

MIDDLE SCHOOL
ACADEMIC & CAREER
PLANNING GUIDE



Our Mission

We believe in a relentless commitment to academic achievement for all. We will ensure that we have excellent educators in our schools and that they have the support and resources they need. We will evaluate the resources, structures, and practices within the system in order to empower all to thrive.

Our Vision

Ensure an exceptional and equitable learning experience for all.

Theory of Action

If adult practices improve, then student outcomes improve.



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MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC AND CAREER PLANNING GUIDE

This guide is a resource to help you navigate the journey through middle school. The guide includes a description of courses at grade levels 6-8 in core academic areas and electives and an appendix which will provide further information about math. If you need further information or you have a question concerning your student's middle school programming, please contact your school counselor for guidance.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

The Wauwatosa School District subscribes to a philosophy that the unique needs of students in grades 6 through 8 can best be met in a middle school setting that provides a student-centered program and recognizes that the students of this age are undergoing greater physiological, psychological, and social re- orientation than at any other period in their lives.

The overall purpose of the middle school is to meet the educational, developmental, and social needs that emerge during this transitional period. The middle school program will provide a supportive and flexible environment so students will have opportunities to develop skills and explore a variety of learning experiences while making the transition from elementary to high school.

In keeping with this philosophy, the middle school provides:

- A core curriculum of English language arts, math, science, and social studies.
- Elective courses to help students discover and extend interests and abilities.
- An extensive school counseling program.
- A supportive environment for the physical and social-emotional development of every student.
- A gradual transition in programs from the elementary classroom of the fifth grade to the departmentalized structure of high school.
- An intramural and club/activity-oriented program to accommodate the needs of the early adolescent.
- A positive climate that fosters self-esteem, self-discipline, and student responsibility.
- Close contact and communication between parents and school.
- A challenging curriculum and pace of learning to meet individual levels and understanding.
- Opportunities for intervention, enrichment, extension and acceleration to meet the needs of all learners.

Student achievement can best be attained when the school, staff, parents/guardians, and students all work together. When students attend school regularly, maintain a positive attitude, and give maximum effort to achieve, they will experience maximum growth both academically and socially.

GENERAL MIDDLE SCHOOL STRUCTURE

Class Schedule

Students will have daily core academic classes, i.e., instruction in English language arts, math, science and social studies. All middle school students will also take elective classes. Electives include art, business education, family and consumer education, music, physical education, technical education, and World Language courses. The courses available vary by grade level. Every Wednesday students are released one hour early for teachers to collaborate on student progress toward meeting the essential outcomes for the course.

Lunch/Breakfast

Students are assigned a lunch period and are required to eat at school. All students eat in the cafeteria unless requested by a classroom teacher to do otherwise. They may bring lunch from home or purchase lunch from the cafeteria. The food service program, Sodexo, provides daily offerings which include a complete school lunch as well as a variety of a la carte food items. Breakfast is available in the cafeteria prior to the start of each school day. Students may pay for meals using the money in their lunch account or cash. Students who are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals must have a completed application on file. Applications for meal benefits are available during registration in August or can be obtained in the school office throughout the school year.

GENERAL MIDDLE SCHOOL STRUCTURE (CONT.)

Technology Access

An acceptable use guideline exists that all students are expected to follow. The guideline describes how technology resources are to be used in the district and also represents the principles of the Wauwatosa community with regard to accessing appropriate Internet content, etc. It is provided to families at the start of every year. Due to the integration levels of technology within our schools, the guideline is in effect by default. Parents may choose to opt their student out of the agreement should they so desire by contacting the building principal.

Infinite Campus

Upon entering middle school every student and parent/guardian will have access to Infinite Campus. Infinite Campus is a web-based information system that allows students and parents to view attendance, grades, and assignments. This is an important tool for both the student and parent/guardian to access regularly to monitor academic success.

Responsibility for Learning (R4L)

Hard work and positive behaviors contribute to a student's successful middle school experience. Knowing this to be true, we hold students accountable for displaying productive academic behaviors. We communicate our expectations in a variety of formal and informal ways. One formal way for us to communicate this with students and families is through the Responsibility for Learning Grade. R4L grades can also be found in Infinite Campus. Below is the guiding rubric and an explanation for the R4L grades:

RESPECT	RESPONSIBILITY	ENGAGEMENT		
For self, other students, staff, and the building	Arrive to class on time with all supplies, complete assignments and turn them in on time	Participate appropriately during teacher instruction and group work, give your best effort on each learning task		

4 (Consistently) 3 (Usually)		2 (Occasionally)	1 (Rarely)
The student consistently demonstrates the behaviors above.	The student <i>usually</i> demonstrates the behaviors above	The student occasionally demonstrates the behaviors above	The student <i>rarely</i> demonstrates the behaviors above.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELING

School Counselor Mission Statement

The mission of the school counseling program is to enable all students to acquire the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to become effective students, responsible citizens, productive workers and lifelong learners.

Program Features

- We work with 100% of the students in grades 6-8.
- We place a strong emphasis on 8th grade Academic and Career Planning and the transition to high school.*
- The school counseling curriculum content is delivered in a developmental manner to all students.
- Our curriculum is based on the Wisconsin School Counseling and the American School Counseling Association standards.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELING (CONT.)

Program Advantages

- Focuses on academic success and provides purposeful learning experiences for all students
- Prepares all students to succeed in:
- Academic Development
- Career Development
- Personal/Social Development
- Provides counselors the opportunity to collaborate with parents and members of the community to benefit
 all students
- Supports our students by involving families, schools, and our community in helping students succeed

Curriculum

Our comprehensive school counseling program provides curriculum in a developmental manner to all students in grades JK-12 with the purpose of increasing student awareness, skill development, and appreciation of skills needed in everyday life.

Individual Student Planning

The school counseling program assists students in planning, monitoring, and managing their educational, personal, and career development. Helping students transition as they grow into middle school and prepare for high school.

