

2026 – 2027



**Weston Public Schools
Weston, Massachusetts
Program of Studies
Grades 6–8**

Dr. Karen Zaleski
Superintendent

Dr. Kimo Carter
Assistant Superintendent of
Teaching & Learning

Phil Oates
Principal

Brian Buck
Assistant Principal

Guidance/Adjustment Counselors

Karen Botcheller, Dept. Head 6-12
Phoenix Aiello
Conor Finnegan
Aisling Hegarty
Kim Roslonek
Kari Anne Wye

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*Every course and activity at Weston Middle School is open to students
regardless of race, gender, gender identity, color, religion, sexual orientation,
ethnicity/ national origin, age or disability.*

WESTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mission

The Weston Middle School strives for excellence and fosters a community of learners, guiding students toward their optimal intellectual, social, emotional and physical development.

Vision

The Weston Middle School community fosters academic growth, encourages personal development, and strives for each student to respect themselves and others. We believe in learning as a process and respect both individual learning styles and the diverse cultural and family backgrounds of our students. A variety of teaching methods is utilized to achieve a shared goal of success for all students. Students are encouraged to develop high expectations for themselves and to meet their goals. All members of the community work collaboratively toward shared ideals, while accommodation is made to meet the needs of the individual. We model mutual respect and tolerance. Students are held responsible for positive contributions to a safe environment for learning and playing.

Implementation

Weston Middle School students thrive in the intimacy of our school where they are closely monitored and feel “known.” The house system is the structure that provides the basis for close collaboration among all members of a student’s team, including parents, teachers, administrators, and coaches. A student enters the Weston Middle School as a child and leaves as a young adolescent. During these years the student develops a greater understanding of personal values, while gaining a perspective on cultural and ideological diversity. The student is encouraged to: advocate for self, yet respect the needs of others; avoid harmful behavior, yet take appropriate risks; embrace creative solutions, yet understand limits and consequences; participate in new activities, yet remain responsible for academic expectations. The Weston Middle School years provide an opportunity to grow and develop, explore and fail, think critically, gain skills and test limits all within the structure of our caring learning community.

Goals

At Weston Middle School all students will:

1. Participate in a well-rounded, quality program that develops their multiple, diverse talents.
2. Act responsibly as they grow to become critical thinkers, problem solvers and independent learners.
3. Develop a sense of self-respect, as they are recognized for positive contributions to the learning community.
4. Build upon successful experiences through participation in curricular and extracurricular offerings including rigorous, challenging academics; experimental and performance-based arts; and interest-based activities and athletics.
5. Respect the diversity of our community and the world, fostering a sense of tolerance and empathy for others.
6. Dare to take appropriate risks and succeed or fail in a safe environment guided by caring teachers, parents, and support staff.
7. Engage in active learning opportunities and apply skills and talents to real-world problems.
8. Think critically about the world and their role in it as they explore opportunities for service to others within and outside our community.
9. Learn as a community and understand what it means to be a responsible citizen.
10. Discover the joy of learning and all of its wonder.

Guidance/Adjustment Counselors:

Phoenix Aiello
Conor Finnegan
Aisling Hegarty
Kim Roslonek
Kari Anne Wye

Principal's Message to Weston Middle School Students

Weston Middle School offers a challenging and balanced program. This document is designed to assist you in understanding the full scope and sequence of what we offer our students. Parents and students, in collaboration with school personnel, should use this document as a guide when discussing course choices. The course request process will begin in January, and it is our goal to have student requests entered into our system during the spring, finalizing student schedules by late spring or early summer.

In addition to classroom courses, the Middle School offers a wide variety of co- and extracurricular activities for students. These options range from competitive sports and performing arts, to student government and many special interest organizations. I encourage all students to participate in our comprehensive program because it will allow them to develop new perspectives, meet other students, and tailor their middle school experience to their interests. We strive to create successful challenges and experiences both within and outside the classroom.

In the scheduling process, it is my desire to offer each student an optimal program based on core requirements and special interests. However, in this process there are limits. Conflicts during the scheduling process may occur and other choices will have to be made. Please be assured that we will do our best to meet requests and have the least conflicts possible.

Finally, I believe the Middle School curriculum is well developed and the courses meet the needs of our students and the Standards, Big Ideas, and Benchmarks of our district. It is my hope that our students will become independent learners and thinkers. I give credit to the exceptional teachers you will encounter in this process, who work diligently designing and enhancing our program. I hope students will develop their talents and become skilled problem-solvers who can use what the school has to offer to make a difference in our world.

Sincerely,

Philip Oates

Philip Oates
Principal

Middle School House System

The house system is the heart of the Middle School, providing both an academic and self-esteem promoting structure for the young adolescent. A house is a transitional structure, which melds the departmental emphases of the High School with the traditional "homeroom" pattern of the elementary schools.

The houses have teams of teachers in English, history/social studies, science, and mathematics. The house facilities include an office, a conference room, and classrooms. Grouping is heterogeneous, except in mathematics classes. All students take courses outside the house in health and physical education, the arts, and world languages.

The house office and corridors with adjacent classrooms are "home" for the Middle School student. House faculty meets several times a week to share information about students, develop strategies for instruction, and plan programs. The Middle School house system has proved to be a popular and successful structure for meeting the diverse academic and social needs of students at an important point in their personal development.

Parents are encouraged to maintain close contact with the school regarding their child's progress. Appointments with house faculty may be scheduled for the first Wednesday afternoons of most months as well as at other times, which are mutually convenient.

Reporting Progress

Report cards are issued four times during the school year. Grades are reported for the first term; second term and first semester; third term; and fourth term, second semester and for the year.

Marks found on report cards may be any of the following:

A = Excellent	F = Failing
B = Above Average	P = Passing
C = Average	W = Withdrawn
D = Poor	

Plus and minus signs may be used to indicate levels of achievement within the range of letter grades A through D. D- is considered the minimum passing grade.

Progress reports may be issued in the middle of each marking period to call the attention of students and their parents, to the fact that student work is not up to the standards expected or to commend students for outstanding work. Not all students receive progress reports using Infinite Campus, but progress is regularly communicated by teachers throughout each quarter. In many instances it is desirable that such notices be supplemented by a conference between the student, their parents/guardians, and the teacher. On occasion students and their parents/guardians may wish to discuss scholastic difficulties with school counselors as well. Teachers may also use progress reports at any time to record work students have done exceptionally well.

Progress reports are also issued as a supplement to report card grades, indicating unsatisfactory or failing work. These reports will explain why work is unsatisfactory or failing and will also suggest ways in which students can improve their level of achievement, as well as to commend students for outstanding work.

Course Selection

Middle School course selection is determined by parents and counselors who work with the principal to establish student schedules. All 7th and 8th grade students take the core subjects of English, history/social studies, science, mathematics, world language, and health and physical education.

Except for students newly enrolled in the school, students will not be allowed to enter full year courses after October 15 of each school year unless entrance to a course involves a change in course level within a given discipline or subject. Such a change must be accompanied by written permission of the principal.

Also, middle school students take a series of electives in art, engineering arts, technology, drama, and music. These are scheduled in an arts rotation which consists of nine-week units in various areas. The principal establishes the arts rotation schedules. See the section below titled "Arts Rotation" for descriptions of those elective courses.

Arts Rotation

In Grade 6, students will take 4 courses in a rotation: Art, Drama, Digital Literacy/Guidance Seminar and Music.

In Grade 7, students will choose from: Art, Drama, Engineering Arts, Music and Robotics.

In Grade 8, students will take four quarters of Art and Engineering electives. Options include: Acting and Improvisation, Contemporary Art, Digital Photography, Drawing, Engineering Arts, Musical Theatre, Music Theory, Robotics/Advanced Robotics, Scene Study, Sculpture and Video Production.

PLEASE NOTE: There is always the possibility that courses listed in the Program of Studies may not run due to low enrollment or budget constraints.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ELECTIVES IN ARTS ROTATION

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Course M860 GRADE 6 ART

In this introductory course, students explore a variety of artistic techniques, with a special focus on sewing and soft sculpture. Through hands-on projects, they develop essential sewing skills such as basic stitching, machine operation, and fabric manipulation while enhancing their hand-eye coordination, problem-solving abilities, and creativity.

Projects encourage personal expression, including a customized pillowcase with appliqué designs, allowing students to experiment with patterns, textures, and embellishments. Along the way, students build confidence in using sewing machines, develop patience through detailed craftsmanship, and gain an appreciation for handmade art.

By the end of the course, students will have created functional and decorative fabric artworks while developing skills that blend traditional craftsmanship with contemporary creativity.

Course M862 GRADE 6 DRAMA

Students explore the dramatic process by working together to create a variety of characters and imagery. They play theater games that help them sharpen their acting skills such as body movement, vocal expression, listening and concentration, imagination and spontaneity. They learn how to “stage” their ideas to communicate to an audience, and in turn, they learn to look critically at the performances of others. Students work as a team to create improvisational dramas and prepared scenes, using their own experiences as sources, as well as poems, music, and written dialogue.

Course M866 GRADE 6 MUSIC

This course will offer instruction in the mechanics and appreciation of music. The course will include singing, listening, building on music literacy skills, composition, and music technology. Students will have three main projects that each encourage student choice and creativity, while also building on music reading skills, music technology skills, and their knowledge of the basic elements of music.

Course M868 GRADE 6 GUIDANCE SEMINAR

This seminar, taught by the Grade 6 school counselor, will focus on topics relevant to a successful transition into middle school. The class will give students the opportunity to learn more about themselves through discussion-based concepts that will be tailored to the specific needs of the students.

Course M869 GRADE 6 DIGITAL LITERACY

The Digital Literacy course prepares students to use their technology effectively and responsibly. This course introduces students to the Responsible Use Guidelines and key digital tools and resources they will use throughout their middle school years. Students will engage in activities designed to enhance their research capabilities, critical thinking, and ethical use of digital media that align with the current DESE Digital Literacy and Computer Standards.

Course M871 GRADE 6 ROBOTICS

***Not in the Arts Rotation but offered to students with permission from guidance.**

In Robotics 6, students are learning programming and engineering design skills as well as group project management! Students are designing Battle Bots that can sense and respond to other robots and also seek and avoid specific colors on the ground. To do so, they must construct and program a robot that can move autonomously while sensing and responding to elements in its environment. Meeting weekly, teams of 6th graders are building robots and programming them using motors, sensors, and logic/control codes in preparation for a battle which will be won by finding and parking on desired color patches on the ground while avoiding undesired color patches (or pushing robots onto the undesired patches). We meet once a week, so kids are industrious with their time as they prepare for their competitions!

