# Lakers Online Middle School Course Scheduling Guide

**2020-2021**

This booklet contains course descriptions for elective classes offered to all sixth, seventh and eighth grade students.

## Required Course Information

All students are required to take the following courses for the entire year:

- English Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Mathematics*
- Science

Students are automatically assigned their required courses. All sixth and seventh grade students should select elective classes and alternate classes from the list on the following pages to ensure a complete schedule. If a student passes 1 ½ years (three semesters) of Spanish and the final exam in middle school, he/she is eligible to place into level 2 Spanish at the high school and receive 1 high school credit.

***Math courses are determined by placement criteria. Please contact Amy Quinn at Amy.Quinn@wbsd.org if you have any questions.***

# Content Area Course Descriptions

## English Language Arts

This course is aligned to the MI ELA Standards and will provide students opportunities to read, write, speak, listen, and research. Students will participate in scaffolded book clubs, allowing them to read engaging and diverse books that represent various cultures and perspectives across the year. Students will engage in many types of writing throughout the year, including narrative, informational, and argumentative writing.

## Science

This course is aligned with the Michigan State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards. Our high quality resource, Mi-STAR, is designed to empower students to use science and engineering practices to address real-world issues. Mi-STAR units will take students through Inheritance of Traits, Adaptations & Natural selection and Natural Hazards.

## Social Studies

Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade will continue their study of U.S. history from the development of the Constitution through Reconstruction. Geographic, civics/government, and economics content is integrated within the historical context under study. Students should understand the relevancy and connections of this history to their lives. Students will use

significant content knowledge, research skills, and inquiry practices to analyze issues and communicate conclusions.

## Math

**Grade 6, 7, 8 Math** - The core math classes, *Core Connections, Course 1, 2, & 3,* use problem-solving strategies, questioning, investigating, analyzing critically, gathering and constructing evidence, and communicating rigorous arguments justifying their thinking. Under teacher guidance students learn in collaboration with others while sharing information, expertise, and ideas. The course helps students to develop multiple strategies to solve problems and to recognize the connections between concepts. The lessons in the course meet all of the content standards and embed the “Mathematical Practices” of the Common Core State Standards.

**Compacted 1 -** This is an advanced math course that students need to meet district criteria. Compacted 1 covers all of the 6th grade standards with a focus on fractions, decimals, multiple representations, variable expressions and orders of operations. This course also covers the following 7th grade concepts: probability, integer operations and proportions. There is an intense focus on applying these concepts in real world and non-routine math problems.

**Compacted 2** - Compacted 2 begins with 8th grade standards and then cycles back to 7th grade standards at various points throughout the year. The 8th grade content has a focus on solving equations, multiple representations, exponents,and functions. Geometric concepts covered include transformations, volume of spheres, pyramids, and cones, as well as surface area of cylinders and spheres. Key 7th grade concepts integrated during the year focus on proportions, statistics, angle relationships, and volume of rectangular prisms. These 7th grade concepts are complementary to 8th grade concepts. There is an intense focus on applying concepts in real-world and non-routine math problems.

**Algebra** -*Core Connections Algebra* is the first course in a four-year sequence of college preparatory mathematics courses that starts with Algebra I and continues through pre -calculus. It aims to deepen and extend student understanding built in previous courses by focusing on developing fluency with solving linear equations, inequalities, and systems. These skills are extended to solving quadratic equations, exploring linear, quadratic, and exponential functions graphically, numerically, symbolically.

**LAKERS ONLINE ELECTIVE COURSES 2020-2021**

# Elective Course Descriptions

## Visual Arts

**Visual Arts - Semester Course** This course explores drawing, painting, printmaking, and graphic design. Projects include 2D and 3D artwork. Students explore applying the elements of art and art history to the principles of design through a variety of challenging and creative projects. Through the art making process students investigate personal meaning, communication and connections between the visual arts and culture. *Can be repeated for an additional semester.*

## Computer Technology

**Computer & Technology - Semester Course** Computer literacy is an important skill in the 21st century and having an understanding of the digital world is more important now than ever. Want to learn all about Google and what is offered in G-Suite? This one semester course offers students tools such as digital citizenship, social media safety, typing, Google Suite of applications, and foundations of coding.

**Innovation & Technology - Semester Course** Computer literacy is an important skill in the 21st century and having an understanding of the digital world is more important now than ever. Want to learn the basics of how to code a computer or an app? This one semester course offers students a look at the world of computer coding through various platforms such as Code.org, Google coding with Scratch, and video game development. Students will also be exposed to Computer Aided Design (CAD) with SketchUp, paired along with TinkerCAD.

## Physical Education

**Physical Education- Semester Course:** Students will explore the basic elements of fitness, including muscular strength, cardiovascular endurance and flexibility. Students will embrace the importance of fair play, sportsmanship and competition through team sports with an emphasis on the "spirit of the game". In addition, students will develop skills to enable them to make life-long healthy choices through the importance of daily exercise. There is also a responsibility and accountability objective that is enforced through physical education protocol. *Can be repeated for an additional semester.*

## Spanish

Please note: Successful completion of Intro to Spanish and Spanish I in middle school is equivalent to completion of one year of high school World Language. Students who successfully complete Intro to Spanish and Spanish I during middle school are **eligible** (*with teacher recommendation and placement screening*) to take Spanish 2 as a freshman at West Bloomfield High School.