Responsive Services

School counselors address the immediate concerns of students through individual and small group counseling, consultation, and referral.

System Support

Counselors work together with all school personnel to ensure the success of all students.

*The 8th grade Academic Career Plan creates a plan for each student's academic success and career development. Topics of discussion include: self-reflection, high school credits and transcript, 9th grade course planning, clubs and extracurriculars, and Xello career exploration.

Course Changes

Please know that your course selections will be considered closed and not subject to student change as of the second Friday of September.

Changes will be considered for the following reasons only:

- 1. If a student is academically misplaced (for example, math level should be adjusted higher or lower to meet the student's needs).
- 2. If a course has been eliminated due to low enrollment.
- 3. A conflict exists in the student schedule that prevents them from taking one or more of the classes they selected during the registration process.
- 4. A student was mistakenly scheduled into an incorrect class.
- 5. The Student Services Team Member or Administrator deems that a schedule change is in the best interest of the student.
- 6. A student was placed on a waitlist for a closed class and a seat became available.
- 7. Other requests to add/drop will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Below are examples of why a request may not be honored:
 - The student would like to change teachers.
 - The student would like to be in classes with friends.

^{*}This list is not comprehensive- in general, course changes submitted by students will not be approved.

FOR SIXTH GRADE: MAKING THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT

Registration

Parents and students are encouraged to register the evening of the sixth grade orientation. The choices available at the sixth grade level are what music class to take opposite the required A/B schedule physical education class, as well as which Math course to take.

Options include:

Music: Band, Choir, Orchestra, or World Music

Math: Math 6, Accelerated Math 6

Elective: Spanish 6, Urban Farming, Coding Game and Design

Transitions

Wauwatosa's fifth grade students may visit the middle school in the spring to discuss the transition to sixth grade, ask questions, learn how to read the middle school schedule, tour the building and practice locker combinations. Parents and students may schedule an appointment with the school counselor or principal to visit the school.

In August, students have access to Infinite Campus to view their course schedule and locker assignments. Families have the opportunity to update family contact info on Infinite Campus and pay annual district fees. Students may access the Longfellow and Whitman buildings during designated dates over the summer to drop off school supplies in their lockers and walk through their course schedules. Start of the school year information will be emailed to students and families over the summer.

Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) is a transition program which uses selected eighth graders as mentors for incoming sixth grade students. An orientation is held during the first week of school. During the school year, eighth graders work with sixth graders on team building exercises.

Leaving the familiar elementary school for middle school is a common concern for both students and parents. Teachers take time to help students understand their schedules, teach them how to use their lockers, show them around the building and make them feel comfortable. Middle school counselors are available to assist students with transition issues and concerns.

Parent Involvement

Both middle schools have active Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs), which sponsor a variety of activities, including monthly Friday night social events and special projects. Volunteers are always welcome. In addition, parents at each school are actively involved as volunteers both during the school day (tutoring, chaperones, special events, etc.) and in extracurricular activities, as coaches and supervisors for clubs and special interest groups. Refer to the school newsletters or website for information on how to volunteer or contact the school principal or PTA president.

8TH GRADE MSTEM: MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS

At the middle school level, you and your student will be able to make choices about various opportunities. One such opportunity at the middle school level is the Middle School Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics program (MSTEM). MSTEM strives to provide a personalized learning experience for all students, resulting in individuals who embrace 21st-century thinking, positively impact their community, and value lifelong learning.

Using an interdisciplinary model, MSTEM students engage in Project-Based Learning (PBL) to develop communication, collaboration, problem-solving, presentation, engineering design process, and project management skills. Students complete guided as well as independent projects and coursework focusing on science, technology, engineering, mathematics, in addition to rigorous English Language Arts (ELA) and social studies benchmarks. Further, MSTEM projects bring relevance and create an intrinsic "need to know" drive for learning. MSTEM students are enrolled in the school district's College Prep Mathematics (CPM) curriculum, which is separate from the MSTEM program.

8TH GRADE MSTEM: MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS (CONT.)

Students' overall coursework is focused on STEM, but they have the opportunity to take electives throughout their time in the program, including art, business education, family and consumer education, music, technical education, and World Language. Students also take physical education every other day all year. In the following section you will find a listing of each grade level's requirements and electives.

This program is limited in size and a lottery process is used to fill open seats. Available seats at the two grade levels are determined by administration. Students apply for MSTEM enrollment by completing an application, which is entered into a lottery process in late February or early March. Students who are currently enrolled in MSTEM continue their enrollment for their middle school experience unless they opt out of the program. Please contact your school counselor for more information on MSTEM and the application process.

6TH GRADE COURSES

REQUIRED	MUSIC ELECTIVES	OTHER ELECTIVES
 English Language Arts Mathematics Music Physical Education Science Social Studies 	Students must choose ONE of the following: Band Choir Orchestra World Music	STUDENTS CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: Coding & Game Design Spanish 6 Urban Farming
12 WEEK • Adolescent Studies • Art 6 • PLTW® Gateway™: Design & Modeling		

6TH GRADE REQUIRED COURSES

English Language Arts 6

Year Daily Required Students will participate in a rigorous, 6th grade Wisconsin standards-aligned ELA course that provides practice and skill development in the following areas: reading, writing, language (grammar and vocabulary) and speaking and listening. Students will be immersed in a wide variety of literature and informational reading activities along with independent choice readings that coincide with the unit's essential question while also incorporating writing, speaking and listening, grammar and vocabulary skills. Student progress and mastery of the standards will be assessed through culminating tasks or essays which focus on the writing, language, reading and speaking and listening standards along with skills assessments to monitor proficiency of the reading standards.