Course M870 GRADE 7 ART

In this course, students develop their technical drawing skills by exploring one-point and two-point perspective, learning to create the illusion of depth on a two-dimensional surface. Through hands-on exercises, they gain an understanding of vanishing points, horizon lines, scale, and proportion, applying these concepts to architectural and environmental compositions.

A major project challenges students to design a detailed image using two-point perspective, incorporating creativity while maintaining accuracy. Along the way, they refine their use of shading, texture, and composition to enhance realism. Through peer critiques and self-reflection, students build confidence and problem-solving skills, strengthening both their artistic technique and visual storytelling abilities.

Course M872 GRADE 7 DRAMA

Students explore the dramatic process by working together to create a variety of characters and imagery. They play theater games that help them sharpen their acting skills such as body movement, vocal expression, listening and concentration, imagination and spontaneity. They learn how to “stage” their ideas to communicate to an audience, and in turn, they learn to look critically at the performances of others. Students work as a team to create improvisational dramas and prepared scenes, using their own experiences as sources, as well as poems, music, and written dialogue.

Course M874 GRADE 7 ROBOTICS

An introduction to the foundations of robotics engineering and design as well as coding. Using Spike Prime Legos Robotics Kits, this course will teach about basic mechanical principles as well as foundational programming for movement, environmental sensing, and response to sensor feedback. Students will be introduced to conditional programming language. Troubleshooting of designs and revision of designs through multiple iterations will be a central theme of this course.

Course M876 GRADE 7 ENGINEERING ARTS

This course introduces students to the key concepts in engineering design- modeling and systems- through projects emphasizing structural concepts. Students begin by building and testing models of an antenna tower, and columns that help support heavy structures. Learning about the forces that act on structures, including tension, compression, bending, and shear. Students learn about how these principles apply to the various types of bridge designs including beam bridges, truss bridges, and suspension bridges, and how their design has changed through history. They apply these concepts to the building and testing of prototype truss bridges, using both physical modeling and an engineering simulation program to explore concepts such as efficiency and redundancy. In the final unit, students learn about affordable architectural design. Students create computer models of a bridge and house using a computer-aided design program.

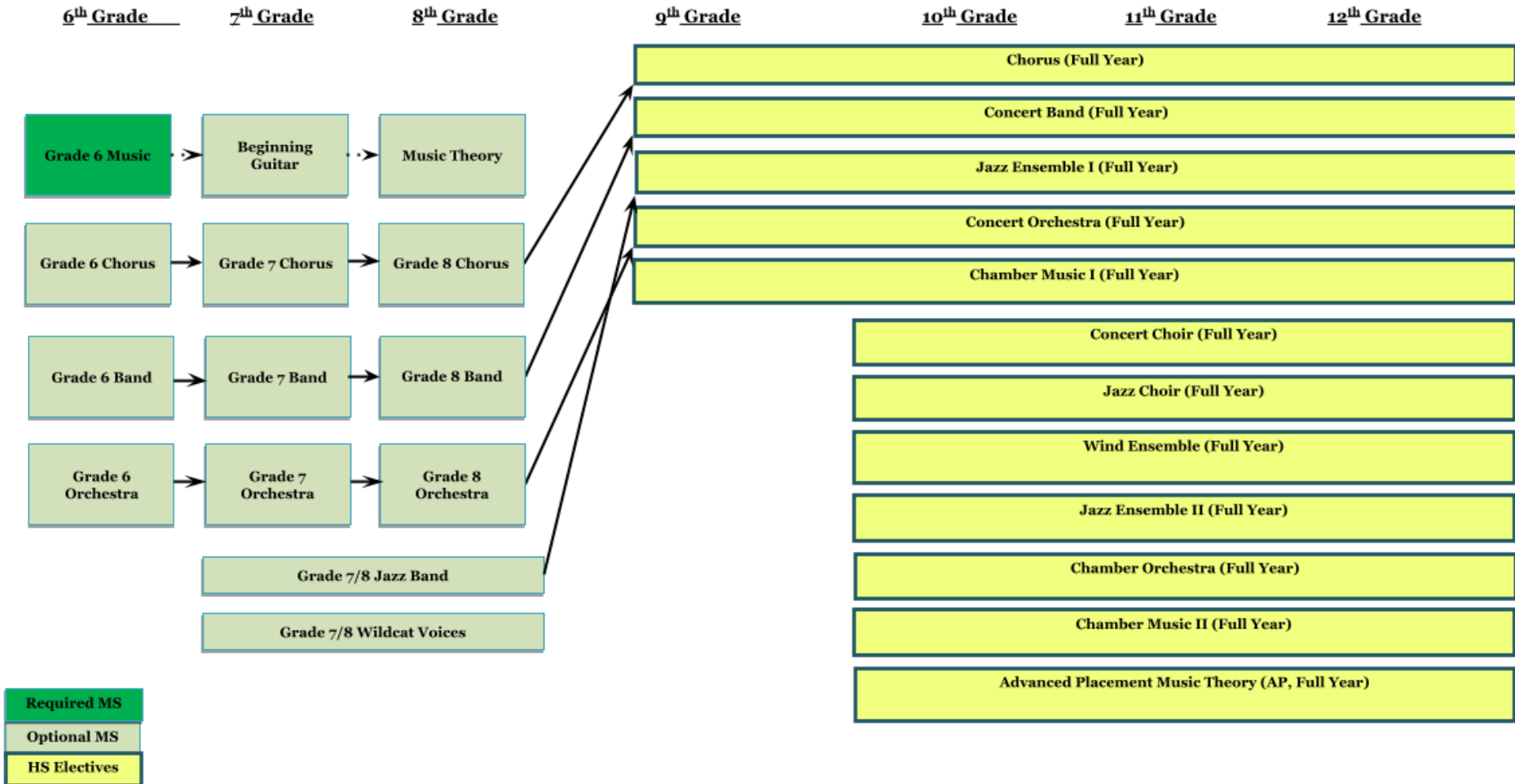
Course M878 GRADE 7 BEGINNING GUITAR

This course is designed for the beginner guitar player. Here, we will learn how to read standard music notation, chord symbols, and tablature while playing melodies and chord progressions of traditional folk, rock, and contemporary pop songs. Students will be given the tools to teach themselves how to play in the styles of music they enjoy most.

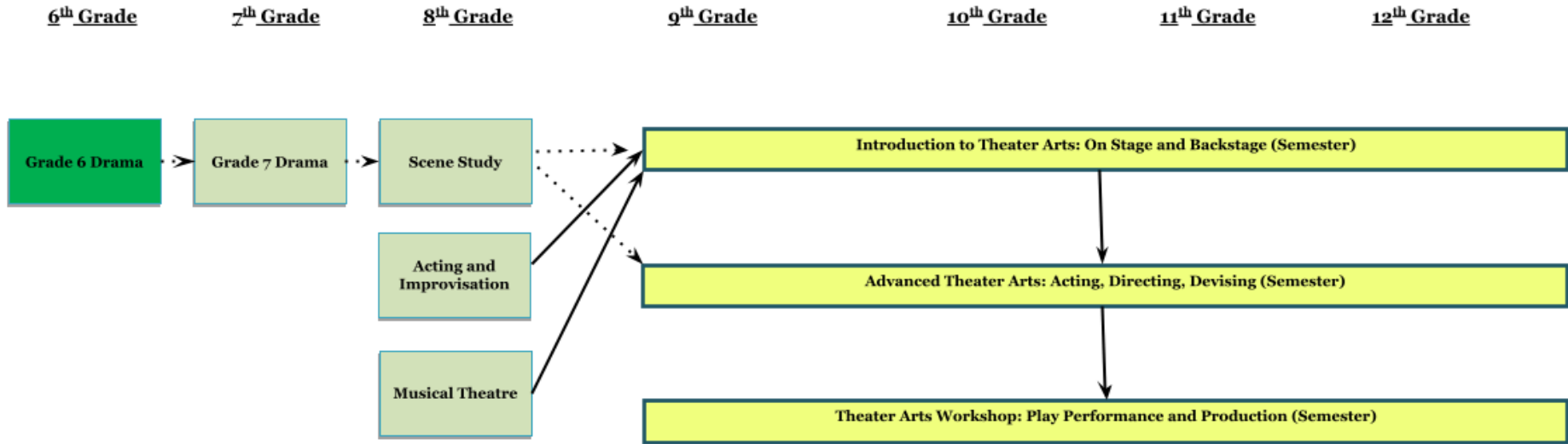
- Course M880** **GRADE 8 CONTEMPORARY ART**
Art is alive, and artists are speaking to the issues of our time right now! In this course, WMS artists will explore themes, techniques and materials that are currently trending in today's art community with a focus on printmaking. In doing so they will learn how to make real-world connections, experience and appreciate the world of visual art. Course projects will be inspired by current Metro-Boston exhibits, and driven by individual student interest.
- Course M881** **GRADE 8 VIDEO PRODUCTION**
Students in this course will be introduced to various forms of media (like audio, video, photos, music), and have the responsibility of producing, writing, filming and editing a video production. They will learn skills in the areas of organization, time-management, teamwork, and critiquing their own work. Students will create a video that not only exhibits sound technical elements, but also demonstrates a responsible use of this technology and media.
- Course M882** **GRADE 8 ACTING & IMPROVISATION**
Acting skills are taught through theater games and improvisation. Students develop a range of characters and work together as an ensemble to dramatize their ideas. Projects may include creating original plays and working with written dramatic material.
- Course M883** **GRADE 8 SCENE STUDY**
Students will learn the basics of directing, rehearsing, and performing scenes from published plays. For a culminating project, classes choose from a variety of options, such as performing a one-act play, presenting a performance of scenes, or working on individual auditions and monologues. This is a more advanced acting experience for the student who would like to perform for an audience.
- Course M884** **GRADE 8 ENGINEERING ARTS**
This elective course gives students experience in design, technological problem-solving, and craftsmanship in woodworking techniques, using both hand and power tools. Students begin by reviewing shop safety, tool use, and technical drawing in the context of a simple wood project, such as a sanding block. Next, they learn the use tools such as miter saws, routers, bandsaws, sanders, drill presses, and finishing techniques through the design and construction of a fine art miter-joint box or bandsaw box of their own design. They also learn to build using a scratch model, mortise-and-tenons, and other joinery concepts. Finally they will work with additive fabrication using 3D printers and CAD programs.
- Course M885** **GRADE 8 SCULPTURE**
Students will work with a variety of materials to learn how to create large scale three-dimensional forms. They will develop a deep understanding of the design process beginning with researching, planning and sketching, to constructing a foundation and adding texture, and then finally exploring palettes of color as they relate to a light source. Possible projects may include: mask making, wire forms, ceramic sculpture, and wooden constructions.
- Course M886** **GRADE 8 DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY**
This course introduces students to digital image building. Source images acquired from the web, digital cameras, and scans provide material for image enhancement and manipulation using Adobe PhotoShop software. References to image development in history are discussed as useful to contemporary work. High quality printing techniques on various photo and art papers are also covered. The skills learned provide students with an important foundation for future computer graphic work at the high school and beyond.

