students an opportunity to improve their drawing skills, explore a variety of media, study art history and culture, develop self-confidence and make informed judgments about artwork. Creative approaches will be stressed while learning to use traditional materials such as tempera paint, markers, pen and ink, charcoal and pencil. Students will create a variety of art projects based on the different art eras studied. Projects will include but are not limited to Cave Art, Egyptian Metal Tooling, & Renaissance Perspective Drawing.

MULTICULTURAL CRAFTS A3170 Grade 7/8 Semester

Art from various cultures around the world will be studied and the knowledge will be used to create different artwork based on that style. Emphasis will be placed on quality craftsmanship and understanding of the different cultures around the world and how they impact modern society. Artwork will be created using a variety of historical and modern materials. Projects will include but are not limited to Australian Aboriginal Dot Painting, Japanese Kamon, & Sugar Skull Puppets.

CERAMICS & SCULPTURE A3580

Grade 7/8 Semester

In this class, students will explore various ways of creating three-dimensional art. The role of sculptural and ceramic forms throughout history will be studied. A variety of materials will be used including clay, glaze, paper mache', & paper. Students will have an opportunity to create a variety of projects out of clay including, but not limited to, pinch pots, slab plate, and a coil pot. Emphasis will be placed on quality craftsmanship as well as creativity.

DRAWING & PRINTMAKING A3280 Grade 7/8 Semester

Students taking this course will explore the art of drawing and graphics throughout history. Drawings will be created using materials such as pencil, pen, ink, markers, charcoal and pastels. Printmaking will be explored using a variety of techniques which may include stencils, stamps, wood blocks, linoleum blocks, mono-prints, silk screening and etching.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

CADET BAND A 0173

Grade 7 Year

Cadet Band is offered for 7th grade students who wish to continue their training on a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. Basic skills will continue to be taught. Home practice and some evening performances will be required. 6th grade band instructor's permission to enroll is required. This is a year-long class.

CADET STRINGS A 0673

Grade 7 Year

Cadet Strings is offered for 7th grade students who wish to continue their training on a violin, viola, cello or string bass instrument. Basic skills will continue to be taught to prepare students to participate in an orchestra. Home practice and some evening performances will be required. 6th grade band instructor's permission to enroll is required. This is a year-long class.

CONCERT BAND A 0183

Grade 8 Year

Concert Band is for 8th grade students who have achieved basic skills on woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments. Strong emphasis will be placed on group performance while simultaneously continuing to develop individual skills. Public and evening performances and home practice are required. Private lessons are strongly encouraged. Band instructor's permission to enroll is required. This is a year-long class.

CONCERT STRINGS A 0283

Grade 8 Year

Concert Strings is for 8th grade students who have achieved basic skills on the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Strong emphasis will be placed on group performance of orchestra literature, while at the same time continuing to develop individual skills. Public and evening performances and home practice are required. Private lessons are strongly encouraged. Band instructor's permission to enroll is required. This is a year-long class.

CHORUS A2101

Grade 7/8 Semester

This is an introduction to singing as an organized collective group (Choir). Students receive instruction in vocal music which is a good preparation for our concert choir class.

CONCERT CHOIR A 2083

Grade 7/8 Year

Concert Choir is a performing group that continues the skills previously learned. Prior choir is recommended. It is designed to prepare the singer for high school music. This group will perform several times a year. Attendance at performances and rehearsals during and after school is required. This is a year-long course.

PHYSICAL, HEALTH, & LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION

PHYSICAL EDUCATION P 0174

Grade 7/8 Semester

PE will engage students with *sports and **fitness activities. During the various activities instructors will stress the correct principles, procedures and rules for each sport or activity. Appropriate shoes will be required for participation and safety. Academic success will require and be based on daily participation and appropriate clothing and shoes.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION YEAR P 0175

Grade 7/8 Year

PE will engage students with *sports and **fitness activities. During the various activities instructors will stress the correct principles, procedures and rules for each sport or activity. Appropriate shoes will be required for participation and safety. Academic success will require and be based on daily participation and appropriate clothing and shoes.