Math 6

Year Daily Required Students in sixth grade participate in grade level math content aligned to the Wisconsin Standards for Mathematics and the Standards for Mathematical Practice. Students collaborate with classmates to deepen their understanding and use of problem-solving strategies, reasoning skills, and critical thinking. They also continue to develop their ability to model mathematics and recognize connections between concepts. The areas of focus for sixth grade math include: understanding ratio concepts; extending understanding of numbers to rational numbers; writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and developing understanding of statistical thinking. See Appendix A for more specific information regarding each grade level or course.

6TH GRADE REQUIRED COURSES (CONT.)

Physical Education

Year Required The A/B schedule physical education class is an introduction to a diverse selection of individual sports, team sports, aquatics and fitness activities. In sixth grade physical education, students are introduced to proper positioning in games/activities, teamwork, skill mechanics, and health and skill related fitness concepts.

Science 6

Year Daily Required Sixth grade science students learn aspects of physical science, chemistry, life science, earth science and the scientific method. Units include: light and its interaction with matter, particle theory of matter and phase changes, invasive species and ecosystems, the effects that water and other erosive elements have on the Earth, and constructing a Newton scooter and speedboat while using the scientific method.

Social Studies 6

Year Daily Required 6th Grade Social Studies emphasizes the development of critical thinking, analytical skills, and idea synthesis as students explore the connections between ancient civilizations and geography. Through inquiry-driven learning experiences, students will engage in discussions, analyze various sources, and work collaboratively, all while honing their ability to think like historians. By focusing on recurring themes and the skills necessary for historical analysis, learners will cultivate a deeper understanding of the world and its complexities, preparing them to approach contemporary issues with a well-rounded perspective

Adolescent Studies

12 Weeks Required This course concentrates on the development of students' decision making capabilities and understanding of consequences, with practical applications in the following topical areas:

- Empathy and Communication
- Bullying Prevention
- Emotion Management
- Substance-Abuse Prevention
- Human Growth and Development

Art 6 12 Weeks Required • Learn how artists plan, create, and communicate through a variety of different media. You will build a portfolio of artwork using drawing, painting, and sculpture techniques. What you create will set the foundation for future art experiences, and inspire the artist within you.

PLTW® Gateway™: Design & Modeling 12 Weeks

12 Weeks Required Students develop communication, problem solving and self-awareness skills. Students design, engineer, and create multiple models, using a variety of materials and tools commonly used both at home and in industry. An emphasis is placed on introducing students to 'fluid power' and engineering practices that are currently used in today's marketplace, as well as 3D computer modeling. This course helps prepare students for the Project Lead The Way® GatewayTM courses, Intro to Automation and Robotics (7th grade) and Flight and Space & Magic of Electrons (8th grade).

6TH GRADE MUSIC ELECTIVES

Students must take ONE of the following every other day music electives. If you have not participated in Band or Orchestra in the past, please contact your school's instructor as soon as possible to discuss your options for success

Band 6

Year Elective 6th Grade Band welcomes both continuing and new students, offering the chance to begin or advance on a band instrument. Options include Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto/Tenor/Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium/Baritone, Tuba, and Percussion (Snare/Bass Drum, Mallets, Auxiliary Percussion). Students learn to read, interpret, and perform music in a variety of styles while building strong technical and ensemble skills.

Through daily practice and rehearsals, students develop discipline, responsibility, and perseverance. Ensemble participation emphasizes teamwork, communication, and the value of each individual's contribution. Public performances provide authentic opportunities to grow in confidence and presentation skills. Band also supports Academic and Career Planning by linking to the Arts, A/V Technology, and Communications Career Cluster while reinforcing universally valuable skills such as time management, attention to detail, and creative problem-solving.

Choir

Year Elective Choir is available to any students wishing to continue or begin their vocal music experience. The group meets as a full ensemble on alternating days for the entire year. Introduction to correct vocal techniques, sight reading, and basic music theory are covered, and music studied and performed includes unison and two-part standard choral literature covering a variety of stylistic periods and cultural backgrounds. Concert performances are outside of the school day and are a part of the required course work. Opportunities for small group work are also available.

Orchestra

Year Elective Orchestra is a performance-based music class in which students play the violin, viola, cello and bass. Orchestra class meets two to three times per week as part of the school day. In addition to class time, students attend weekly small group lessons within a rotating schedule. Practice is required and is the homework for the class. Rental of instruments can be done through a variety of local music stores. Public concerts are a required part of the class. Information on performances is given at the beginning of the year. Most students who sign up for 6th grade orchestra have had prior experience in elementary school on their instrument. Beginning students who sign up are placed in the same group as experienced students. For more information, check with the school orchestra director.

World Music

Year Elective World Music is designed to be a curricular option for students to meet the State of Wisconsin sixth grade music requirement. Core music elements are taught through performance-based units of study with African and Caribbean traditions emphasized. Students study, practice and experience music elements through instruments such as keyboards, guitars and drums. Students also have performance opportunities to experience a broader musical understanding of the following: reading standard music notation, developing rhythmic skills, basic knowledge of chords and harmony, improvisation, singing in the context of cultures studied, composing drum patterns and basic blues (guitar), playing alone and with others.

6TH GRADE OTHER ELECTIVES

Coding and Game Design

Year Elective

Spanish 6 Year Elective

In coding and game design, students will learn how to use code to communicate and create, discovering how it connects to future careers and the global community. Students will learn to communicate through code, discovering that every line you write is a form of expression. Students will also explore historical timelines of technology, seeing how far we've come and imagining what the future holds. This hands-on course will introduce coding skills- no background or experience in coding is needed. *This course connects to WSD's technology education and computer science elective strands and Wisconsin's Information Technology Regional Pathway.