- Course M887** **GRADE 8 MUSIC THEATER**
Students will learn about the genre of the American Musical Theater by studying its history, creating their own original musical scenes, and performing scenes from some of our most famous creators of musicals, such as Rogers and Hammerstein or Stephen Sondheim. Students will also be involved in all aspects of the production of their scenes from costuming, sets and lighting to singing, acting, and dancing.
- Course M888** **GRADE 8 DANCE**
NOT RUNNING 2026-2027
Students will learn basic dance steps and build them into short dances at the end of each class. We move in a variety of dance styles to a wide range of recorded music. Students do not need prior dance experience—just a willingness to move and have fun with it! Students will also be exposed to trends in dance history and the current dance scene and will also learn to choreograph some of their own dances.
- Course M889** **GRADE 8 DRAWING**
Through a series of drawing exercises in contour, gesture, tone, and color layering, students are provided with a foundation of techniques that allow for the development of a personal style. Projects such as self-portraits are accomplished in pencil, charcoal, Craypas, and mixed media. Realism, which is stressed early in the course, naturally evolves into a more expressive or abstract handling of subject and materials.
- Course M890** **ROBOTICS 8**
Students will tackle challenge-based projects in a group format to investigate robotic behaviors as a result of structural design as well as programming design. Students will learn control theory, including on-off control and the basics of PID control. This course builds on topics taught in Robotics 7, but it is not mandatory to have taken to enroll in Robotics 8.
- Course M891** **ROBOTICS 8 ADVANCED**
This course is designed for students with a stronger background in robotics design and programming. Students will expand on the concepts of proportional control and more complex use of sensors, movement controls, as well as more complex operations and control programming. Students will work with variables and subroutines and will be introduced to Proportion Integration Derivative Control systems.
- Course M893** **GRADE 8 MUSIC THEORY**
This course will provide 8th grade students with all the tools necessary to enter high school as musically competent individuals, regardless of their specific musical interests. The following topics will be covered at an introductory level, with emphasis placed on their relevance to performing ensembles and the students' prior musical interests: reading and writing musical notation, understanding basic musical concepts (pitch, rhythm, chords, etc.) and basic composition, listening critically, and making connections and applications across musical genres. This course will utilize computer lab technology, allowing students to make use of interactive software and MIDI keyboards, making theory and composition both engaging and enjoyable.

Music Course Options

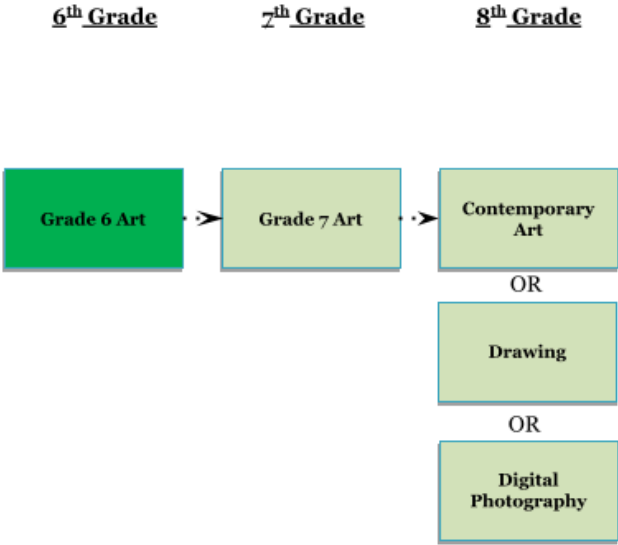


Theater Arts Course Options



- Required MS
- Optional MS
- HS Electives

Visual Art Course Options



Required MS
Optional MS
HS Electives

9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
	Animation (Semester)		
	Art I (Semester)		
	Clay Studio I (Semester)		
	Contemporary Art (Semester)		
	Film: The New Literacy (Semester)		
	Graphic Design I (Semester)		
	Photography I (Semester)		
	Video Production I (Semester)		
	Art II (Full Year)		
	Art II (Semester)		
	Clay Studio II (Semester)		
	Graphic Design II (Semester)		
	Photography II (Semester)		
	Video Production II (Semester)		
	Art III/IV (Full Year)		
	Clay Studio III (Semester)		
	Graphic Design III (Semester)		
	Photography III (Semester)		
	Video Production III (Semester)		

ENGLISH

The English courses in grades 6 - 8 are designed to enhance each student's reading, writing, and oral skills. They are also specially designed to encourage open and clear communication, and to develop students' skills in reading for comprehension, analysis, and enjoyment.

Each course requires homework and student participation in class discussions. In addition, the program is constructed to give students the opportunity to succeed in a wide variety of learning experiences including: writing poetry, short stories, and essays; delivering speeches; and reading literature.

Course M262 GRADE 6 READING WRITING CONNECTIONS Full Year

M263 This course meets three out of every five school days and is designed to enrich students'
M264 skill development in their core English classes. Work will focus primarily on developing students' reading skills in a variety of genres including novels, short stories, poetry, and narrative non-fiction. Several opportunities for choice book reading will enhance textual study. Students will build writing skills through short, focused writing activities, as well as through a unit focused on the analytical essay.

Course M260 GRADE 6 ENGLISH Full Year

M261 This course is designed to provide reading and writing instruction and practice. Students read and analyze a variety of texts, including non-fiction, short stories, the novel *The Only Road*, as well as a range of choice reading books with an emphasis on social issues. The class employs the process writing approach, and students put considerable work into their revision efforts. Students study and create narrative, expository, and research-based writing as they work toward mastering writing strong paragraphs and essays that include central ideas, textual evidence when appropriate, and the development of ideas. Paired conferences, small group work, student-teacher conferences, and ongoing teacher feedback are part of this process. Students will expand their technological skills through the use of Chromebooks to conduct research and create digital presentations.

Course M166 TOPICS IN ENGLISH GRADE 6 Full Year

This course is for students who need additional reading instruction to succeed in their core content classes. Faculty and administrators will identify eligible students based on data gathered from MCAS, STAR reading assessments, and other diagnostic criteria. Instruction in Reading Topics is designed to address skill weaknesses, develop the habits of mind necessary for successful reading, and preview/reinforce concepts from English/Social Studies classes. Reading Topics meets 1-3 times per week, depending on diagnostic assessment outcomes; the course is a pass/fail course and has no required homework.

Course M270 GRADE 7 ENGLISH Full Year

M271 Reading, writing, and discussion form the core of the seventh-grade English program.
M274 Students are encouraged to read actively, write clearly, and participate thoughtfully. Through rich discussions, detailed presentations, and thoughtful reflections, students will build 21st Century Skills by utilizing various technologies to enhance their learning.

Students study literature from varied genres including short stories, novels, plays, poetry and non-fiction. Some works read include short stories by Ray Bradbury and Walter Dean Myers, *The Giver*, and *The Outsiders*. In addition, students engage in quarterly independent reading projects during which they read texts of their choosing in various genres. Students learn and practice various literary techniques, vocabulary, note-taking skills, as well as analytical and narrative writing. Through the writing process students draft, edit, and revise to enhance their work. Students also participate in peer editing, small group work, and student-teacher conferences as part of this process.

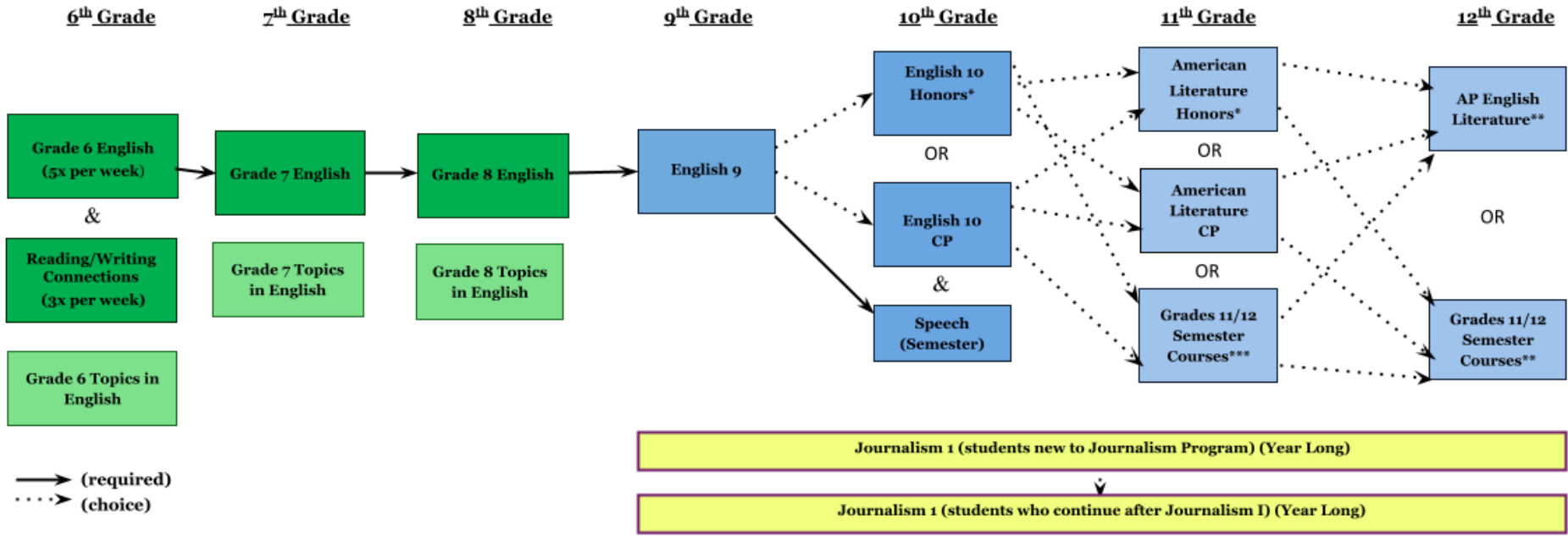
Course M275 **TOPICS IN ENGLISH GRADE 7** **Full Year**
This course is for students who need additional reading instruction to succeed in their core content classes. Faculty and administrators will identify eligible students based on data gathered from MCAS, STAR reading assessments, and other diagnostic criteria. Instruction in Reading Topics is designed to address skill weaknesses, develop the habits of mind necessary for successful reading, and preview/reinforce concepts from English/Social Studies classes. Reading Topics meets 1-3 times per week, depending on diagnostic assessment outcomes; the course is a pass/fail course and has no required homework.

