

WATERLOO JR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE HANDBOOK 2025 - 2026

The programs and courses contained in the 2025-2026 Jr High School Course Handbook have been designed to help you acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in high school.

OHIO ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS

Learning standards explain the knowledge and skills Ohio students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 need to have. Ohio's Learning Standards emphasize skills like critical thinking and problem solving — qualities most sought by today's employers. By teaching our students to apply these skills to what they are learning in school, we can make sure they are on track to graduate from high school and enjoy success in college, careers and life (Ohio Department of Education).

Jr High teachers use these learning standards to design learning experiences in a supportive and challenging classroom environment that will prepare students for future learning at high school.

Course Descriptions 2025-2026

Core Courses All Jr High School students take four core classes (Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Science) daily for the entire year.

Course Descriptions 7th Grade

Art 7: 7th Grade Art - Encounters with Art

Engage in the visual arts! Dive in, experience, encounter, and engage in the fascinating world of visual arts through learning not just how to “look at” or “do” art, but how to “experience” and “create” it! We were made to create, make, be, think, experience, and the visual arts are one avenue that we have been given to engage in our world! You might not know it, but each and every one of us are already artists of some kind, yearning to experience this world and create in ways both familiar and unfamiliar to us. Let's explore the visual arts together by making connections through art, working with a variety of artistic materials, and exposure to ideas and techniques in art. Length: 1 Semester

Band: Instruments offered include Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Baritone, Tuba, Percussion. Students will be encouraged to purchase instruments from Woodsy's or Pellegrino's music stores in Kent or Canton, respectively as loner quantities are low and/or in disrepair. The only exceptions would be *for* tuba, baritone, and percussion as we have extras at the school. Please note, this class will require you to attend concerts after school hours, and to purchase a book. Length: 1 Year

Career Connections: It will also include some financial literacy discussing Career choices and salaries, college expenses, differences between wants and needs, along with an activity where students will learn to budget their money to be able to pay their bills and the importance of

saving money for a rainy day, or unforeseen expenses that might pop up. Length: 1 Semester

Design and Modeling: (DM) provides students opportunities to apply the design process to creatively solve problems. Students are introduced to the unit problem in the first activity and are asked to make connections to the problem throughout the lessons in the unit. Students learn and utilize methods for communicating design ideas through sketches, solid models, and mathematical models. Students will understand how models can be simulated to represent an authentic situation and generate data for further analysis and observations. Students work in teams to identify design requirements, research the topic, and engage stakeholders. Teams design a toy or game for a child with cerebral palsy, fabricate and test it, and make necessary modifications to optimize the design solution. Length: 1 Semester

Life Skills: This course teaches students skills that are essential for everyday living. Skills that will be covered include cooking, sewing, and family living. Length: 1 Semester

Intro to Spanish/Languages: This semester-long course will introduce students to Spanish language through greetings, phrases, conversational language skills, and culture from the Spanish-speaking world. On a rotating basis, students may also explore other languages, such as French and German, through basic introductory lessons on greetings and common phrases. Length: 1 Semester

Active Living: This course will use weight training and cardio exercises to help middle school students live healthier lives. Length: 1 Semester

Tech & Me: This course presents information about safely using the internet. It reflects on the benefits and risks of presenting their identity in different ways online, and evaluates feelings, motivations, and possible outcomes associated with how people, including themselves, present themselves online. Students will learn and understand that they are leaving a permanent digital footprint, learn how to guard their reputation online, see and understand the effects of cyberbullying, will be shown how to use digital etiquette, understand sexting and its consequences, and learn some red flags to look for to help them decide if people online are harmless or harmful. Length: 1 Semester

Small Group Instruction: This course is designed for students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and provides dedicated time to work with intervention specialists on achieving their IEP goals and objectives. Through guided and repeated practice, students will strengthen their comprehension, vocabulary, math, and writing skills. The course also focuses on building essential skills such as study habits, time management, and following multi step directions. Additional support for general education classes will be provided, along with opportunities to explore career paths and develop plans for future goals. Length: 1 Year

Course Descriptions 8th Grade

Algebra 1-2003: This beginning course in Algebra helps the student to understand the basic structure of Algebra (the real number system), to recognize the techniques of algebra as reflections of this structure, to acquire facility in applying algebraic concepts and skills, and to perceive the rule of deductive reasoning in algebra and to appreciate the need for precision of language. The student not only learns the usual skill in algebra, but also grows in his understanding of the nature of mathematics and in his ability to grasp mathematical ideas.

