

SMS

COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE 2022-2023

Seckman Middle School



Achievement • Character • Excellence
FOX C-6 SCHOOL DISTRICT
National District of Character

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Letter from the Principal



Seckman Middle School
Principal: Mr. Courtney Meagher
Assistant Principal: Mr. Kolin Peterson

Dear SMS Students and Parents,

I am excited to begin another successful school year with each of you. The purpose of this specific course description guide is to inform you of some basic information about the courses offered at Seckman Middle School as you begin registration for the 22-23 school year. The main purpose of middle school is to prepare students for a successful entrance into high school while addressing their physical, emotional, and intellectual needs as adolescents. Long range planning is a critical step.

You will note that all our academic classes are rigorous and are aligned for more opportunities in high school. In following the middle school philosophy, students will have opportunities to participate in as many exploratory classes as his/her schedule will allow. All students are required to take Language Arts, Literacy, Social Studies, Science, Math, and PE classes. We offer both grade level and advanced level courses. The exploratory classes include district level electives and building specific electives (and are subject to change).

It is not too early to begin thinking about college and careers. College entrance requirements are becoming more restrictive each year and early planning is almost an absolute. Your counselor will help you through this process. We realize that each child is unique and this guide will help you with information on the various courses we offer.

If you have any questions about this guide, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will work together to ensure a great school year!

Sincerely,

Mr. Courtney Meagher

Principal
Seckman Middle School

Mr. Kolin Peterson

Assistant Principal
Seckman Middle School

Mrs. Tracy LaRose

Dean of Students
Seckman Middle School

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How to Use this Guide

INTRO

The purpose of this booklet is to inform you and your parents of some basic information about the courses offered at Seckman Middle School. The main purpose of middle school is to prepare students for a successful entrance into high school while addressing their physical, emotional, and intellectual needs as adolescents.

You will note that academic classes are required. In following the middle school philosophy, students will have opportunities to participate in many exploratory classes as their schedule will allow. All students are required to take English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, Math, and PE classes. There are also a wide variety of elective options.

COUNSELING CONTACTS

Mrs. Heather Burris - School Counselor
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DEAN OF STUDENTS

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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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Registrar

Ms Carla Tesereau
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School Nurse

Mrs. Maureen Foust
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Bell Schedule*

6th grade	Daily Schedule	7th grade	Daily Schedule	8th grade	Daily Schedule,
Period	Time	Period	Time	Period	Time
Advisory	7:55 - 8:30	Advisory	7:55 - 8:30	Advisory	7:55 - 8:30
2	8:34 - 9:22	2	8:34 - 9:22	2	8:34 - 9:22
3	9:26 - 10:14	3	9:26 - 10:14	3	9:26 - 10:14
4	10:18 - 11:06	4	10:18 - 11:06	4	10:18 - 11:06
Lunch (30 mins)	11:06 - 11:32	5	11:10 - 11:58	5	11:10 - 11:58
5	11:36 - 12:24	Lunch (30 mins)	11:58 - 12:24	6	12:02 - 12:50
6	12:28 - 1:16	6	12:28 - 1:16	Lunch (30 mins)	12:50 - 1:16
7	1:20 - 2:08	7	1:20 - 2:08	7	1:20 - 2:08
8	2:12 - 3:00	8	2:12 - 3:00	8	2:12 - 3:00

Assembly Schedule (40 minute classes/4 minute passing/30 minute lunch)*

7:50 - 1st Bell

7:55 - 8:35 - 2nd Hour

8:39 - 9:19 - 3rd Hour

9:23 - 10:03 - 4th Hour

10:07 - 10:47 - 7th Hour

10:51 - 11:31 - 8th Hour

11:35 - 12:05 - 6th Grade Eat (7th/8th grade 5th hour)

12:09 - 12:39 - B Lunch (6th grade - 5th hour) (7th/8th grade - 6th hour)

12:43 - 1:13 - C Lunch (6th grade - 6th hour) (7th/8th grade - 6th hour)

