

Middle School Course Catalog



20
YEARS

of Education
Excellence

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English

ELA AND LITERATURE

REQUIRED

English Courses

**A Language Arts course must be taken during the senior year*

ELA 6

Required Course

Yearlong

Grade 6

No prerequisites

Students in sixth grade will develop their skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will continue to develop and perfect their grammar when writing or speaking. Students will continue to develop and perfect the use of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. Students will continue to develop their vocabulary to enhance their written and oral language skills. Students will engage in the study of personal essays, persuasive essays, research projects, and narrative writing. Students will cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

LITERATURE 6

Required Course

Yearlong

Grade 6

No prerequisites

Students will determine the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using decoding strategies and consulting reference materials. Students will demonstrate an understanding of figurative language and word relationships. Student will determine what the text says explicitly and make logical inferences from it. Students will determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development. Summarize the key supporting details and ideas of a text. Students will cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

ELA 7

Required Course

Yearlong

Grade 7

No prerequisites

Students in seventh grade will develop their skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Writing Units: Persuasive Essay, Research Report, Poetry, Mystery, Biography/Autobiography, Greek & Roman Mythology, Drama

LITERATURE 7

Required Course

Yearlong

Grade 7

No prerequisites

This course is designed to read, review, and write about a variety of literature. Such literature includes: Realistic Fiction: Freak the Mighty, Mystery: The Westing Game, Historical/Time Travel: The Devil's Arithmetic

ELA 8

Required Course

Yearlong

Grade 8

No prerequisites

This course is designed to write The writing units include: Narrative, Comparative, Persuasive, Research, and Memoir.

LITERATURE 8

Required Course

Yearlong

Grade 8

No prerequisites

This course is designed to read, review, and write about a variety of literature. Such literature includes Realistic Fiction: Code Orange, Classical Literature: The Works of Edgar Allan Poe, Allegory: A Christmas Carol, Historical Fiction: Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, and Science Fiction: The Giver.

Foreign Language

1 CREDIT

* REQUIRED IN HIGH SCHOOL

Aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the Michigan Department of Education and approved by the state board of Education.

Spanish Courses

**Class of 2016 MUST fulfill two years of the SAME language*

SPANISH 1

Elective/Required Credit

Credit 1/Year

Grade 8 (by recommendation ONLY)

No prerequisites

This beginning course is devoted to developing the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. By working with the teacher, classmates and recorded material, the student gradually learns to recognize and adapt text materials into everyday conversation. A variety of audio/visual aids and current technology are used to acquaint the student with the people and countries where the language is spoken.

Mathematics

REQUIRED

MATHEMATICS 6

Required Course Yearlong Grade 6

No prerequisites

Students in sixth grade will develop their skills in:

Learn to complete operations with decimals. Continue to develop skills working with fractions, decimals and percents. Evaluate numerical & algebraic expressions and equations. Understand rates & ratios Build on prior knowledge, analyzing data and graphs. Engage in the study of geometry. Deepen their knowledge of functions, inequalities and integers.

MATHEMATICS 7

Required Course Yearlong Grade 7

No prerequisites

Students in 7th Grade will develop their skills in:

- Understanding fraction operations & conversions.
- Understanding decimals operations & conversions.
- Understanding integers and integer operations.
- Understand expressions and equations.
- Understanding ratios and proportions.
- Understanding geometry.
- Understanding statistics.
- Understanding probability.

MATHEMATICS 8

Required Course Yearlong Grade 8

No prerequisites

Students in 8th Grade will develop their skills in... • Understanding equations. • Understanding linear functions. • Understanding systems of equations. • Understanding exponents & scientific notations.

- Understanding Pythagorean Theorem and irrational numbers.
- Understanding transformations, reflections, translations, and rotations.
- Understanding volume of three-dimensional shapes.
- Understanding angles.
- Understanding statistics.