Course M280 **GRADE 8 ENGLISH** **Full Year**
M281
M282
In Grade 8 English, students read, discuss, and write about literature of various genres, including fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. Assignments are designed to deepen and broaden the understanding of key literary terms and improve clarity of written and oral communication. Through literature students will explore important issues that are relevant to their lives, such as justice and coming of age. All eighth grade students will read and study a range of texts, which may include *Night*, *Animal Farm*, and *The 57 Bus*. Students will also choose a text to study from a range of contemporary, multicultural authors.. These core texts are supplemented with additional reading throughout the course.

By the end of the year, students will improve their overall writing skills, with an emphasis on analytical writing. They will also see writing as a means of thinking through and expressing thoughts and ideas. In addition, students will continue to enrich their grammar and vocabulary skills through reading and exercises, and will employ technology, including Chromebooks, regularly in and out of class.

Course M285 **TOPICS IN ENGLISH GRADE 8** **Full Year**
This course is for students who need additional reading instruction to succeed in their core content classes. Faculty and administrators will identify eligible students based on data gathered from MCAS, STAR reading assessments, and other diagnostic criteria. Instruction in Reading Topics is designed to address skill weaknesses, develop the habits of mind necessary for successful reading, and preview/reinforce concepts from English/Social Studies classes. Reading Topics meets 1-3 times per week, depending on diagnostic assessment outcomes; the course is a pass/fail course and has no required homework.

English Course Sequence



Required for all MS
Required for some MS
Required for all HS
English requirement fulfilling for Grades 11-12 HS
Non-English requirement fulfilling HS Electives for Grades 9-12

*Placement in this course requires teacher recommendation. Override requests will be considered on a space-available basis.
 **Students take one course each semester from the chart below, but are not required to take the sequential courses (i.e. can take Non-fiction I and Creative Writing II).

Note: Topics courses are taken concurrently with the standard English Course.

Semester 1	Semester 2
Modern Literature I	Modern Literature II
World Literature I	World Literature II
Non-Fiction I	Non-Fiction II
Creative Writing I	Creative Writing II
Dramatic Literature I: Shakespeare and His World	Dramatic Literature II: The Modern Theater
The Literature of Sport	The Literature of Sport

HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES

The history/social studies curriculum is designed to help students acquire the knowledge, judgment, and skills to participate intelligently and responsibly in civic life and continue to learn for themselves. Essential skills of writing expository papers, using library resources and technology, reading maps, interpreting authentic documents and data, preparing research papers, and participating in discussions are taught and reinforced in all courses.

Course M360 **GRADE 6 HISTORY OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS PART 1** **Full Year**
M361

In sixth grade social studies the students will participate in World Geography and Ancient Civilizations I. This is the first year in a two-year social studies experience in which we will study regions of the world by examining selected ancient and classical societies before 1000 C.E. Our main units of study focus on Archaeology and Early Humans and the Ancient Civilizations of: Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Central America. Students will continue to refine their 21st century skills including interpreting maps, expanding their ability to use technology effectively, thinking critically, and collaborating in groups. Additional emphasis will be placed on the ability to write well, read and evaluate non-fiction sources, and conduct research.

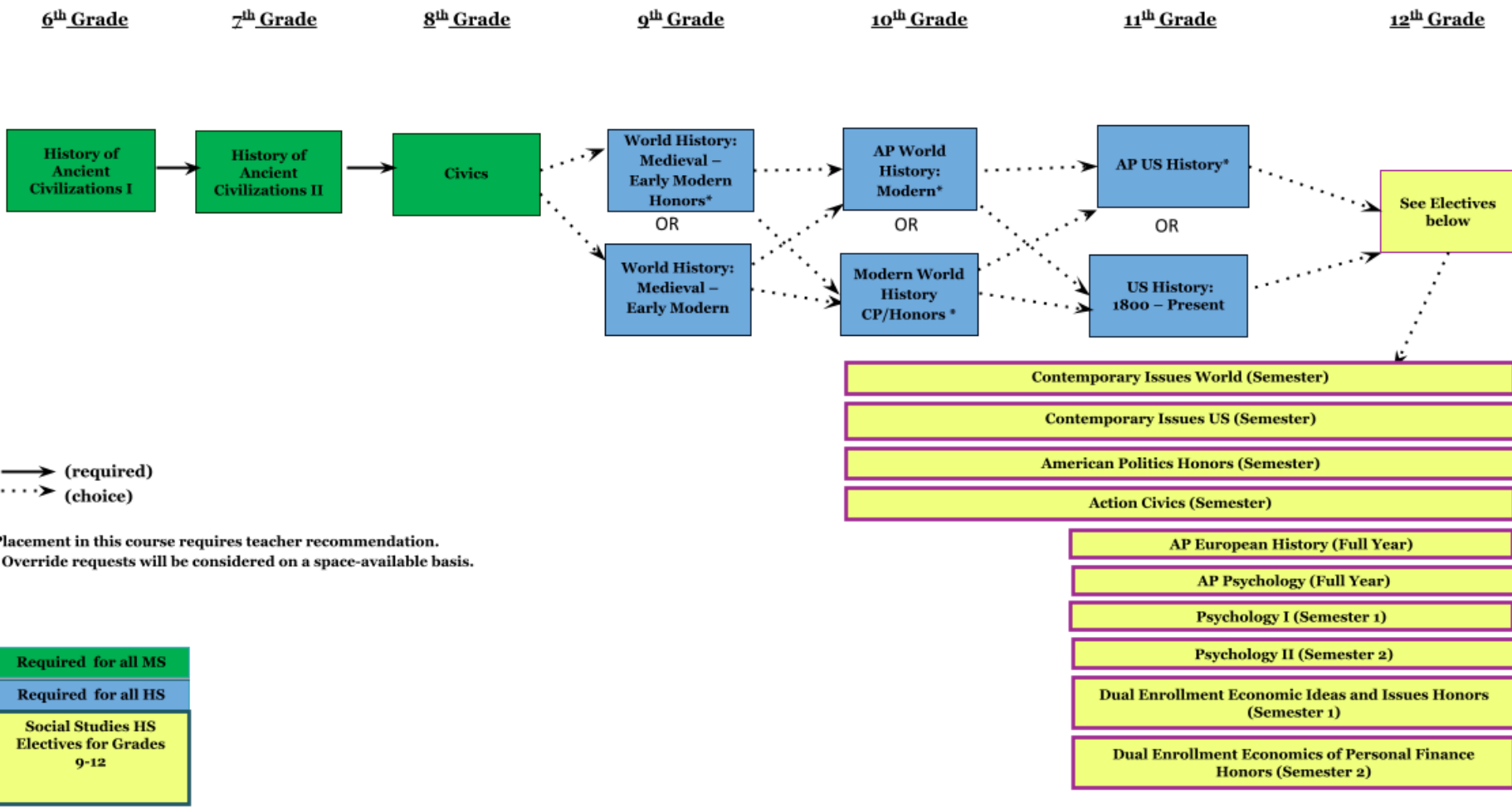
Course M370 **GRADE 7 HISTORY OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS PART 2** **Full Year**
M371

This course has been redesigned to align with state standards to reflect the diversity of world culture. Together we will investigate the major components of Ancient Civilizations Part 2. Elements of these civilizations to be explored include government, law, religion, social structure, literature, art, geography, and architecture. Throughout the year, emphasis will be placed on refining student skills in research, oral expression, and critical writing. Our units will include Israel, Arabia, India, China, Greece, and Rome. In Europe, will examine the development of democracy as a prelude to the study of civics in grade 8.

Course M380 **GRADE 8 CIVICS** **Full Year**
M381

This course is designed to build students' understanding of the basic principles of American government and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. As part of this course, students will study some early United States' History related to the development of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, with emphasis on the roots of our nation's ideals, traditions, and institutions, and the enduring struggle for freedom and civil rights for all Americans. Students participate in government by contacting government officials about issues in society that they would like to improve. Throughout the year, students will continue to work on skills-development, with particular emphasis on using experiential learning activities as opportunities to problem solve around challenges faced by past and present citizens. Current events will be integrated into the course to help students connect the past to the present.