1:17 - 1:35 - Advisory - Dismiss to Assembly via intercom

½ Day Schedule (21 minute classes/4 minute passing/21 minute snack)*

7:50 – 1st Bell

7:55 – 8:16 – 2nd hour

8:20 – 8:41 – 3rd hour

8:45 – 9:06 – 4th hour

9:10 – 9:31 – 5th hour

9:35 – 9:56 – 6th hour

10:00 – 10:21 – 7th hour

10:25 – 10:46 – 6th grade snack (7th/8th grade - 8th hour)

10:50 – 11:11 – 7th grade snack (6 grade -8th hour /8th grade advisory)

11:15 - 11:36 – 8th grade snack (6th/7th grade advisory)

*8th grade back to advisory for dismissal when buses arrive.

*Subject to change

Advanced Courses

Middle school is the perfect time to start exploring your interests and see how far you can push yourself academically. Taking advanced classes in middle school allows you to learn new things and gain new experiences that will help you later in life. Think about the questions below to help you decide whether choosing an advanced course is the best option for you.

Am I ready for the advanced courses?	• Advanced students spend a great deal of time learning about the content, so it is important to have a strong interest in the subject area. • Advanced students are expected to be self-starters and hard workers. • Advanced students show strong, consistent effort in their school work.
Do I have the time to commit to advanced academics?	• Advanced courses are demanding. Complex reading and writing assignments are often assigned to students. In-depth research and projects are a regular part of the course. • Students who are involved in many extracurricular activities or have many responsibilities outside of school should consider the demands on their time when choosing an advanced course.
What type of learner am I?	• Advanced courses move at a fast pace, and students are expected to pick-up new material at a fairly fast rate.
Would my current teacher recommend that I take advanced courses?	• Your teacher knows you and how you learn. He/she can help you decide whether, as a learner, you display the skills that typically lead to success in an advanced class: work ethic, work completion, desire to learn new things, and responsibility.
What are my grades like in the subjects I am considering for advanced courses?	• If your grades have been consistently good in the subject area, an advanced course might be a good option for you. • Students with lower grade averages in a content area may want to consider whether enrollment in an advanced course is right for them.
Am I choosing advanced courses for the right reasons?	• Advanced courses let you start learning advanced study skills, thinking skills, and content. • Grades are only one way to look at your achievement. The number of advanced courses you take also tells a story about your achievement and learning. • Students who take an advanced course show a willingness to take on academic challenges regardless of the potential impact on their grade.

Academic Support Programs

Response to Intervention (RTI)

Part of the Fox C6 Continuous Improvement Plan (CSIP) includes academic achievement for all students. To ensure that our students are graduating from our district as college and career ready, our teachers work in Professional Learning Communities (PLC). Their work is centered around 4 corollary questions:

- What do we want all students to learn?
- How will we know they have learned it?
- What will we do if they don't learn?
- What will we do if they have learned it?

RTI focuses on question 3 which is what do we do if our students don't learn? When students face academic challenges we have a systematic approach to ensure they succeed. Many interventions are developed keeping each student's unique strengths and needs at the forefront. Some of the interventions include, parent conferences, tutoring, homework recovery, additional school instruction through a course designed for specific targeted intervention etc. which may require a schedule change. A team consisting of administrators, teachers, and counselors will determine which intervention is appropriate.

We assure you that proper academic interventions will be provided for our students to succeed at our middle school and look forward to partnering with the parents in this.

Individualized Academic Support

For a student with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), the IEP team which includes educators and parents determines the educational placement for educational services for each student in the least restrictive environment.

ADVISORY

Advisory is a year- long 35-minute class designed to help students balance their academic load with their future goals. You will have lessons on how to respond to bullying, harassment, and intimidation, coping with stress, time management, study skills, college readiness, goal setting, and grade calculation. There will be tutoring time available as well through advisory.

JAGZONE

Students will be selected for this small group class setting to give additional support in academic areas that the student may be struggling in. This class is based on teacher recommendations and students can be moved in and out as needed.