ADV PHY ED MS BASKETBALL P 5503

Grade 7/8 Semester

This class will focus on a comprehensive understanding of prior basketball skills. This class will build upon the skills already gained and concepts necessary to learn and play the game of basketball, explore and apply traits of good sportsmanship, game play and offensive and defensive strategies. This class is for the student who demonstrates a serious interest in basketball and wants to increase their basketball skills and knowledge. The class is open to both 7th and 8th grade boys and girls. Capacity will be limited. Appropriate clothing and shoes will be required for participation and safety. Academic success will require and be based on daily participation and appropriate clothing and shoes. Prior basketball knowledge is needed.

HEALTH AND FITNESS H 0282

Grade 7/8 Semester

Health and Fitness courses combine the topics of Health Education courses (nutrition, stress management, substance abuse prevention, disease prevention, first aid, and so on) with an active fitness component (typically including aerobic activity and fitness circuits) with the intention of conveying the importance of lifelong wellness habits.

HEALTH EDUCATION H 0183

Grade 7/8 Semester

Topics covered within Health Education courses may vary widely, but typically include personal health (nutrition, mental health and stress management, drug/alcohol abuse prevention, disease prevention, and first aid) and consumer health issues. The courses may also include brief studies of environmental health, personal development, and/or community resources.

HEALTH AND LIFE MANAGEMENT H 0172

Grade 7/8 Semester

Health and Life Management explores life management skills in self-concept, goal setting, communications, relationships, diversity, teen pregnancy, childcare and community relations.

TODAY'S TEEN H 0171

Grade 7/8 Semester

Today's Teen is an introductory course in basic life skills. Units covered may include independent living, social and emotional health, basic sewing skills, food preparation and babysitting. Sewing activities include embroidery and a name banner.

BUILDING LIFE SKILLS H 0182

Grade 7/8 Semester

Building Life Skills is a course to prepare students for independent living. Units may include personal management, environment, sewing techniques, consumerism, nutrition and meal preparation. Sewing activities include embroidery cartoon pillow and a hand sewing project.

**FITNESS ACTIVITIES MAY INCLUDE:

Cardiovascular programs, warm-up routines, flexibility routines, free-hand strengthening movements, physical fitness testing, coordination exercises, and group/individual sports.

CAREER, BUSINESS and TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY I0501

Grade 7/8 Semester

Traditionally referred to as a wood shop class. This course is aimed at any student interested in learning about the world of work. Practice problem solving skills and explore ways to develop independence and take responsibility. The students will learn how to work with a variety of material, machines and processes found in the carpentry trades. During this course students will learn how to plan, select and use materials, including tools and machines to produce a finished product. Emphasis will be on safety and quality of workmanship. Some projects included may be, but not limited to: Marble Maze, prosthetic hand, letter cut out, catapult, gum ball drop, Spinning top and many more options.

MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY 10601

Grade 7/8 Semester

Practice problem solving skills and explore ways to develop independence and take responsibility. Explore the manufacturing technologies used in our world. Explore production systems in the manufacture of a product. Use career information to explore various occupations of personal interest. Students will develop an understanding of manufacturing technology and how it applies to their lives. The students will learn how to work with a variety of material, machines and processes found in the carpentry trades. During this course students will learn how to plan, select and use materials, including tools and machines to produce a finished product. Emphasis will be on safety and quality of workmanship. Some projects included may be, but not limited to: Marble Maze, Door stop, name plate, box, cardboard chair, washer hockey and many more options.

TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY 10701

Grade 7/8 Semester

In this class, students will learn how land, air, water, railway and on-site transportation systems help us move people and materials. Many aspects of transportation are covered including how the world is affected by human transportation methods. The students will learn how to work with a variety of material, machines and processes found in the carpentry trades. During this course students will learn how to plan, select and use materials, including tools and machines to produce a finished product. Emphasis will be on safety and quality of workmanship. Some projects included, but not set in stone or limited to: Marble Maze, roll car, balloon powered car, rubber band powered car, CO2 car, hot air balloon, balsa plane, paddle boat, maglev train and many more options.

COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY 10801

Grade 7/8 Semester

Communication Technology will help students communicate ideas and information through experiences. This course will help give you the knowledge and skills you need to become employable. It will address time management, the skills to display in a social setting, house maintenance, organizational tools, managing your earnings and spending, while saving money. This course will also help to address problem solving skills that can help to identify personal skills and set goals that can help with personal gratification, as well as professional success in the future.