Social Studies Course Sequence



MATHEMATICS

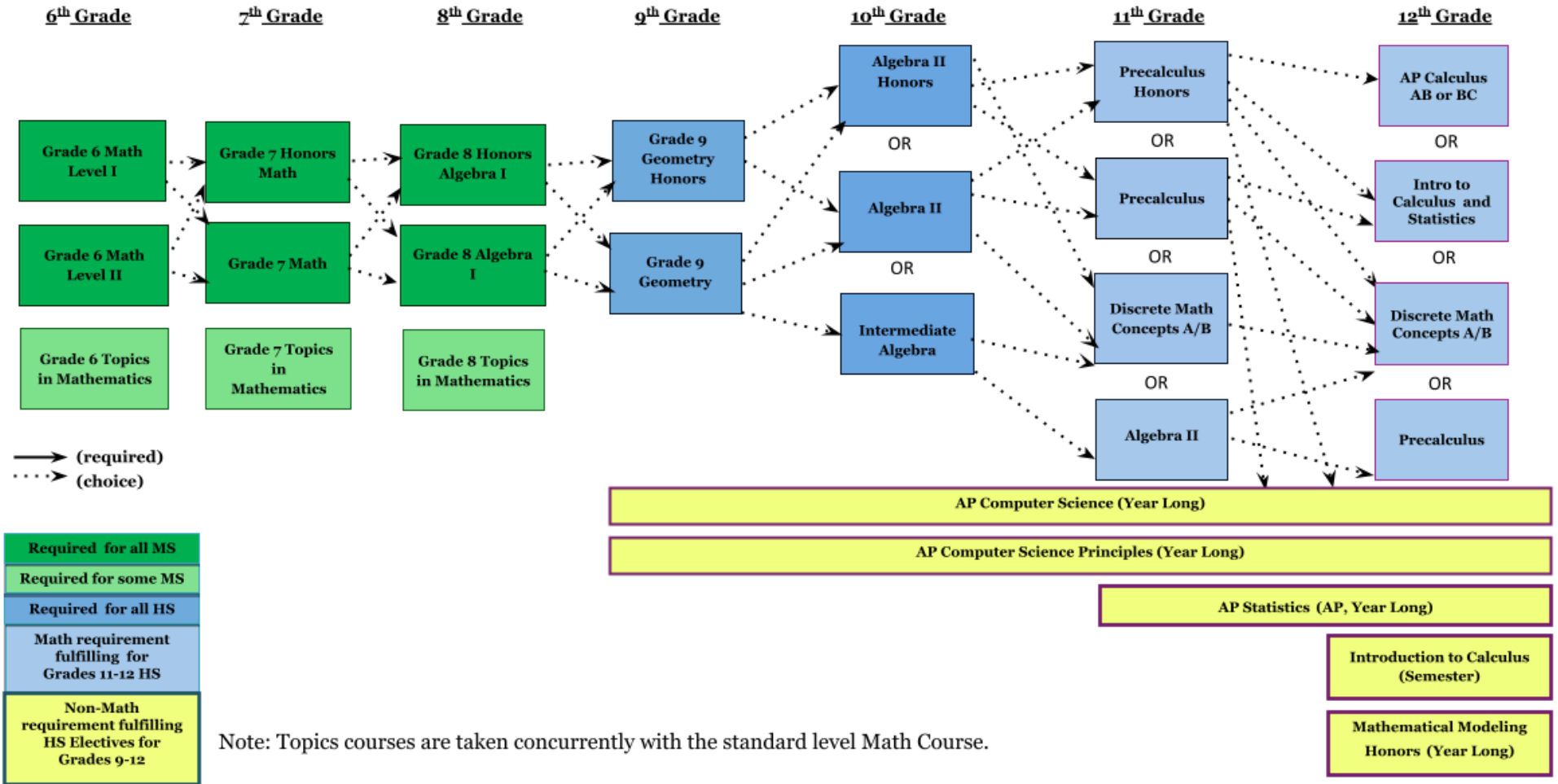
The courses in mathematics emphasize the pattern, structure, and unifying ideas of the discipline. Since we have witnessed tremendous growth in uses of mathematics during the past thirty years, it is virtually impossible to predict all our future mathematical needs. We attempt to provide opportunities for students to achieve the mathematical, statistical, and computer literacy that will be required by tomorrow's society. Acquiring problem-solving skills is a major emphasis of the program.

The mathematics department recommends that students take alternate mathematics courses (summer school, on-line, or after-school mathematics courses) only if they have done poorly in the corresponding academic year course or desire such a course for enrichment. When encountering specific mathematics courses for the first time, students should not substitute such alternate courses for regular academic year courses in their mathematics programs. In general, only academic year courses provide the time and group interaction necessary to develop an appropriate understanding of the concepts involved. Students will generally not be permitted to skip courses by taking alternate courses and students who take alternate courses prior to the academic year course should do so with the understanding that they will encounter some repetition of material in their academic year course. For further information about this policy, contact the department chair.

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| Course M160
M161 | GRADE 6 HONORS MATHEMATICS
Students in this course should have a solid mastery of their number facts, skill in abstracting, and an active interest in mathematics. The course will include expanding skills with fractions and decimals; work with the four operations and the order of operations; exploring graphs and analyzing data; two-dimensional geometry; an introduction to algebraic concepts; work on patterns in numbers and shapes and expressing those patterns algebraically; and studying ratios. Throughout the course students will be exposed to a variety of problems and puzzles designed to develop problem-solving skills and encourage creative thinking. | Full Year |
| Course M162
M163 | GRADE 6 MATHEMATICS
Students in this course should be able to demonstrate mastery of most number facts. The course will include expanding skills with fractions and decimals; work with the four operations and the order of operations; exploring graphs and analyzing data; two-dimensional geometry; an introduction to algebraic concepts; work on patterns in numbers and shapes and expressing those patterns algebraically; and studying ratios. Throughout the course students will be exposed to a variety of problems and puzzles designed to develop problem-solving skills and encourage creative thinking. | Full Year |
| Course M165 | GRADE 6 TOPICS IN MATHEMATICS
This course is for students concurrently enrolled in Grade 6 Level II Mathematics (Course M162 or M163) who need additional mathematics instruction to succeed in that course. Instruction in Topics is designed to reinforce concepts from Level II Mathematics, address skill weaknesses, develop the habits of mind necessary for success in mathematics, and prepare students for upcoming lessons in Level II Mathematics. Grade 6 Topics meets 2 times a week; the course is a pass/fail course and has no required homework. | Full Year |
| Course M170
M171 | GRADE 7 HONORS MATHEMATICS
This course is designed to prepare students for Honors Algebra I in Grade 8. The year will be divided into four major units: Operations in Expressions and Equations, Ratios and Proportions, Three-Dimensional Geometry, and Probability. In addition to the standard curriculum, students will engage in a number of explorations from computer programming to different number systems. Only students with high motivation and demonstrated mathematical achievement should enroll in this course. | Full Year |

Course M172 M173	GRADE 7 MATHEMATICS Grade 7 Mathematics is a college preparatory course that continues students' exploration of algebraic concepts. Students are recommended for this course by their 6 th grade teacher. Course content will consist of four major units: Operations in Expressions and Equations, Ratios and Proportions, Three-Dimensional Geometry, and Probability. Students will also be introduced to computer programming throughout the year. By the end of the year, students in this course will be prepared to take Grade 8 Algebra I.	Full Year
Course M175	GRADE 7 TOPICS IN MATHEMATICS This course is for students concurrently enrolled in Grade 7 Mathematics (Course M172 or M173) who need additional mathematics instruction to succeed in that course. Instruction in Topics is designed to reinforce concepts from Grade 7 Mathematics, address skill weaknesses, develop the habits of mind necessary for success in mathematics, and prepare students for upcoming lessons in Grade 7 Mathematics. Grade 7 Topics meets 2 times a week; the course is a pass/fail course and has no required homework.	Full Year
Course M180 M181	GRADE 8 HONORS ALGEBRA I This course is a challenging introduction to algebra. Major topics will include linear equations, graphs and functions, systems of linear equations, polynomials, factoring, and quadratic functions. Algebra I features hands-on investigations of interesting and meaningful problems. Students will use a practical blend of technology-related and paper-and-pencil problem-solving tools including graphing calculators. Students will also engage in a variety of enrichment explorations involving topics such as computer programming and mathematical modeling. Only students with high motivation, exceptional ability and demonstrated mathematical achievement should enroll in this course.	Full Year
Course M182 M183	GRADE 8 ALGEBRA I This course is a college-preparatory introduction to Algebra. Major topics will include linear equations, graphs and functions, systems of linear equations, polynomials, factoring, and quadratic functions. Algebra I features hands-on investigations of interesting and meaningful problems. Students will use a practical blend of technology-related and paper-and-pencil problem-solving tools including graphing calculators.	Full Year
Course M185	GRADE 8 TOPICS IN ALGEBRA This course is for students concurrently enrolled in Grade 8 Algebra I (Course M182 or M183) who need additional mathematics instruction to succeed in that course. Instruction in Topics is designed to reinforce concepts from Algebra I, address skill weaknesses, develop the habits of mind necessary for success in mathematics, and prepare students for upcoming lessons in Algebra I. Grade 8 Topics in Algebra meets 2 times a week; the course is a pass/fail course and has no required homework.	Full Year
Course M186	APPLIED DISCRETE MATHEMATICS CONCEPTS This course offers students the opportunity to study the application of important mathematical concepts to real world issues and problems. Students will gain a solid understanding of fundamental mathematical ideas by developing mathematical models and applying technology while using these models for decision making. The topics studied might include mathematical models for the study of traffic and the spread of gossip or disease; the use of probability and inferential statistics to make predictions from limited data; applied game theory; applied graph theory; operations research/queue theory; mathematical systems for modeling situations ranging from urban geography to political decision making; risk analysis and numeracy.	Full Year

Math Course Sequence



MUSIC

The Music Department provides opportunities for participation in vocal and instrumental groups and offers general music courses at grades 6 and 7. The purpose of the music offerings is the cultivation of a lasting appreciation of music and the personal enrichment brought about through participation and study. Music students also have the opportunity to audition for the Junior Northeast Festival.

Course M901	GRADE 6 MIXED CHORUS	Full Year
M902	GRADE 7 MIXED CHORUS	Full Year
M903	GRADE 8 MIXED CHORUS	Full Year

Students will be taught harmony, diction, and other vocal techniques needed for good choral singing. Music selections will include a range of styles representing different cultures and eras. The choruses will perform in the winter and spring concerts, and rehearsals and performances outside of regular school hours will be required.

Course M900	GRADE 7/8 WILDCAT VOICES	Full Year
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This is a performing group established to enrich the serious chorus student. Admission to this group is by audition only. Students selected for Wildcat Voices are also required to sing with the 7th or 8th grade chorus. Rehearsals and performances outside of regular school hours will be required.