English Language Arts

Courses Offered:

Course Title	Grade Level		
	6	7	8
Grade Level Language Arts	X	X	X
Advanced Language Arts	X	X	X
Academic Literacy	X	X	X

Course Descriptions:

The *Missouri Learning Standards* for English Language Arts emphasize writing for three purposes:

1. Writing informational texts
2. Writing academic arguments based on evidence and reasoning in reference to a piece of literature.
3. Writing narratives

When addressing reading, the standards emphasize three modes of reading:

1. Approaching text as a reader to engage with ideas and understand people and the world,
2. Reading as a writer to study the craft of writing and learn how authors capture readers' attention, influence opinions, and communicate important ideas,
3. Reading as a researcher to understand, evaluate, organize, and remember information about topics of study.

Each English Language Arts course in middle school addresses these standards through thematic units. These units provide students rich opportunities to read and write for real purposes. Students read a balance of fiction and nonfiction. The readings provide opportunities for class discussion and study of the style and content choices writer make. Students learn to use advanced academic vocabulary, and to edit their writing for clarity and conventions.

Academic Literacy: Every student takes one semester of Literacy each year as an extension of the English Language Arts curriculum. This course has been designed to afford all middle school students the opportunity to read independently. This independent reading time will be accompanied by accountable talk and writing to capture their thinking about the texts they are reading.

6th-grade English Language Arts: This grade-level course will introduce students to the various ways people talk, write, respond, and connect to texts. Reading skills will emphasize critical thinking about character, setting, conflict, point of view, and then selecting evidence to support thinking. Writing skills will emphasize building organized paragraphs for multiple pieces with a variety of purposes.

6th-grade Advanced English Language Arts: This advanced course emphasizes how readers connect multiple events and ideas to discover themes in literature. Writing tasks will emphasize building complex ideas across multiple paragraphs in a fully developed writing piece.

7th-grade English Language Arts: This grade-level course emphasizes students combining multiple pieces of evidence to support their opinions. Students study the structure of texts and how structure influences what people remember and

understand. Students will compare and contrast multiple versions of a story, drama, or a poem to consider how different media use different techniques to communicate.

7th-grade Advanced English Language Arts: This advanced course introduces students to the literary analysis of theme and literary elements. Students produce creative works with attention to style and word-choice. They also conduct research and write evidence-based opinions using appropriate sources.

8th-grade English Language Arts: This grade-level course emphasizes connecting works of literature to the cultural and historic events of specified time-periods. Students learn to notice the author's bias while studying the techniques authors use to support arguments with evidence. They will also analyze literary devices and compare texts from specified time-periods.

8th-grade Advanced English Language Arts: This advanced course has been designed to prepare students for advanced language arts courses at high school. Literary analysis of entire works of fiction, longer research based informational texts, and evidence based opinion writing will be the emphasis of this course. Students participating in this course are those who seek eventual AP level coursework in high school.

Social Studies

Courses Offered:

Course Title	Grade Level		
	6	7	8
Ancient World History	X		
Advanced Ancient World History and Geography	X		
Geography and Modern World Cultures		X	
Advanced Geography and Modern World Cultures		X	
Early US History			X
Advanced Early US History			X

Course Descriptions:

6th Grade Social Studies: Ancient World History- This course will explore the geography, history, government, economics, religion and culture in the ancient world. The emphasis will be for students to gain an understanding and appreciation of the contributions of the ancient world.

6th Grade Advanced Social Studies : Ancient World History and Geography—6th grade the course will explore geography, history (ancient through medieval), government, economics, religion and culture. The emphasis would be for students to gain an understanding and appreciation of the contributions of the ancient world. Students will also explore connections between current national and international events and issues. In our increasingly global society, learning about different cultures prepares students to relate to and appreciate those with diverse backgrounds.

7th Grade Social Studies: Geography and Modern World Cultures—This course is a combination of geography and world cultures. It is designed to introduce the student to the concepts of culture in human experience and the concepts of geography. This course explores what culture is, how it develops, how it changes, how it is transferred in time and space, and its power to influence our lives and events. World religions, language, art, political ideologies, government types, gender roles, work, status and rank, war, and human rights are also examined.

7th Grade Advanced Social Studies: Geography and Modern World Cultures—Students with a passion for geography, travel, and world cultures will have the opportunity to extend their learning with advanced reading, and more independence as they read content-rich informational texts, and write using evidence to inform and persuade.