**Intro to Spanish - Semester Course:** ($7^{th}$ or $8^{th}$ grade students) – Seventh graders can elect to take Intro to Spanish for one semester and then follow up in eighth grade with Spanish I for

a full year. Intro to Spanish is also available to eighth grade students who are undecided about which language to pursue in high school.

**Spanish I - Full Year Course:** (8th grade students only)– This is a full year course available to students who have successfully completed Intro to Spanish. Successful completion of three semesters of the same World Language is equivalent to completion of 1 year of high school World Language. Students passing three semesters and must receive at an 80% on the exit exam to receive high school credit. **If a student does not earn credit for Semester 1 of Spanish 1, the student will be dropped from the Semester 2 of Spanish 1 course since the prerequisite for Semester 2 Spanish 1 was not fulfilled.**
**Please note:** Upon completion of each semester class, the student will receive a letter grade that will become part of their high school GPA.

## STEAM

**STEAM 1: Designing and Modeling - Semester Course:**
Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy. **Required to take this STEAM class prior to going on to all other STEAM classes.**

**STEAM: Computer Science for Innovators and Maker (CSIM) - Semester Course:** This course will allow students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects. Throughout the unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. They will design and develop a physical computing device, interactive art installation, or wearable, and plan and develop code for microcontrollers that bring their physical designs to life. **Prerequisite in order to take STEAM App Creator (Currently not offered during the 2020-2021 Lakers Online School Year)**

**STEAM: App Creator -Semester Course:** This unit will expose students to computer science by computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development, and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society. Students will customize their experience by choosing a problem that interests them from the areas of health, environment, emergency preparedness, education, community service, and school culture. Because problems in the real world involve more than one discipline, the unit will introduce students to biomedical science concepts as they work on solutions for the specific problems they choose to tackle. Must take **Computer Science for Innovators and Maker (CSIM) prior to taking this class**

**STEAM: Medical Detectives - Semester Course:** Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, and investigate disease outbreaks. **Must have taken STEAM 1: Design & Modeling prior to taking this class.**

## MUSIC

**Music Appreciation - Semester Course:**

This is a non-performance class that explores music of various styles through listening experiences. All styles of music are covered (classical, folk, music theater, jazz, popular, etc.). Investigations of composers and performers integral to the styles are included in the class. Activities include listening, discussions, projects, and presentations on each style of music.

**Beginning Band - Full Year:** Beginning Band is an exciting introduction to the world of instrumental performance. Students wishing to learn how to play a band instrument will be exposed to a positive learning environment where the class will focus on the developments of technical skills and musical understanding. Every band student will improve their abilities on their instrument through a combination of practice, rehearsal and performance.

**Beginning Orchestra - Full Year:** Orchestra is an awesome place to learn how to play a musical instrument. Beginning violin, viola, cello and bass students will learn how to play, write, improvise, read music in a nurturing and supportive environment. Students will have fun learning to play a wide variety of musical styles.

**Symphony Band - Full Year:** This class is for intermediate to advanced middle band offered to middle school students. Students will continue to improve their performance ability, and develop advanced skills that they will use in the high school band program and beyond. Students will continue to develop their ability to read, write, improvise, sing, and play a variety of music, including world and popular music, for their parents and peers through several performances throughout the year. Most importantly, students will interact in a positive, safe, and team-building environment to develop as young citizens in and through music. Every band student will continue to improve their abilities on their instrument through a combination of practice, rehearsal and performance. Previous musical experience on a band instrument is required for admittance. **Prerequisite: At least one year of band experience.**

**Symphony Orchestra - Full Year:** This class is for intermediate to advanced middle school students. Students will continue to develop the intermediate to advanced violin, viola, cello and bass techniques/skills. Students will build confidence as violin, viola, cello and bass player and grow as performers in this supportive environment. **Prerequisite: At least one year of orchestra experience.**

**Varsity Choir - Semester Course:** This select, top quality 7/8 vocal group builds upon the foundation of the past year in choir and vocal music, where voices and musical skills continue to develop. We will perform a wide variety of popular, choral and musical theater selections throughout the year. The two semesters will offer different curriculum. *Can be repeated for an additional semester.*

SUPPORT COURSE

* Placement in support classes is based on assessment protocols and teacher recommendation.

**Literature Support (Semester)**

A one semester course that provides an environment where education is individualized, collaborative and designed to help students think deeply and critically about English/Language Arts and Social Studies. Independent and group project work will be utilized . Classroom experiences are designed to foster a sense of passion and a spirit of discovery in our students. One focus is to encourage students to develop into confidently curious, creatively productive and ethically rooted world citizens. Cross-curricular integration and a diverse range of learning opportunities will be provided.