Course M908	GRADE 6 BAND	Full Year
M904	GRADE 7 BAND	Full Year
M905	GRADE 8 BAND	Full Year
M909	GRADE 6 STRING ORCHESTRA	Full Year
M907	GRADE 7/8 STRING ORCHESTRA	Full Year

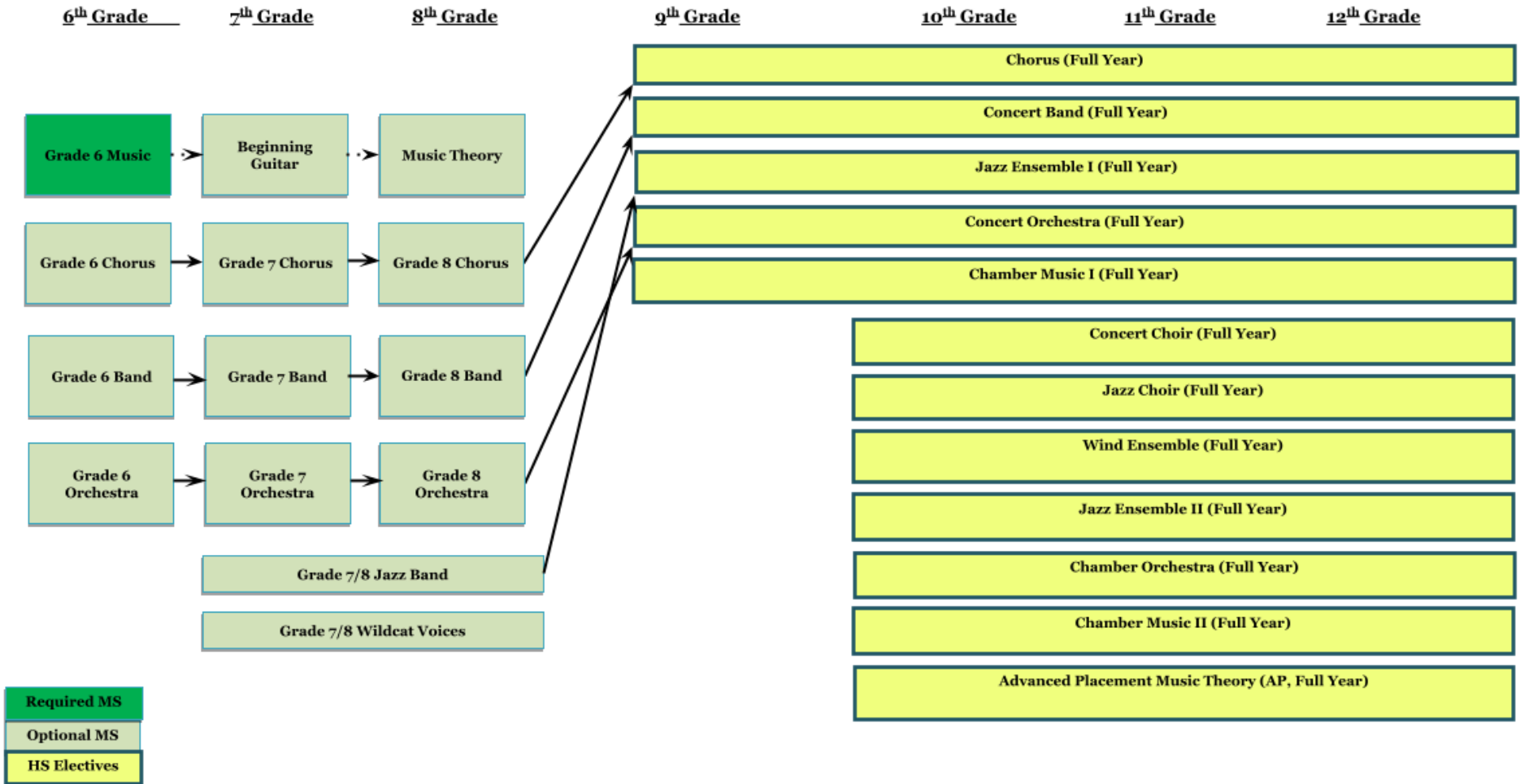
The instrumental groups will offer instruction in the development and refinement of intermediate performing and ensemble techniques. Students will continue to broaden their knowledge of music fundamentals: scales, keys, rhythm patterns, dynamics, and expression of symbols. Rehearsals and performances outside of regular school hours will be required.

Course M906	JAZZ BAND	Full Year
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This course is a performing group established to enrich the serious band student. Admission to this group is by audition only and based on the instrumentation needs of the group. Students will learn the language of jazz through the study of jazz fundamentals: blues scales, swing rhythms, articulations, dynamics, and improvisation. Rehearsals and performances outside of regular school hours will be required. Students in the Jazz Band also will be required to play in the 7th or 8th grade band (7th/8th grade orchestra for string bassists).

The scheduling of all music electives is contingent upon class sizes, enrollments, and lack of conflicts. Students may have to choose between music electives under certain circumstances.

Music Course Options



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING

The Weston science and technology program is designed to guide students toward science literacy in our increasingly complex technological world. Our goal is to help students learn to think scientifically in analyzing and evaluating important science-based questions, while at the same time encouraging curiosity and wonder about the details they observe in the world around them. Likewise, through project-based experiences in design, computer-science, and the technological arts, students learn to both understand and to become active creators of the human-made world that surrounds them.

The middle school science and technology/engineering curriculum has been revised in accordance with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and updates to the Massachusetts Science Frameworks. In place of traditional disciplines, science and technology/engineering is taught in a spiraled manner, emphasizing cross-cutting concepts including patterns, systems and system modeling, energy and matter flows, cause and effect, scale, proportion and quantity, structure and function, and evolution.

Grade-appropriate reading, writing, and mathematics concepts are embedded throughout the curriculum, as recommended by the Common Core Standards.

Additionally, in each year, students explore the connections between science and technology/engineering through a series of engineering design projects, both within their science courses and through their choice of technology/engineering electives that take place during the arts blocks.

Course M460 GRADE 6 SCIENCE Full Year

Sixth Grade science is centered around student based inquiry learning and problem solving. In this introductory year to middle school, it is important to introduce students to hands-on learning and experimentation in the science curriculum. Instructors work to instill scientific thinking processes and basic engineering/design principles in the students as they build things and explore the world around them.

Following the engineering design process, students will build instruments, boats, and windmills as they study the nature and properties of matter and energy transformation. Measurement of scale, proportion, and quality are applied to both engineering design and chemical reactions of matter. Weather and the environment are studied as systems, both driven by energy flow originating from the sun.

Reading and writing are also important skills emphasized in science (all classes are English class!). Students learn the importance of communicating ideas in science by writing several lab reports throughout the year, culminating in a Design-Your-Own-Lab project in the 4th quarter. Among the topics studied are properties of matter, basic particles of matter, energy transformation, Heat, Weather, and Ecology.

Course M470**GRADE 7 SCIENCE****Full Year**

Grade 7 Science fills the critical role of building on the excellent foundation in science students acquired in sixth grade and prior while preparing them for future science classes in eighth grade and beyond. We focus on the scientific practices including: asking questions, developing and using models, carrying out and planning investigations, analyzing data, using mathematical and computational thinking, constructing explanations (science) or designing solutions (engineering), engaging in argument from evidence, obtaining, evaluating and communicating information.

Grade 7 Science presents units in Earth Science, Life Science, and Physical Science employing the common themes of how the interdependent parts of complex systems work together and how energy flows through systems. Specifically, students will study topics including the Earth as a system, plate tectonics, ecosystems, evolutionary adaptations, and the nature of energy including heat, electricity & magnetism.

Daily classroom activities make use of hands-on and minds-on laboratory exercises, engineering design challenges, group and individual projects and assignments, lecture with note taking, small group and whole class discussions - all designed to increase student interest and wonder about the natural world.

Significant skill-based learning goals for this course include teamwork in lab and on projects, effective note taking, development of scientific writing skills, personal organization, study and test taking skills, and meaningful participation in class and lab. Content and skills are developed through a variety of approaches including technology based activities, inquiry labs, and regular assessments.

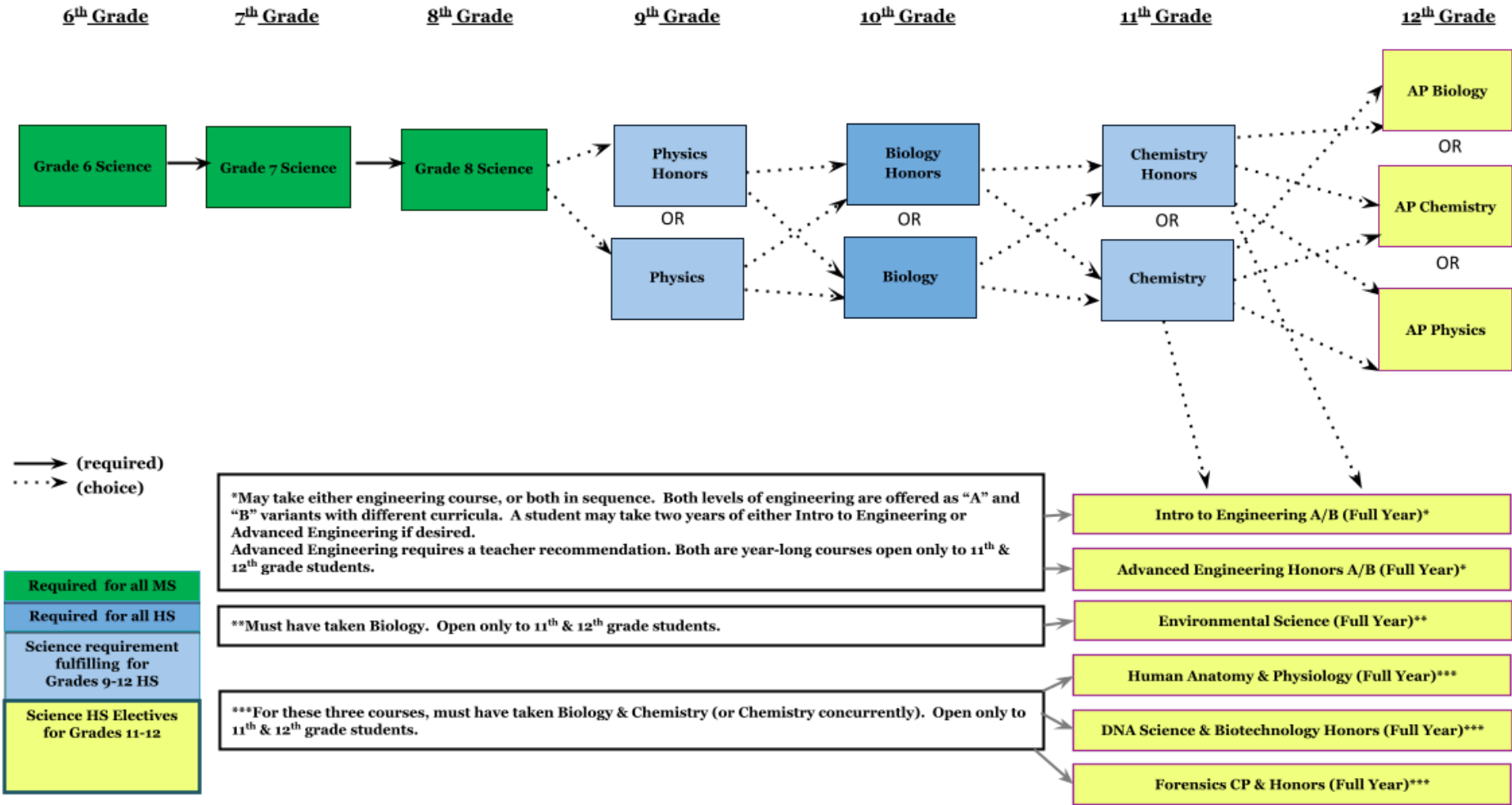
Course M480**GRADE 8 SCIENCE****Full Year**

In Grade 8 science the study of cause and effect is a recurring theme. Students use abstract thinking skills to explain the causes of complex systems and phenomena. An understanding of cause and effect encourages students to explain patterns and make predictions about natural events.