8th Grade Social Studies: Early US History- Students will conduct social science inquiries from Colonization through the Civil War. Emphasis will be placed on economics, government and politics, community and culture, and continuity and change. Students will compose informational and argumentative texts for authentic audiences and purposes.

8th Grade Advanced Social Studies: Early US History- Students with a passion of history and background knowledge in US geography will have the opportunity to extend their learning with advanced reading, and more independence as they read content-rich informational texts, and write using evidence to inform and persuade.

Science

Courses Offered:

Course Title	Grade Level		
	6	7	8
Grade Level Science	X	X	X
Advanced Science	X	X	X

Course Descriptions:

6th Grade Integrated Science: Structures of Life and the Earth- Sixth graders will study the scientific process, characteristics of living organisms, photosynthesis, ecosystems and populations, earth's resources, technology, and human activity.

6th Grade Advanced Integrated Science: Structures of Life and the Earth- Sixth graders with a passion for and some background knowledge in science will extend their study of unit topics by applying the ideas to additional topics and increasing their independence in reading and writing.

7th Grade Integrated Science: Interactions in Physics and Earth Science- Seventh grade science emphasis is on scientific inquiry and interrelationships between science and its practical applications. Some topics discussed are force and motion, water and weather, astronomy, magnetism, and gravity.

7th Grade Advanced Integrated Science: Interactions in Physics and Earth Science- Seventh graders with a passion for and some background knowledge in science will extend their study of unit topics by applying the ideas to additional topics and increasing their independence in reading and writing.

8th Grade Integrated Science: Chemistry and Biology- Eighth grade science focuses on key scientific laws and theories in chemistry and life science. Some of the key topics will be atoms, elements, the periodic table, and chemical reaction in chemistry. Life science will cover cells, DNA, genetics, genetic disorders, and human body systems.

8th Grade Advanced Integrated Science: Chemistry and Biology- Eighth graders with a passion for and some background knowledge in science will extend their study of unit topics by applying the ideas to additional topics and increasing their independence in reading and writing.

Math

Courses Offered:

Course Title	Grade Level		
	6	7	8
Grade Level Math	X	X	
Advanced Math	X		
Pre-Algebra		X	X
College Prep Algebra			X

Course Descriptions:

6th Grade Math: Our sixth grade mathematics course covers applying and understanding whole numbers to millions, fractions and decimals to the thousandths. They must multiply and divide fractions and decimals; apply properties of operations, and solve problems using ratios. Students also begin to work with expressions and equations. Students study geometry, units of measurement, and convert systems of measurement.

6th Grade Advanced Math: Sixth grade students who are interested in the challenge of above grade level math should consider taking this course. The course moves through the same units as the grade-level 7th grade math course with additional instruction with the few topics that are new in 6th grade. The course is challenging and students will be supported as they work in groups to model with math, solve problems, and reason mathematically.

7th Grade Math: Seventh grade math students work on representing math concepts in multiple ways. They work with positive and negative numbers, equivalent expressions and factoring, and solve geometric problems using scales. They also will be introduced to the ideas of probability, statistics, and sampling.

7th Grade Advanced Math – Pre-Algebra: Seventh grade students who are interested in the challenge of above grade level math should consider taking this course. The course moves through the same units as the grade-level 8th grade pre-algebra course. The course is challenging and students will be supported as they work in groups to model with math, solve problems, and reason mathematically.

8th Grade Math – Pre-Algebra: Pre-algebra is focused heavily on equations, functions, and graphing. Students will learn how to analyze problems and apply a variety of strategies to solve them and communicate the solutions. In the geometry units, students study similar triangles, and learn to calculate the volume of a variety of cones, cylinders, and spheres.

8th Grade Advanced Math – College Prep Algebra: Eighth grade students who are interested in the challenge of above grade level math should consider taking this course. The course moves through the same units as the grade-level high school College Prep Algebra course. The course is challenging and students will be supported as they work in groups to model with math, solve problems, and reason mathematically. Student who are successful in this course may earn high school credit in College Prep Algebra and move into advanced courses in 9th grade. The grade for this course is not weighed in the student's high school GPA. Students in this course take the Algebra I End-of-Course exam. Once in high school these students will have to take the Algebra II End-of-Course exam to satisfy DESE requirements.