Manufacturing Tech II 10901

Grade 8 Semester

Prerequisite: Construction, Manufacturing, Transportation, or Communication Technology

Advanced Woods would be offered for the advanced student interested in learning lifelong skills in the area of construction and manufacturing. This course is designed to allow in-depth study into applications and processes used in woodworking. During this course students will continue to build on their knowledge in planning a project, selection and use of materials, including tools and machines to produce a finished product. Emphasis will be on safety and quality of workmanship. This class is about the world of work. The student knows and demonstrates problem solving skills in the use of tools, machines, materials and processes to produce a product or provide a service.

COMPUTER AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY U0101 Grade 7/8 Semester

Computer and Information Technology teaches students to operate and use computer and information technology, emphasizing their role as tools to communicate more effectively, conduct research more efficiently, and increase productivity. Course content includes the legal and ethical issues involved with computer technology and use. This course will also explore the Google applications, such as Docs, Slides, Sheets, Forms, and Drive.

CODING 1.0 U0006MS Grade 7/8 Semester

Coding 1.0 is a course where students will design games and apps through TouchDevelop, an interactive tutorial system that builds problem solving skills and allows students to experience coding in a supportive and exciting environment. Coding 1.0 explores how computers can be used to solve real-world problems. It is designed for students that are interested in learning more about computers, software, and coding. The fundamentals of programming and computational thinking and it will instill confidence in working with technology.

CODING 2.0 U0009MS Grade 7/8 Semester

This is a follow up to Coding 1.0. Students who successfully completed Coding 1.0 will be eligible for coding 2.0. In this section of coding we will focus on the design process, Data and Society, Physical Computing, and AI and Machine Learning. We will create a circuit playground at the end of the course

CAREER AWARENESS B1101

Grade 7/8 Semester

Career awareness is designed to give middle school students information that prepares them for career choices. Topics will include careers which will be in demand in the 21st century. Careers involving math, science, history, career technology, business and communications arts. Previously male/female dominated careers will be explored with an emphasis on equal opportunities.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT & MISCELLANEOUS ELECTIVES

BROADCASTING C 2291

Grade 7/8 Year

Students collect, write, record, and edit daily announcements in this class as well as special video projects as needed by the building. Editing, journalism and professionalism skills are covered throughout the year. All assignments and projects require independent work and self motivation.

JOURNALISM W2292

Grade 7/8 Year

Journalism courses (typically associated with the production of a school newspaper, yearbook, or literary magazine) emphasize writing style and technique as well as production values and organization. This will introduce students to the concepts of newsworthiness and press responsibility; develop students' skills in writing and editing stories, headlines, and captions; and teach students the principles of production design, layout, and printing. Photography and photojournalism skills may be included.

CREATIVE WRITING W2293

Grade 7/8 Semester

Creative Writing is a course that will allow students to dip their toes into different styles and formats of writing. Students will learn about, and how to craft, poetry, short stories, flash fiction, and other forms of prose. They will learn to write from different perspectives, improve their vocabulary and use of figurative language, and grasp a clearer understanding of how to express themselves through writing. Though writing is the focus of this course, students will also read and watch various pieces to help understand tone, mood, and voice.

MYTHOLOGY L2294

Grade 7/8 Semester

Mythology will offer a deeper look at various mythologies as well as their functions and influence. Students will be exposed to Greek, Roman, Egyptian, Norse, Aztec mythology and more. We will explore how myths were used to explain nature and teach valuable life lessons. The class will also examine the cultures that created and, in turn, were shaped by their myths. Classwork will include reading, writing, quizzes, tests, and projects (including the opportunity to write an original myth). This course is essentially an expansion pack to the mythology unit covered in 7th Grade ELA.

English Foundations

Grade 7/8 Semester

English Foundations is a class designed to meet the needs of our "at risk" learners who need additional support in the content area of ELA. This class utilizes the program *Reading Plus* to help students become a better reader. *Reading Plus* helps students develop the skills they need to be proficient readers and lifelong learners. Through regular *Reading Plus* practice, reading will become easier, comprehension will increase, and students will make meaningful connections between what they are reading and what they are learning.

Math Foundations

Grade 7/8 Semester

In Math Foundations, data from pre-tests, NWEA MAP results, and skill drills are used to determine weaknesses in the foundation of students' Math knowledge. Work is then customized to each student's individual needs to strengthen those foundational skills. Programs such as Nearpod, Quizizz, DNA, Compass Learning, Prodigy, Step-by-Step, and timed skill drills are used to meet students' needs.