Students will work on further developing science practices such as: developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, and constructing explanations and designing solutions. Major emphasis will be placed on the application of organizational skills, continued acquisition of study skills and self-advocacy, discovery by inquiry and critical thinking, data collection and presentation of experimental information.

Conceptually, students increase their depth of understanding by building upon content learned in 6th and 7th grade. 8th grade science is broken down into three distinct units with a focus on each distinct scientific discipline: Earth Science, Life Science, and Physical Science. Topics covered include: weather and climate change, reproduction, inheritance, and biological evolution, matter and its interactions and forces and its interactions.

Science Course Sequence



WELLNESS

The Wellness Program, Grades 6-8, contains Health and Physical Education courses that are designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to make good health decisions. The program utilizes the updated 2023 Massachusetts Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Curriculum Framework to foster the development of the processes and skills that promote and maintain lifelong health and well-being: Decision-making and Problem Solving; Self-Management and Goal Setting; Social Awareness, Relationship, and Communication Skills; Movement Skills; Self-awareness and Analyzing Influences; Information and Resource Seeking; Self-Advocacy and Health Promotion. The goals and objectives of this program are met through the courses in Health Education and Physical Education.

Course M760 GRADE 6 PHYSICAL EDUCATION Full Year

Grade 6 Physical Education will continue the themes addressed in grade 5. There will be an emphasis on fitness, and basic psychomotor skill acquisition in the context of team sports and developing healthy social relationships. Units offered may include: flag football, frisbee, basketball, hockey, soccer, volleyball, track, yoga and badminton. The course will meet for two class periods each week.

Course M761 GRADE 6 HEALTH EDUCATION Full Year

Grade 6 Health Education will provide students with opportunities to learn more about their physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development, and help them develop health-related communication and decision-making skills. This course will meet for one period each week. Topics covered include but are not limited to: nutrition, healthy relationships, safety and human growth and development.

Course M770 GRADE 7 PHYSICAL EDUCATION Full Year

Grade 7 Physical Education will provide the opportunity for students to further develop increased psychomotor skills and advance to game application of those skills. Fitness concepts are emphasized, with students encouraged to explore their own responsibility and skills needed for personal fitness. Units offered include: football, frisbee, basketball, field hockey, soccer, volleyball, track, strength training, cardiovascular health, and badminton. The course will meet for two class periods each week.

Course M771 GRADE 7 HEALTH EDUCATION Full Year

Grade 7 Health Education focuses on personal responsibility and healthy decision-making. Students will cover a number of important content for early adolescent emotional development. Topics covered include but are not limited to: social dynamics, stress and anxiety management, mental health, human sexuality and alcohol use prevention.

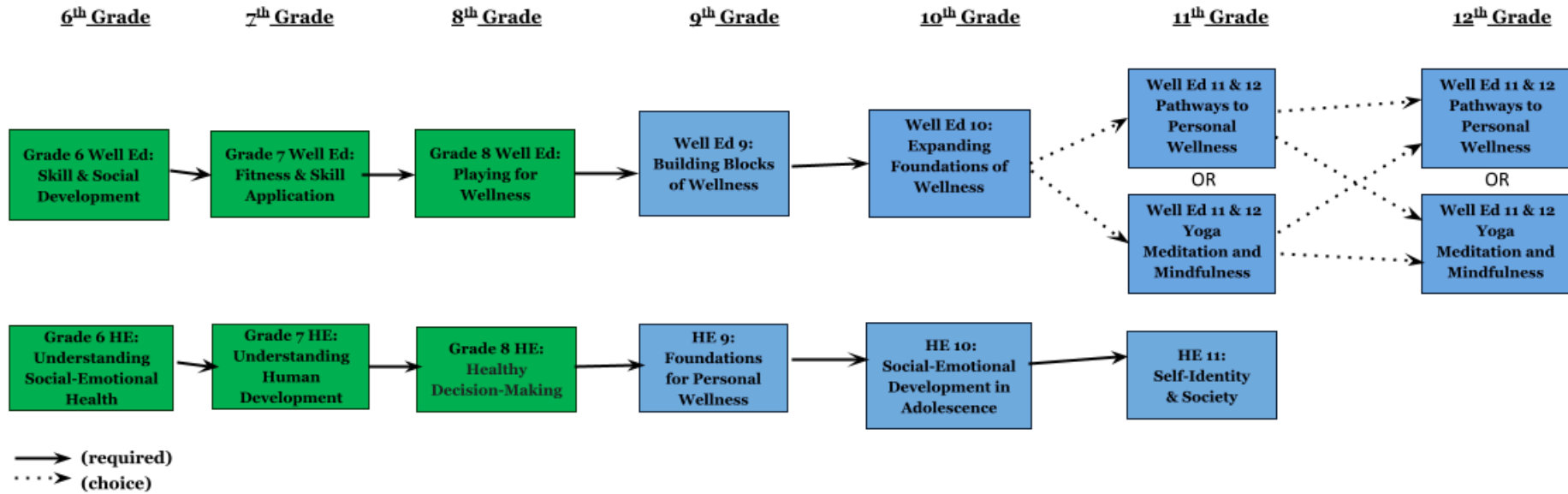
Course M780 GRADE 8 PHYSICAL EDUCATION Full Year

Grade 8 Physical Education will continue the process of improving advanced psychomotor skills while also transitioning students from sport activities to individual fitness activities. The development of personal fitness goals, and increased responsibility and accountability for one's health, personal behavior, and self-efficacy are emphasized. Units offered will include: fitness concepts, strength training, wall-climbing, yoga, volleyball, track, pickleball, tennis, and badminton, rugby, and team handball.

Course M781 GRADE 8 HEALTH EDUCATION 2 Units

This course builds upon the grade 7 Health Education curriculum to assist students with improving the skills necessary to take care of themselves and others. Topics include but are not limited to sleep hygiene, vaping use prevention and human sexuality.

Wellness Education Course Sequence



<p><i>Each FCS Cooking class may be taken as a general elective one time, during any semester in the student's four-year high school career.</i></p>	<div style="background-color: #ffffcc; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Creative Cooking (Semester)</div> <div style="background-color: #ffffcc; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Regional U.S. Cuisine (Semester)</div> <div style="background-color: #ffffcc; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">International Cuisine (Semester)</div> <div style="background-color: #ffffcc; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Cooking for Fitness (Semester)</div>
<div style="background-color: #c6e0b4; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Required for all MS</div> <div style="background-color: #c6e0b4; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Required for all HS</div> <div style="background-color: #c6e0b4; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">PE requirement fulfilling for Grades 11-12 HS</div>	<p><i>Massachusetts General Laws – Chapter 71, Section 3. Physical education shall be taught as a required subject in all grades for all students in the public schools for the purpose of promoting the physical well-being of such students.</i></p>
<div style="background-color: #ffffcc; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Non-PE requirement fulfilling HS Electives for Grades 9-12</div>	<p><i>Massachusetts General Laws – Chapter 71, Section 1. Instruction in health education shall include, but shall not be limited to: consumer health, ecology, community health, body structure and function, safety, nutrition, fitness and body dynamics, dental health, emotional development, safe and healthy relationships with a focus on preventing sexual and domestic violence and training in the administration of first aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation.</i></p> <div style="background-color: #ffffcc; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Yoga Meditation and Mindfulness (Semester)</div> <div style="background-color: #ffffcc; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">The Science of Well-being (Semester)</div>

WORLD LANGUAGES

World language courses in Weston follow the proficiency model of world language instruction reflected in the Massachusetts State Curriculum Frameworks and the National Standards for Education. Students are presented with both grammar and vocabulary in context and are encouraged to express themselves in the target language. Awareness of cultural differences and similarities is also essential to a complete language education. Interdisciplinary themes allow students to use the language they acquire to learn about their world in general. They also demonstrate a more authentic use for the language as a means of communicating important information.

While Latin does not require the same instructional shift from a more traditional methodology to the proficiency model as do Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, and French, curricular objectives for Latin have been modified to make study of the language more relevant to students. Projects, games and historical lessons complement working with grammar and vocabulary, which is presented in context and in an age-appropriate manner. In addition, students learn to recognize parts of speech and vocabulary derivatives which enhance their understanding of their native language. Study skills are an essential part of the curriculum as well.

World Languages are part of our core curriculum and all students will choose a language to learn. When choosing a language, please keep in mind that this is a three-year commitment to that language. Students will be enrolled in this language for Grades 6, 7 and 8. For students in Grade 6, we are not able to allow any change in languages after **September 30** and **parents should speak with the teacher before requesting a change.** In addition, such a change must be accompanied by written permission of the principal.

Seal of Biliteracy

Weston High School students may be eligible to receive the Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy upon graduation. The Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in recognition of students who have studied and attained a designated level of proficiency in two or more languages (including English) by high school graduation. The criteria are 1) a rating of Intermediate-High or above on the ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages, and 2) a score of Proficient or above on the high school ELA MCAS. Students fluent in a language not taken at school may qualify based on an alternate assessment and should contact the Director of World Languages. We encourage all students to continue their study of language throughout high school as multiple years of study will provide the opportunity to earn this award.

FRENCH/SPANISH

Course M564	GRADE 6 SPANISH	Full Year
	Sixth grade Spanish serves as a continuation of the elementary school Spanish program. Students will be taught to express themselves in the target language and comprehend simple statements, commands and descriptive passages. Grammar will be addressed in context and grammatical accuracy will be secondary to general communication. Hands-on activities, games and songs will be used to reinforce the material. The ultimate goal of studying a second language at this grade level will be enjoyment of, awareness of the need for, and commitment to language study. This course will meet two periods each week.	
Course M573	GRADE 7 SPANISH	Full Year
	Prerequisite: Grade 6 Spanish The course will meet four periods per week and the curriculum will build on students' previous learnings. Students will be encouraged to use both grammar and vocabulary for self-expression and as communication tools for discussing work in other areas of study. More traditional and project-based assessments will replace the less formal methods used in Spanish classes at the elementary school level. An important focus of language education at this level will continue to be the acquisition of oral/aural skills. In addition, reading and writing will become a more integral part of instruction. Students will be introduced to linguistic	

structure as an abstract construct that enhances the precision of speech. Work in grammar and vocabulary will be supported by a traditional language text as well as by teacher-designed materials. Classes will be conducted as much as possible in Spanish, and the use of English will be reserved for more complex explanations of grammar or for ensuring student comprehension of less easily understood classroom procedures.