Elective Courses

District Elective Courses Offered:

Course Title	Grade Level		
	6	7	8
Art I	X	X	X
Art II		X	X
Art III			X
Music: Band and/or Choir	X	X	X
Physical Education	X	X	X
Exploratory Spanish (Sem)	X	X	X
Spanish A (Year-long)		X	
Spanish B (Year-long)			X
Business Technology I	X	X	X
Business Technology II		X	X
Business Technology III			X
FACS I	X	X	X
FACS II		X	X
FACS III			X
Challenge	X	X	X
6th Grade Academy	X		
PLTW: Computer Science for Designers and Innovators		X	X
PLTW: Design and Modeling		X	X
Coding 101	X	X	X
Teen Leader (Girls)		X	X
Teen Leader (Boys)		X	X
STEM	X	X	X

Building Elective Courses Offered:

Course Title	Grade Level		
	6	7	8
Current Events	X	X	X
Character Council (by application)	X	X	X
Yearbook (by application)		X	X
Life PE (by application)		X	X
Intro to Computer Engineering (by application)		X	X
True Crime	X	X	X

District Elective Courses

Course Descriptions:

ART (semester classes)

Art I—Art I is an entry-level art course that emphasizes the basic elements and principles of the visual arts. It provides a foundation of art experiences to be expanded and developed in further specialized art courses. In Art I, students will have the opportunity to create in two- and three-dimensional art formats using a variety of art materials and art techniques. Art vocabulary, art forms, aesthetic concepts, and aspects of art history will be presented.

Art II— In this course, students will further explore ways to creatively express ideas and original designs with two and three-dimensional projects. Students will work on a variety of projects using many different types of media. They will experience projects in drawing, painting, sculpture, and design. They will be encouraged to communicate strong visual images, tell stories with artwork, and express unique and individual ideas

Art III—This advanced art course is for students that have successfully completed Art I and Art II. Students will explore a variety of media while developing a portfolio that reflects critical thinking and their own personal style. Special emphasis will be placed on the critical art process and developing art skills.

BAND (year-long classes)

Band—1st, 2nd, and 3rd year band students develop in the areas of individual and ensemble tone, technique, intonation, balance, and blend. Students will further develop their ability to read music and have the opportunity to participate in solos and small ensemble performances. Students are required to participate in concerts and other performances throughout the school year. All 8th grade members will audition for placement in a high school ensemble at the beginning of 2nd semester. *Prior experience is not required.*

VOCAL MUSIC (year-long classes)

Choir—1st, 2nd, 3rd year students in Choir will develop skills in music literacy such as reading musical notation and interpreting musical terminology. In this course, students will develop in the areas of individual and ensemble tone, technique, intonation, balance and blend. They will also sing independently and will perform in the ensemble before various types of audiences. Students will understand and appreciate their roles as performers and will learn the importance of working together with other musicians to achieve the desired level of performance. *Prior experience is not required.*

BUSINESS (semester classes)

Business Technology I—is designed to teach students basic Google Suite skills, digital citizenship and keyboarding. Students will also learn how to properly research and format a research paper/essay. Students will advance their presentation skills. All of these skills will be valuable to students for the rest of their academic careers.

Business Technology II—is designed to further the student's knowledge once basic skills are learned. Students will learn advanced skills in Microsoft Office. Students will also become proficient in laying out and analyzing basic spreadsheets, using formulas and making graphs. Students will explore publishing software to produce professional documents while also using film-making software to enhance presentations.

Business Technology III—is a one-semester course designed for the advanced student to utilize skills learned in prior Business Technology courses with a hands-on business project using word processing features, spreadsheets, electronic presentations, publishing materials, and various computer programs. This course would benefit any student wanting to enrich their computer skills as well as prepare them for real life situations and future employment.