In World Language classes, communication is the focus of instruction. Teachers and students actively use the target language at least 90% of the time. Activities are designed to help students understand authentic language that they hear and read, and to give students the chance to practice realistic speaking and writing tasks. Culture is embedded into lessons; students are given access to information and perspectives that help them to gain proficiency in a second language and also gain a better understanding of their first language, their cultural identity and how they fit into the world. Assessments are performance-based and have students show their cultural knowledge and what they can do with the language. In sixth grade Spanish, students will broaden language skills within the context of culture in the following three World Language modes of communication:

- Interpretive: Students can demonstrate understanding of something they have heard or read.
- Presentational: Students can produce a product or give a presentation in the target language.
- Interpersonal: Students can speak and write to others in the target language spontaneously.

Latin 1-4 is offered at the high school level. Language experience in 7th and/or 8th grade will aid in the study of Latin. For some students, studying more than one language at the high school level can be valuable.

When thinking about taking a World Language course, students should consider their personal and vocational interests. Sometimes, students are simply attracted to a language or culture, and sometimes knowledge of a particular language can be helpful in certain careers. Additionally, students may want to think about travel plans or their own family background in their planning. It is important to remember that the earlier one studies a World Language, the easier and more permanent that language becomes, and studying any World Language can help broaden a student's view of the world.

Urban FarmingYear Elective

Urban Farming is an exciting course where students dive into the world of food systems and tackle the challenges of food deserts. Students, get ready to roll up your sleeves and grow your own fresh produce while discovering the cool science behind aquaponics and hydroponics. Not only will you learn valuable skills, but you'll explore fun community projects and career opportunities along the way. This course connects to WSD's Family and Consumer Science elective strand and Wisconsin's Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Regional Pathway

7TH GRADE COURSES

REQUIRED	ELECTIVES		
 English Language Arts Mathematics Physical Education Science Social Studies 	If taking a World Language, choose one other elective. If a World Language is NOT selected, choose three electives		

WORLD LANGUAGE ELECTIVE OPTIONS: CHOOSE ONE OR NONE

- French 7*
- German 7*
- Spanish 7*

*Seventh grade World Language is a prerequisite for taking World Language in eighth grade. The language must be the same language for both years

Students looking to be eligible for the advanced placement (AP) level in high school need to start their language in 7th grade

OTHER ELECTIVE OPTIONS CHOOSE ONE OR THREE

- Art 7
- Exploring Life Skills
- Marketing and Technology Trends
- PLTW® Gateway™: Automation and Robotics
- Music
 - o Band
 - o Choir
 - Contemporary
 Music & Culture
 - Orchestra

7TH GRADE REQUIRED COURSES

English Language Arts 7

Year Required Students will participate in a rigorous, 7th grade Wisconsin standards-aligned ELA course that provides practice and skill development in the following areas: reading, writing, language (grammar and vocabulary) and speaking and listening. Students will be immersed in a wide variety of literature and informational reading activities along with independent choice readings that coincide with the unit's essential question while also incorporating writing, speaking and listening, grammar and vocabulary skills. Student progress and mastery of the standards will be assessed through culminating tasks or essays which focus on the writing, language, reading and speaking and listening standards along with skills assessments to monitor proficiency of the reading standards

Math 7

Year Required Students in seventh grade participate in grade level math content aligned to the Wisconsin Standards for Mathematics and the Standards for Mathematical Practice. Students collaborate with classmates to deepen their understanding and use of problem-solving strategies, reasoning skills, and critical thinking. They also continue to develop their ability to model mathematics and recognize connections between concepts. The areas of focus for seventh grade math include: understanding and application of proportional relationships; operations with rational numbers; working with expressions and linear equations; solving problems involving scale drawings, area, surface area, and volume; and drawing inferences about populations based on samples. See Appendix A for more specific information regarding each grade level or course.

7TH GRADE REQUIRED COURSES (CONT.)

Physical Education

Year Required The alternate day physical education class is an introduction to a diverse selection of individual sports, team sports, aquatics and fitness activities. In seventh grade physical education, students will develop more advanced positioning in games/activities, teamwork, skill mechanics, and health and skill related fitness concepts.

Science 7

Year Required Students will engage in scientific practices as they experience, investigate, model, and explain phenomena while learning core ideas and engaging in concepts that cross disciplinary boundaries. Seventh-grade science students learn aspects of chemistry, life science, earth science, and physical science.

Social Studies 7

Year Required 7th Grade Social Studies builds upon the foundational knowledge from 6th grade as students delve into modern world history. This course emphasizes the development of critical thinking, analytical skills, and idea synthesis through inquiry-driven learning experiences. Students will engage in meaningful discussions, analyze a variety of sources, and collaborate with peers, all while enhancing their ability to think like historians. By focusing on key themes and the skills essential for historical analysis, learners will cultivate a deeper understanding of contemporary global issues and the interconnectedness of our world, equipping them with a well-rounded perspective to navigate the complexities of today's society.

7TH GRADE WORLD LANGUAGE ELECTIVES

World Language: French 7, German 7, or Spanish 7

Year Elective In World Language classes, communication is the focus of instruction. Teachers and students actively use the target language at least 90% of the time. Activities are designed to help students understand authentic language that they hear and read, and to give students the chance to practice realistic speaking and writing tasks. Culture is embedded into lessons; students are given access to information and perspectives that help them to gain proficiency in a second language and also gain a better understanding of their first language, their cultural identity and how they fit into the world. Assessments are performance based and have students show their cultural knowledge and what they can do with the language. In 7th grade World Language, students will broaden language skills within the context of culture in the following three World Language modes of communication:

- Interpretive: Students can demonstrate understanding of something they have heard or read.
- Presentational: Students can produce a written product or give a presentation in the target language.
- Interpersonal: Students can speak and write to others in the target language spontaneously.

Please note: If a student takes Spanish in 6th grade, their options for 7 th and 8th grade are Spanish, French, or German. In order to reach the AP level in high school, students must begin their language study by seventh grade. If students do not take a language in 7th grade, they cannot begin one until high school.