Length: 1 Year, Credit: 1 HS credit, Prerequisites: 7th grade Compacted Math. TI-83+, TI-84 series, or comparable calculator recommended.

Art 8: 8th Grade Art - "SPEAK Art"

Learn to "Speak ART" by learning how to express your unique views, thoughts, ideas, and experiences through the Visual Arts. Art is more a part of us than we realize, and the visual arts surround us in so many wonderful ways! Learn about artists who have used art as a vehicle for self expression, change, inspiration, reflection and more. Work with various art materials to create individualized and/or collaborative works of art that reflect your own encounters with the world that you are a part of. Do so while learning practical and technical art concepts as well as skills that will help you feel confident in the artwork that you are creating.

Length: 1 Semester

Digital/Social Media Art

In this semester-long course, students will explore various aspects of the digital world. Topics covered will include social media, photography, graphic design, typography, image manipulation, and videography. Additionally, students will learn about journalism, marketing, advertising, as well as web and logo design. Length: 1 Semester

Automation and Robotics Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms. Length: 1 Year
Fee \$20

Band: Instruments offered include Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Baritone, Tuba, Percussion. Students will be encouraged to purchase instruments from Woodsy's or Pellegrino's music stores in Kent or Canton, respectively as loner quantities are low and/or in disrepair. The only exceptions would be for tuba, baritone, and percussion as we have extras at the school. Please note, this class will require you to attend concerts after school hours, and to purchase a book. Length: 1 Year

Film: This course begins with examining all the processes which go into the creation of a film, from its inception as a treatment and screenplay to its distribution as a film. Students will research and understand the roles of filmmakers, and analyze how camera movements, framing, and angles impact the mood and tone of a film/scene. For the duration of the course, students will critically analyze certain aspects of a film ranging from topics of cinematography, literary elements in film, characters, and how each one plays an important role to make a coherent film. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the world of film and be able to review various film styles and genres. *All films shown in class are subject to change. *All films shown will have a PG/G rating. Length: 1 semester

Life Skills: This course teaches students skills that are essential for everyday living. Skills that will be covered include cooking, sewing, and financial literacy. Length: 1 Semester

Spanish 1: In the first year of Spanish, students learn to pronounce the new language, to count, and to tell time. Students learn enough language and vocabulary sufficient to make themselves understood. Geography is included in the year's work. Emphasis is placed on basic grammar during the first year. (1 HS Credit, students will begin 9th grade in Spanish 2)

Small Group Instruction: This course is designed for students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and provides dedicated time to work with intervention specialists on achieving their IEP goals and objectives. Through guided and repeated practice, students will strengthen their comprehension, vocabulary, math, and writing skills. The course also focuses on building essential skills such as study habits, time management, and following multi step directions. Additional support for general education classes will be provided, along with opportunities to explore career paths and develop plans for future goals. Length: 1 Year

World Geography/Current Events: Students will learn the physical and political geography regions of the world. They will be able to identify and locate countries and world capitals on a map. Students will work on a variety of projects in specific countries throughout the semester. To go along with geography, students will also be tasked to keep up with current events. They will read articles from Upfront magazine and summarize the articles and give their opinion on them. We will discuss these topics on a bi-weekly basis. Length: 1 Semester

Real World Statistics: Students in the class analyze statistics through the lens of managing a fantasy football team. Students will be tasked with budgeting the amount of money they can spend on players on a weekly basis throughout the season. Students will collect numerical data

based on real life statistics coming from weekly NFL games. They will accumulate these in a spreadsheet where students will calculate a weekly total of points scored. Students will use the numerical data they have compiled to produce a number of charts and graphs to analyze the productivity of their teams from week to week.

*Graphs include but are not limited to bar graph, double bar graph, line graph, double line graph, histogram, circle graph, scatter plot, central tendency, box and whisker plot, and stem and leaf plot. Length: 1 Semester