FACS (semester classes)

Family and Consumer Science I—This exploratory course introduces students to the subject of family and consumer science. Students study food and nutrition, leadership and character development, and clothing care. Students are introduced to food preparation/nutrition skills. The food and nutrition unit introduces nutrition and safety skills and basic measurement in relation to the preparation of recipes. Students will explore their personality and relationships with family and peers. Students will discover their values, goals and determine how they align with their personal needs and wants.

Family and Consumer Science II—Students develop problem solving and cooperative skills during food lab experiences. Students will develop introductory culinary skills while preparing and serving a variety of foods. Construction of a creative textile project will emphasize design thinking and problem solving. All the course activities will emphasize safety and teamwork in an interactive environment.

Family and Consumer Science III—This is a project-based course for students who have successfully completed FACS I and FACS II. Activities will promote a deeper level of understanding in the areas covered previously. Students will analyze and emulate the variety of career paths including, but not limited to: interior design, fashion design, culinary arts, and childcare. This course will prepare students for future personal and professional experiences.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Exploratory Spanish - This **semester-long** course is designed to introduce students to the world of Spanish-speaking cultures. Students begin to speak, understand, read and write in Spanish. They study the similarities between English and Spanish and learn how people communicate. This course emphasizes pronunciation, basic conversation and expression.

Spanish A-This **year-long** course is designed to develop appreciation of another culture through its language. The goal is to establish a foundation for student ease with the language, whether speaking, listening, reading, or writing. Emphasis is placed on vocabulary building and pronunciation with an accompanying explanation of the fundamentals of the grammar. This course is a required prerequisite for Spanish B, which is a year-long course offered in 8th grade for High School Spanish I credit.

Spanish B- This **year-long** course is the second course in the Spanish A-B sequence. Students who successfully complete the two-year sequence will earn a high school credit in Spanish and may enroll in Spanish II in 9th grade. Emphasis is placed on advanced vocabulary building and pronunciation with an accompanying explanation of the fundamentals of the grammar. Students will listen, speak, read, and write in Spanish.

GIFTED EDUCATION (year long)

Challenge—This class is the next level of REACH offered in elementary and is only open to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who have been identified as gifted. Students will use critical thinking and problem solving to complete individual and group projects. Each year, students complete different units of study including creative writing, history's great mysteries, local and national competitions, and have a lot of fun along the way! Our four main focuses are to become better creative thinkers, design thinkers, computational thinkers, and global thinkers. Students will be able to interact and work with like minded individuals while learning skills that will be the foundation of a rewarding and successful future.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (semester class)

PE/Health—Each student is required to take at least one semester of PE/Health each year in middle school. Physical Education classes are designed to practice and develop skills in activities that will help students maintain fitness throughout their lives. Early in the fall and spring, students' fitness levels will be assessed. Students will understand the benefits that regular exercise can provide for a person's mental, physical, and social health.

6th Grade Academy—This **semester** course is designed to support 6th grade students in the middle school setting. Students will explore digital citizenship, leadership, character, organization, and study-skills. Students will learn how to be successful through collaborative learning, presentations, study skills, goal setting, media literacy, and problem solving skills. This class will also help to continue building the foundational skills in: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (semester class)

PLTW: Computer Science for Designers and Innovators (7th/8th Grade)

Have you ever wondered how code can be used in wearable tech, art exhibits, or mechanical devices? Students learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. Using microcontrollers with inputs and outputs, they develop code that brings their physical designs to life. It's time to become an innovator and maker using physical computing!

Computer Science for Innovators and Makers teaches students that programming goes beyond the virtual world into the physical world. Students are challenged to creatively use sensors and actuators to develop systems that interact with their environment. Designing algorithms and using computational thinking practices, they code and upload programs to microcontrollers that perform a variety of authentic tasks. The unit broadens students' understanding of computer science concepts through meaningful applications. Teams select and solve a personally relevant problem related to wearable technology, interactive art, or mechanical devices. This is a one semester course.

PLTW: Design and Modeling (7th/8th Grade)

Have you ever wanted to create a toy or a device to help people? Students use tools such as the design process, a dynamic mathematics software, a computer-aided design program, computer simulations, an engineering notebook, and possibly a 3D printer to design, model, and build objects. Discover the design process and turn your ideas into realities!

This course 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. This is a one semester course.