7TH GRADE OTHER ELECTIVES

Art 7

Year Elective Continue to build your art portfolio and learn to use a variety of art-making tools and techniques. You will create 2D and 3D artworks that express your ideas, translate the world as you see it, and communicate about social and personal themes. Grow the foundational drawing, painting, and sculpture skills previously established while adding new tools and techniques along the way.

Exploring Life Skills

Year Elective This course gives students the opportunity to work together and develop skills in preparing food and creating sewing projects. Students acquire the tools necessary for daily living as an individual as well as in family life. Students will:

- Create foods from recipes while following safety and sanitation quidelines.
- Plan and serve meals, learning each step, from menu selection to shopping lists.
- Investigate the science of nutrition.
- Explore foods served throughout the world.
- Learn basic sewing techniques.
- Develop skills necessary to be a team player such as negotiation, active listening and cooperation.

Marketing and Technology Trends

Year Elective Marketing and Tech Trends is a course designed to develop students' ability to utilize computers and technology to analyze and problem solve while communicating effectively. Students engage in project-based learning throughout the year as they build their knowledge of various computer applications. Students will learn about:

- Keyboarding
- Google Suite
- Coding
- Marketing
- Podcasting
- Video Editing

Music: Band 7

Year Elective 7th Grade Band builds on prior learning, challenging students to expand their technical ability and musical expression. Students encounter more complex rhythms, extended ranges, and ensemble balance while gaining independence as musicians. The program emphasizes creativity, critical thinking, and accountability for individual contributions to the group.

Ongoing study of their chosen instrument, paired with regular practice and performance expectations, fosters persistence and self-discipline. Participation in concerts and small ensembles builds confidence, collaboration, and communication skills that transfer to many fields. Band directly connects to Arts-related careers while also aligning with Education, Human Services, and Leadership Career Clusters through its focus on adaptability, teamwork, and resilience.

Music: Choir 7

Year Elective Choir is available to any students wishing to continue or begin their vocal music experience. The group meets as a full ensemble on alternating days for the entire year. Introduction to correct vocal techniques, sight reading, and basic music theory are covered, and music studied and performed includes unison and two-part standard choral literature covering a variety of stylistic periods and cultural backgrounds. Concert performances are outside of the school day and are a part of the required course work. Opportunities for solo and small group work are also available. Other opportunities for performance include the District Solo and Ensemble Festival.

7TH GRADE OTHER ELECTIVES (CONT.)

Music: Orchestra 7

Year Elective Orchestra is a performance-based music class in which students play the violin, viola, cello and bass. Orchestra class meets two to three times per week as part of the school day. In addition to class time, students attend weekly small group pull out lessons within a rotating schedule. Practice is required and is the homework for the class. Rental of instruments can be done through a variety of local music stores. Public concerts are a required part of the class. Information on performances is given at the beginning of the year. Most students who sign up for 7th grade orchestra have had prior experience. Beginning students who sign up are placed in the same group as experienced students. For more information, check with the school orchestra director.

Music: Contemporary Music and Culture

Year Elective Students study, practice, and experience the contemporary music genres of jazz, rock, pop, and the blues. Students play and sing contemporary music from American culture and other cultures. Students also have hands-on experience with keyboards, guitars, mallet keyboards, and drums while learning music notation, rhythmic skills, knowledge of chords and harmony, and improvisation.

PLTW® Gateway™: Automation and Robotics

Year Elective This course is a Project Lead the Way® Gateway™ course. Students are introduced to and use the design process to solve problems and understand that creative and innovative design impacts our daily lives. Students use industry standard 3D computer modeling software to create their designs. Students also trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics. They learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. Students use a robotics platform commonly found in industry to design, build and program a solution to solve an existing problem.

8TH GRADE COURSES

REQUIRED	ELECTIVES
 English Language Arts Mathematics Physical Education Science Social Studies 	If taking a World Language, choose one other elective. If a World Language is NOT selected, choose three electives

WORLD LANGUAGE ELECTIVE OPTIONS: CHOOSE ONE OR NONE	OTHER ELECTIVE OPTIONS CHOOSE ONE OR THREE		
 French 8* German 8* Spanish 8* 	 Art 8 Business Ventures Food and Fitness PLTW® Gateway™: Flight and Space; Magic of Electrons The Digital World 	 Music Band Choir Music and Media Orchestra 	

^{*}Seventh grade World Language is a prerequisite for taking World Language in eighth grade. The language must be the same language for both years

8TH GRADE REQUIRED COURSES

English Language Arts 8

Year Required Students will participate in a rigorous, 8th grade Wisconsin standards-aligned ELA course that provides practice and skill development in the following areas: reading, writing, language (grammar and vocabulary) and speaking and listening. Students will be immersed in a wide variety of literature and informational reading activities along with independent choice readings that coincide with the unit's essential question while also incorporating writing, speaking and listening, grammar and vocabulary skills. Student progress and mastery of the standards will be assessed through culminating tasks or essays which focus on the writing, language, reading and speaking and listening standards along with skills assessments to monitor proficiency of the reading standards.

Math 8

Year Required Students in eighth grade participate in grade level math content aligned to the Wisconsin Standards for Mathematics and the Standards for Mathematical Practice. Students collaborate with classmates to deepen their understanding and use of problem-solving strategies, reasoning skills, and critical thinking. They also continue to develop their ability to model mathematics and recognize connections between concepts. The areas of focus for eighth grade math include: solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; modeling an association in bivariate data; working with radicals and integer exponents; introduction to and use of functions to describe and model relationships; understanding of congruence and similarity; and application of Pythagorean Theorem.

See Appendix A for more specific information regarding each grade level or course.

Physical Education

Year Required The alternate day physical education class is an introduction to a diverse selection of individual sports, team sports, aquatics and fitness activities. In eighth grade, students will apply the concepts and skills of positioning, teamwork, skill mechanics, and health and skill related fitness concepts in class activities.