Course M581

GRADE 8 SPANISH

Full Year

Prerequisite: Grade 7 Spanish

This Grade 8 course is designed for students who have successfully completed Grade 7 Spanish (Course M573). The class will be conducted primarily in the target language with English reserved for grammar explanations and for some classroom procedures. The year will begin with a brief review of the material covered in Grade 7. However, at this level, our study will focus beyond everyday situations to include storytelling and histories, both personal and cultural, using the two past tense conjugations of verbs.

Independent use of the language continues to be an overarching goal of the program, and students will be encouraged to speak and write creatively in Spanish. Reading and listening selections will provide cultural material from the Spanish speaking world as well as reinforcement of the grammar and vocabulary in each lesson. A traditional language text will serve as a guide for the work; however, much of the sequence and pacing is determined by the teacher in response to the needs of the class. Hands-on projects and interdisciplinary work will help students make connections between the language they are learning and other aspects of their lives. Whenever possible, native speakers will be invited to classes for both formal and informal presentations, and students will be encouraged to use their language skills in real life situations.

Students completing this level of language instruction will be prepared for the Intermediate level at the High School.

Course M561

GRADE 6 FRENCH

Full Year

Students in this introductory French course will learn about the various French speaking cultures and begin the process of building a foundation of vocabulary and grammar. Units of study will include the self and family, school routines, and sports and hobbies. Hands-on activities, games and songs will be used to reinforce the material. The ultimate goal of studying a second language at this grade level will be enjoyment of, awareness of the need for, and commitment to language study. This course will meet two periods each week.

Course M570

GRADE 7 FRENCH

Full Year

Prerequisite: Grade 6 French

This course builds on the basic concepts of language study and continues the process of strengthening their language skills, allowing students to communicate more in the target language. More traditional teacher-centered instruction will be supplemented with student projects and reading selections. Units of study will include telling time; describing themselves and their friends and families; ordering in a restaurant; and asking for and giving information with regard to weather, daily schedules and activities.

Students will be expected to comfortably use the simple present tense. In addition, students will be introduced to the near future and simple past tenses. Even at this early stage of language acquisition, students will be encouraged to use the language independently to express themselves.

Course M580 **GRADE 8 FRENCH** **Full Year**
Prerequisite: Grade 7 French
Students in this course will expand their work with the language and culture by learning to comprehend simple command forms, communicate personal preferences, and recognize many common idiomatic expressions. They also will begin their study of the simple past tense as it is used to tell stories, give personal histories, and describe occurrences in the past. Often major historical events from the target culture will be introduced at this point. Although vocabulary and grammar begun in previous years will be reviewed, there will be an increase in both the pacing and amount of the material to be mastered. Reading and listening selections, while carefully constructed to reinforce the material presented, will continue to provide challenges for student comprehension. Written and oral assignments will be designed to allow creative, contextualized use of the language.

Grade 8 French will be conducted entirely in the target language with English reserved only for complex explanations of grammatical structures.

LATIN

Course M562 **GRADE 6 LATIN** **Full Year**
Students in this introductory Latin course will focus on the connections between Latin, English and the Romance languages, acquire basic vocabulary and grammar needed to read and comprehend the Latin language, and begin their study of ancient Roman history. Hands-on activities will be used to reinforce the material. The ultimate goal of studying a second language at this grade level will be enjoyment of, awareness of the need for, and commitment to language study. This course will meet two periods each week.

Course M511 **GRADE 7 LATIN** **Full Year**
Prerequisite: Grade 6 Latin
Students will build on their Latin skills in order to read and comprehend more complex texts. In addition, students will explore such cultural topics as the study of Roman houses, families, and chariot racing. More traditional classroom instruction will be enhanced by hands-on projects that encourage the integration of language skills.

Course M512 **GRADE 8 LATIN** **Full Year**
Prerequisite: Grade 7 Latin
This course will review all grammar and vocabulary taught in previous years and introduce more complex grammatical concepts needed to read, write, and comprehend modified Latin stories and passages. The course will continue to focus on Roman cultural topics, including religion, baths and slavery. Emphasis will be placed on gaining mastery of the concepts of case and the ability to translate and comprehend with ease. Traditional classroom instruction will be supplemented by projects.

MANDARIN CHINESE

Course M563 GRADE 6 MANDARIN CHINESE Full Year

This introductory Mandarin Chinese class introduces students to basic vocabulary and grammar, as well as Chinese culture. Some of the units of study are the family, school life and hobbies. Hands-on activities, games and songs will be used to reinforce the material. The ultimate goal of studying a second language at this grade level will be enjoyment of, awareness of the need for, and commitment to language study. This course will meet two periods each week.

Course M510 GRADE 7 MANDARIN CHINESE Full Year

Prerequisite: Grade 6 Mandarin Chinese

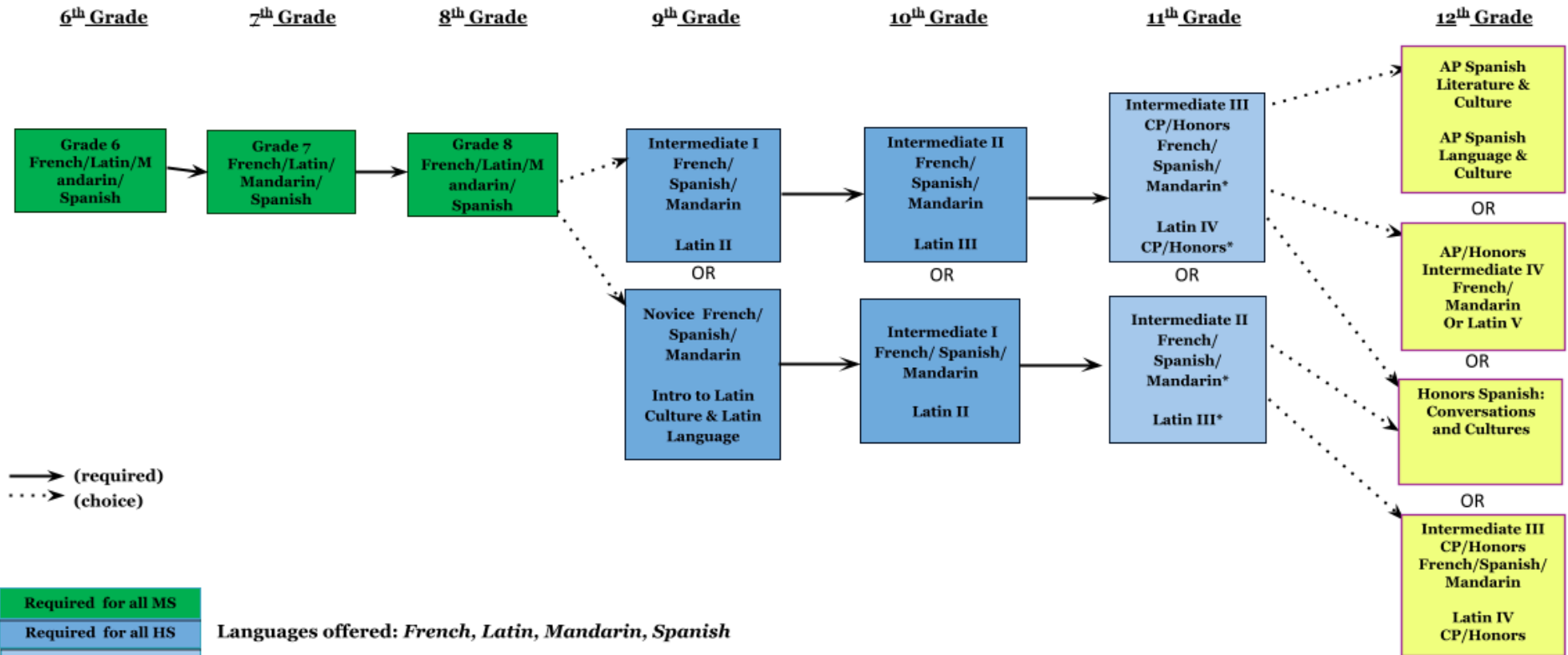
This course is designed to reflect the proficiency-based orientation of all our oral world languages. Classes are instructed primarily in the target language, with English reserved for complex directions or for grammatical explanations not immediately obvious to young students. There will be a variety of assessment models, including quizzes and projects. Producing and responding to simple instructions, expressing wants, exchanging greetings and limited personal information, counting, and naming common objects comprise the bulk of the linguistic goals of this year's study. Cultural information about China, a familiarity with the written language, and an understanding of both similarities and differences between Chinese language and culture and that of the United States are also critical components of the course.

Course M513 GRADE 8 MANDARIN CHINESE Full Year

Prerequisite: Grade 7 Mandarin Chinese

Building on the skills introduced the previous year, students will add to their knowledge of the spoken and written language. Many of the topic areas covered in Grade 7 are revisited and expanded in the second year of the course. Again, the class is conducted primarily in Chinese, with English reserved for complex conceptual understanding. Entering students are expected to have mastered pinyin, as well as sufficient characters to express the simple statements or questions presented in the previous year's study. Songs, simple traditional poetry, and folk stories adapted for beginning language learners serve as both a vehicle for developing additional linguistic skills and as an introduction to important components of Chinese culture and history. While the class continues to be teacher directed, independent projects and group projects encourage students to use the language they are studying for creative self-expression.

World Language Course Sequence



Required for all MS
Required for all HS
Course Strongly Suggested for Grade 11 HS
World Language HS Options for Grade 12

Languages offered: *French, Latin, Mandarin, Spanish*

WPS students study Spanish Grades 1 – 5, then choose to either remain with Spanish or switch into one of the other options for a three-year commitment to that language (Grades 6, 7 & 8).

High school students who are so inclined are encouraged to take on a second World Language and would generally merge into this continuum at the Novice level with exceptions based on prior knowledge/experience.

*A minimum three-year high school World Language Course Sequence is recommended for students seeking admission to competitive colleges.