Coding 101 (6/7/8 Grade) This semester course aims to introduce students to begin developing key coding skills that can be integrated into math, science, and language arts curriculum to enhance maker logic, design oriented thinking, and collaboration skills. These skills will allow students to have a stronger base in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, math) courses. Students will learn more from taking on challenges by design-based learning focusing on programming applications. Design-based learning is an approach that emphasizes designing (creating things, not just using or interacting with things), personalizing (creating things that are personally meaningful and relevant), collaborating (working with others on creations), and reflecting (reviewing and rethinking one's creative practices). This course is also designed to help students develop computer language fluency, logical reasoning, and mental organizational skills.

STEM (6th/7th/8th Grade): This is an engineering technology semester course which focuses on invention & innovation skills. Students will work with the design process to solve problems by capturing ideas and documenting those in a notebook using writings and/or drawings. By using the design process of engineering, students will create models, test and design ideas, then be able to verbally communicate their solutions about the modular project. Measuring is an important concept of this course, learning the basic mechanics of mechanical drafting, along with using basic tools, technology, basic materials, in order to complete a project. Students enrolled in this class will use math and science for problem-solving.

Teen Leader (boys) (7th/8th grade boys) This is a class for young men that promotes a positive learning environment, teamwork, a sense of belonging, and will show the students how to treat themselves and others with respect. During the course they will learn how to communicate in pressure situations by doing a job project and also debating about various topics. They will be responsible for keeping a daily journal and doing writing assignments that will help build strong connections with their peers. They will also work with various presenters from the community that include the fire department, credit union, and health department.

Teen Leader (girls) (7th/8th grade girls) This is a class for young ladies that focuses on leadership, understanding self worth and growing into a balanced young lady. The class content varies from year to year, based on what the overall class feels needs to be a focus. Each year students learn about bullying, safe and healthy relationships, building community, and developing leadership skills. Students also learn how to not only empower themselves, but others in the class as well, and hopefully those outside of the class.

Building Elective Courses

Course Descriptions: (semester classes)

Current Events (6th/7th/8th Grade) Students in this semester course will examine, discuss, analyze, and debate a multitude of contemporary issues and social problems in the world today. The instructor will rotate between local, national, and global issues based on events and student interest. Class participation and argumentative analysis will be a major component of a student's grade.

True Crime (6th/7th/8th Grade) - This semester course students will explore a variety of real world and fiction crimes. Students will spend time studying mysteries, crime, open cases, and cold cases through the use of project based learning. Students will use skills such as critical thinking and problem solving to solve crimes, make predictions, and build on research and writing skills.

Building Level Courses (Application Required)

CHARACTER COUNCIL (Grades 6th-8th Application Required) - SELECTED Class of students - this **year-long** class is chosen/selected by an interview process for students who desire in a leadership role within the school setting. The class focuses on being the student voice of the school & teaching character education & leadership lessons to the student body. Our council students take on a governance role within the student body. Students work in committees to plan school activities, work with school programs, & service learning opportunities.

YEARBOOK (7th/ 8th Grade Application Required) - This **year-long** course is designed to teach the skills necessary to produce the school yearbook, which offers a complete record of an entire school year. The year begins by planning the coverage for the school year and designing a unifying theme for the book. Students will study magazine journalism including layout and design techniques, writing and editing copy, headlines and picture captions. This course provides the study of and practice in gathering and analyzing information, interviewing, note taking and photography. Students will learn strategies of planning and distribution of the yearbook. Students will learn proofing strategies and work independently with photographers. Students will learn good work habits and are responsible for all phases of yearbook publication.

Intro to Computer Engineering (7th/8th Grade Class - Application Required) - This **semester** course is an introduction to the different aspects of computer engineering. Students will explore the different physical elements of computers as well as what it takes to diagnose and repair computer hardware. Students will also learn basic programming through different methods of coding and programming. This class is offered to 7th and 8th grade students only.

Life PE (7th/8th Grade Class - Application Required) - This is a **semester** PE class where regular education students pair up with our physically impaired students in order to help them with physical activity during PE class. We will select students based on their application and this class will take place of their required semester PE course.