Science 8

Year Required In 8th grade science, students are empowered to question, design, investigate, and make sense of the world around them. In alignment with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), students engage with real-world phenomena through storyline units that afford opportunities for students to use evidence to build and revise ideas through collaboration. The topics covered include aspects of chemistry, life science, earth science, and physical science

Social Studies 8

Year Required 8th Grade U.S. History explores the pivotal time period from the American Revolution to the Civil War, building on their prior knowledge and skills of thinking like a historian. This course emphasizes the development of critical thinking, analytical skills, and idea synthesis through inquiry-driven learning experiences. Students will engage in thought-provoking discussions, analyze various primary and secondary sources, and collaborate with their peers. By focusing on key themes and the essential skills for historical analysis, learners will gain a deeper understanding of how this transformative era shaped the United States and its ongoing impact on contemporary society, preparing them to critically engage with the complexities of history and its relevance today

8TH GRADE WORLD LANGUAGE ELECTIVES

World Language: French 8, German 8, or Spanish 8

Year Elective In World Language classes, communication is the focus of instruction. Teachers and students actively use the target language at least 90% of the time. Activities are designed to help students understand authentic language that they hear and read, and to give students the chance to practice realistic speaking and writing tasks. Culture is embedded into lessons; students are given access to information and perspectives that help them to gain proficiency in a second language and also gain a better understanding of their first language, their cultural identity and how they fit into the world. Assessments are performance based and have students show their cultural knowledge and what they can do with the language. In 8th grade World Language, students will broaden language skills within the context of culture in the following three World Language modes of communication:

- Interpretive: Students can demonstrate understanding of something they have heard or read.
- Presentational: Students can produce a written product or give a presentation in the target language.
- Interpersonal: Students can speak and write to others in the target language spontaneously.

Please note: If a student takes Spanish in 6th grade, their options for 7th and 8th grade are Spanish, French, or German. In order to reach the AP level in high school, students must begin their language study by 7th grade. If students do not take a language in 7th grade, they cannot begin one until high school.

8TH GRADE OTHER ELECTIVES

Art 8

Year Elective In Art 8, students will develop their artistic voice and how it fits into the world around them. They will learn how and why artists communicate visually and discover it for themselves. Students will also learn techniques in drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking, collage, digital art, and more in order to make their voice heard. Students will leave this class with a fully-developed portfolio to jump-start your high school art experiences and a body of work that represents who they are as an artist.

Business Ventures

Year Elective Business Ventures is a survey course designed to provide students an opportunity to explore multiple facets of business through project-based learning activities.

This course covers topics concerning all areas of business such as leadership, money management, advertising and marketing, and college and career readiness. These topics are expanded in business courses that are offered in high school. Course units include:

- Leadership
- Career Exploration
- Personal Finance
- Business Structures & Entrepreneurship
- Marketing & Advertising

8TH GRADE OTHER ELECTIVES (CONT.)

Food and Fitness

Year Elective This class gives students the opportunity to learn about and prepare nutritious foods. Through hands-on food and fitness activities students learn to make healthy choices. Students will:

- Learn the key nutrients; protein, carbohydrates, fats, water, vitamins and minerals.
- Work in groups to prepare nutritious foods and snacks.
- Use technology and resources to analyze diet and exercise.
- Learn how to understand food, diet, sports nutrition and exercise trends.
- Understand and use information on the food label to make healthy food choices.

Music: Band 8 Year

Elective

If you have not participated in Band or Orchestra in the past, please contact your school's instructor as soon as possible to discuss your options for success 8th Grade Band serves as the capstone of the middle school band experience, preparing students for high school ensembles and future opportunities. Students refine technical skills while exploring advanced concepts. Leadership, mentorship, and personal responsibility are central themes, with students expected to model strong practice habits and rehearsal etiquette.

In addition to continued growth on their chosen instrument, students take on leadership roles through peer mentoring, Solo & Ensemble participation, and performances such as the Beyond the Notes Music Festival. These experiences strengthen transferable skills including leadership, collaboration, creativity, and effective communication. Band also supports academic and career planning by connecting to career clusters in Arts and Communications, Education and Training, and Business and Leadership, equipping students with skills that extend well beyond music.

Music: Choir 8

Year Elective Choir is available to any students wishing to continue or begin their vocal music experience. The group meets as a full ensemble on alternating days for the entire year. Introduction to correct vocal techniques, sight reading, and basic music theory are covered. Emphasis in this class is given to two- and three-part harmony, including three- part mixed choral selections. Individual development

of musical skills as well as the group experience is stressed. Music studied and performed includes varied stylistic periods and cultural backgrounds. Concert performances are outside of the school day and are a part of the required course work. Opportunities for solo and small group work are also available. Other opportunities for performance include the District Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Music: Music and Media

Year Elective Music and Media integrates music with other content areas. Units of study include learning how to critique and analyze different styles of music, understand elements of media literacy, learn basic music notation, discover the history of jazz/popular music in America, explore the history of movie music, radio, television, music videos, and musical theater along with the introduction to electronic keyboards and acoustic instruments. Students work individually, as well as in cooperative groups, to create and present projects related to the arts and media and build communication skills through the language of music and technology. This course focuses on the learner's understanding of content and the ability to apply information to authentic experiences that require problem solving, creative thinking and critical thinking.

8TH GRADE OTHER ELECTIVES (CONT.)

Music: Orchestra 8 Year

rear Elective

If you have not participated in Band or Orchestra in the past, please contact your school's instructor as soon as possible to discuss your options for success Orchestra is a performance-based music class in which students play the violin, viola, cello and bass. Orchestra class meets two to three times per week as part of the school day. In addition to class time, students attend weekly small group pull out lessons within a rotating schedule. Practice is required and is the homework for the class. Rental of instruments can be done through a variety of local music stores. Public concerts are a required part of the class. Information on performances is given at the beginning of the year. Most students who sign up for 8th grade orchestra have had prior experience on their instrument. Beginning students who sign up are placed in the same group as experienced students. For more information, check with the school orchestra director.

PLTW® Gateway™: Flight and Space & Magic of Electrons

Year Elective This course is a Project Lead the Way® Gateway™ course. Students will explore the forces of flight and Newton's Laws of Motion by designing and launching model airplanes and water rockets. Students explore the science behind aeronautics and use online NASA simulators to design, build, and test an airplane wing. Students also investigate and explore the science of electricity, behavior and parts of atoms, and sensing devices. Students acquire knowledge and skills in basic circuitry design and examine the impact of electricity on our lives.

MEETING STUDENT NEEDS

The middle school program is designed to provide support for students with a wide variety of needs. Teachers have one period a day available to plan together and consult with each other about schedules, students and curriculum. In addition, support personnel – including special education teachers, Equitable Multi-Level Systems of Support teachers, English language learner teacher, library media specialist, instructional coaches, school psychologist, school counselor, and gifted and talented support – are available at each school.

Students identified as gifted and talented receive individualized learning opportunities within their regular classes. In addition, they may participate in a variety of extracurricular activities, which will take advantage of their special talents. Currently, there are also opportunities to accelerate in math.

Students with identified special education needs, including those with intellectual, physical, learning or emotional disabilities, have Individual Education Plans (IEP) which outline the types of assistance they need.

APPENDIX A: MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL PATHWAYS

Class	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Class 2031	X	X	Standard Pathway: Math 8 Single Acceleration: Integrated 1 Double Acceleration: Geometry	Standard Pathway: Integrated 1 Single Acceleration: Integrated 2 Double	Standard Pathway: Integrated 2 Single Acceleration: Integrated 3 or Accelerated Pre-Calculus Double Accelerated Pre-Calculus Data Science AP Calculus AB/BC AP Statistics	Standard Pathway: Integrated 3 or Accelerated Pre-Calculus Single Accelerated Pre-Calculus Data Science AP Calculus AB/BC AP Statistics Double Accelerated Pre-Calculus Accelerated Pre-Calculus Accelerated Accelerated Accelerated Accelerated Accelerated Accelerated Accelerated Are-Calculus Adellos Ab/BC AP Statistics	Accelerated Pre-Calculus Data Science AP Calculus AB/BC AP Statistics
Class 2032	X	Math 7 Single Acceleration: Accelerated Math 7 Double Acceleration: Integrated 1	Math 8 Single Acceleration: Integrated 1 Double Acceleration: Integrated 2	Integrated 1 Single Acceleration: Integrated 2 Double Acceleration: Integrated 3 or Accelerated Pre-Calculus	Integrated 2 Single Acceleration: Integrated 3 or Accelerated Pre-Calculus Double Acceleration: Data Science AP Calculus AB/BC AP Statistics	Integrated 3 or Accelerated Prep-Calculus Single Acceleration: Accelerated Pre-Calculus Data Science AP Calculus AB/BC AP Statistics Double Acceleration: Data Science AP Calculus AB/BC AP Statistics Analytic Geometry & Calc 3 (S1)/Differential Equations & Linear Algebra (S2)	Accelerated Pre-Calculus Data Science AP Calculus AB/BC AP Statistics
Class of 2033	Math 6	Math 7	Math 8	Integrated 1	Integrated 2	Integrated 3 or Accelerated Pre-Calculus	Accelerated Pre-Calcalculus Data Science AP Calculus AB/BC AP Statistics

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- A strong foundation in middle school math is essential to future success in high school math courses.
- The standard math pathway is aligned to Wisconsin Standards for Mathematics and college readiness standards. It is the recommended pathway to ensure a solid foundation is built to achieve math success in Integrated Math 1, Integrated Math 2/Geometry and Integrated Math 3/Algebra 2, which are required for high school graduation and college admission.
- High school courses taken in middle school, such as Algebra and Geometry, count toward a student's math high school graduation requirement and are calculated into the student's high school grade point average. Given this, consideration to accelerate in middle school should be a thoughtful decision, so that high school math achievement is not compromised.

Math 6

Major topics include:

- Understand ratio concepts and use ratio and rate reasoning to represent and solve problems.
- Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions.
- Flexibly and efficiently add, subtract, multiply, and divide with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples.
- Apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to rational numbers (compare positive and negative numbers, position rational numbers on a number line, understand absolute value).
- Graph points in all four quadrants of the coordinate plane.
- Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to write and evaluate numerical and algebraic expressions.
- Reason about, write, and solve one-variable equations and inequalities.
- Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables.
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.
- Develop understanding of statistical variability and recognize measures of center and measures of variability.
- Summarize and describe distributions (display data in plots on a number line, report observations, describe patterns and deviations).

A scientific calculator will be needed for this course.

Math 7

Major topics include:

- Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems, including multi-step ratio and percent problems (simple interest, tax, markups and markdowns).
- Explain the meaning, in context, of points on the graph of a proportional relationship.
- Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers.
- Apply properties of operations as strategies to add, subtract, factor, and expand linear expressions with rational coefficients to generate equivalent expressions.
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions, equations, and inequalities.
- Draw, construct, and describe geometric figures and describe the relationships between them (including with the use of rulers, protractors, and technology).
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, volume, and circumference.
- Use and conduct random sampling to draw inferences about a population.
- Draw informal comparative inferences about two populations (including the use of measures of center and measures of variability).
- Understand and investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models for simple and compound events .

A scientific calculator will be needed for this course.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION (CONT.)

Math 7 Accelerated

This is a compressed course that covers 1.5 years of math in 1 year – Second semester of Grade 7 Math plus all of Grade 8 Math.

A scientific calculator will be needed for this course.

Math 8

Major topics include:

- Represent a linear function with a graph, table, rule, and context and should be able to find any representation when provided one of the others.
- Solve systems of equations represented in tables and graphs.
- Symbolically manipulate expressions in order to solve problems including those with fractional coefficients.
- Solve contextual word problems using multiple strategies, including making tables, looking for patterns, drawing diagrams, and creating a table of guesses to assist with writing and solving a variable equation.
- Describe various transformations on a coordinate grid.
- Represent data using scatterplots and describe associations.
- Collect and analyze data and make predictions based on the trend of the data.
- Compare ratios, calculate unit rates and slope ratios.
- Analyze the slope of a line graphically, numerically, and contextually.
- Recognize and solve problems involving proportional relationships. Graph and analyze non-linear functions.
- Recognize and use the properties of similar shapes to solve problems.
- Use the Pythagorean Theorem and its converse to solve problems in 2 and 3 dimensions.
- Use square and cube roots.
- Represent and simplify expressions using positive and negative exponents.
- Represent and compare large and small numbers using standard and scientific notation.
- Perform operations with numbers represented in scientific notation.
- Use the relationships between angles created by parallel lines with transversals and the triangle sum theorem to solve problems.
- Compute the volume of a variety of solids.
- Know that numbers that are not rational are called irrational, and use rational approximations to compare and simplify.
- Know and work with the properties of integer exponents.
- Use square and cube roots to represent solutions to equations. Evaluate perfect square and cube roots.
- Interpret and perform operations with numbers expressed in scientific notation.
- Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations.
- Identify features of linear relationships represented in different ways (graphs, tables, equations, situations) and write equations to represent linear relationships.
- Analyze and solve linear equations, including those with infinite or no solutions, and pairs of simultaneous linear equations (systems of equations).
- Define, evaluate, and compare functions represented in different ways and interpret the equation of a linear function.
- Construct, analyze, and use functions to model relationships between quantities.
- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software.
- Verify and experiment with the properties of rotations, reflections, translations, and dilations.
- Understand and establish facts about angles, triangles, and parallel lines.
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem.
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres.
- Construct and interpret scatter plots, model a line of best fit, and use equations to interpret and predict relationships.
- Construct and interpret two-way tables summarizing data and describe possible association.

A scientific calculator will be needed for this course.

APPENDIX B: MIDDLE SCHOOL ACP

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOOL PATHWAYS

Programs of Study	Connecting & Supporting Success	Caring for Communities	Cultivating Resources	Building & Moving	Creating & Experiencing	Investing in a Future	
	Mgmt + Enterpreneurialship Marketing + Sales Digital Technology	Education Health Care + Human Services Public Service + Safety	Agriculture Energy + Natural Resources	Advanced Manufacturing Construction Supply Chain + Transportation	Hospitality, Events, + Tourism Arts, Entertainment, + Design	Financial Services	
		Art					
Art 6	Х			Х	Х		
Art 7	Х				Х		
Art 8	X				X		
		Busine	ess				
Marketing + Technology Trends (7)	X	X	×		X		
Business Ventures (8)	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	
The Digital World (8)	X				Х		
		Englis	sh				
English 6							
English 7		Fo	undational Co	oursework			
English 8							
	F	amily & Consu	mer Science				
Adolescent Studies (6)		X					
Urban Farming (6)			Х				
Exploring Life Skills (7)		X					
Food + Fitness (8)		X	X		X		
		Math	1				
Math 6							
Accelerated Math 6							
Math 7							
Accelerated Math 7		Foundational Coursework					
Math 8		Foun	iuationai Coul	SEWOIK			
Algebra							
Geometry							
Integrated Math 1							

PATHWAYS (CONT.)

PATHWAYS (CONT.)	T	I	I		I	1
Programs of Study	Connecting & Supporting Success	Caring for Communities	Cultivating Resources	Building & Moving	Creating & Experiencing	Investing in a Future
	Mgmt + Enterpreneurialship Marketing + Sales Digital Technology	Education Health Care + Human Services Public Service + Safety	Agriculture Energy + Natural Resources	Advanced Manufacturing Construction Supply Chain + Transportation	Tourism	Financial Services
		M	lusic	•		
Band 6					X	
Band 7					Х	
Band 8					X	
Choir 6					X	
Choir 7					Х	
Choir 8					X	
Contemporary Music + Culture (7)					Х	
Music + Media (8)					Х	
Orchestra 6					Х	
Orchestra 7					х	
Orchestra 8					Х	
World Music (6)					х	
		Physical Edu	cation + Hea	alth		
Physical Education 6						
Physical Education 7			Foundationa	l Coursework		
Physical Education 8						
		Sc	ience			
Science 6						
Science 7		Fo	oundational C	oursework		
Science 8						
		Socia	l Studies			
Social Studies 6						
Social Studies 7		Fo	oundational C	oursework		
Social Studies 8						
	Teo	chnical Educa	ition + Engin	eering		
PLTW Gateway: Design + Modeling (6)				X	X	
Coding + Game Design (6)	X				Х	
PLTW Gateway: Automation + Robotics (7)				X		
PLTW Gateway: Flight + Space and Magic of Electrons (8)			x			

PATHWAYS (CONT.)

FAITWAYS (CONT.)						
Programs of Study	Connecting & Supporting Success	Caring for Communities	Cultivating Resources	Building & Moving	Creating & Experiencing	Investing in a Future
	Mgmt + Enterpreneurialship Marketing + Sales Digital Technology	Education Health Care + Human Services Public Service + Safety	Agriculture Energy + Natural Resources	Advanced Manufacturing Construction Supply Chain + Transportation	Tourism Arts,	Financial Services
		World	Language			
Spanish 6						
Spanish 7						
Spanish 8						
French 7	World	Languages ha	ve cross-cuttin	g connections to	all Pathways.	
French 8						
German 7						
German 8						

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The Wauwatosa School District does not discriminate on the basis of a person's color, sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.