Science REQUIRED

6TH GRADE SCIENCE

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|---------|
| Required Course | Yearlong | Grade 6 |
|-----------------|----------|---------|

No prerequisites

Deepen understanding of energy through investigations into kinetic and potential energy and the demonstration of the transformation of kinetic energy. Investigate energy transfer by radiation, conduction, and convection. Build on understanding of changes in matter by exploring states in terms of the arrangement and motion of atoms and molecules. Build on prior knowledge by exploring classifications of organisms based on their source of energy (producers, consumers, and decomposers) and distinguish between the ways the organisms obtain energy. Broaden understanding of ecosystems by studying how populations, communities, species, abiotic and biotic components interact. Explore how populations can be mutually beneficial and study specific relationships such as parasitism, commensalism, and predator--prey. Explore the formation and weathering of rocks and how different soil types are formed. Study the movement of lithosphere.

7TH GRADE SCIENCE

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|---------|
| Required Course | Yearlong | Grade 7 |
|-----------------|----------|---------|

No prerequisites

Life Science: Structure and Functions of Cells, Growth and Development of Organisms, Energy in Chemical Processes (Photosynthesis), Heredity
 Chemistry: Atomic Structure, Chemical/Physical Properties, Chemical/ Physical Changes
 Physical Science: Characteristic of Waves, Movement of Waves: reflection, refraction, and transmission.
 Earth Science: Weather Patterns, Human Impacts on Environment

8TH GRADE SCIENCE

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|---------|
| Required Course | Yearlong | Grade 8 |
|-----------------|----------|---------|

No prerequisites

Life Science: Heredity, Genetic Variations Mutations and Environmental Factors, Traits in a population
 Chemistry: Chemical Processes, Law of Conservation, Balancing Equations, Bonding Elements
 Physical Science: Laws of Motion, Types of Interactions – Gravity, Electric and Magnetic Fields

Social Studies

6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Required Course

Yearlong

Grade 6

No prerequisites

Students in sixth grade will develop their skills in... Describe the major landform features of the region of study. Analyze how culture and experience influences people’s perception of a region. Identify and explain the advantages and disadvantages of cultural diffusion within the region of study. Explain how places within a region have been modified for human settlement and how it affects the environment. Identify and explain the factors that contribute to conflict and cooperation within a region. Understand worldwide organizations such as NATO, NAFTA, EU, and OPEC. Describe the effects that a change in the physical environment and natural disasters has on human activities. Describe how geographers use a variety of materials to study the world. Apply the skills of geographic inquiry to analyze a problem or issue of importance in the world. Use the 5 fundamental themes of geography to describe regions of the world.

7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Required Course

Yearlong

Grade 7

No prerequisites

In this course students will explore the history of how humans have interacted with each other and the planet, focusing on Stone Age humans through the development of classical civilizations. Specific attention will be paid to historical and geographical skills in the following units:
 Unit 1: Middle East and Africa Unit 2: Asia Unit 3: Europe Unit 4: The Americas

8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Required Course

Yearlong

Grade 8

No prerequisites

This course introduces students to the challenges the United States faced as a young nation. Students will learn of the development to four country from the time period of 1791 through Reconstruction in the late 19th century. Unit 1: Creating a New Government and a New Constitution Unit 2: Expansion of the Nation and Reform Unit 3: The Civil War Unit 4: Reconstruction

Physical Education/Health

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Required Course

Credit 0.5/Semester

Grades 6 - 8

No prerequisites

Students will gain a general understanding of physical education through a variety of team games and fitness activities. 9th graders are all asked to take Physical Education in 9th grade.

HEALTH

Required Course

Credit .5/Semester

Grade 7

No prerequisites

This class provides an informational and practical learning situation for developing life-long healthful living. Areas of concentration will include: HIV/Aids, STIs, stress, personality, self-esteem, diet and nutrition, physical activity and inactivity, tobacco, drugs and alcohol; influence of media, culture, and technology, goal-setting, decision making skills, interpersonal communication skills and health promotion and disease.

Visual, Performing, Applied Arts

MIDDLE SCHOOL ART

Elective Course

Yearlong

Grades 7-8

No prerequisites

Students will learn a basic understanding of the Elements & Principles of art. Art History and Multicultural Art will be explored through Drawing, Painting and Sculpture mediums.

BEGINNING BAND

Elective Course

Yearlong

Grade 6

No prerequisites

This course is the beginning of band methods. In this class students will learn how to read music, play an instrument, and perform as a soloist and in a group.

BAND

Elective Course

Yearlong

Grades 7 - 8

Prerequisites: beginning band

This course continues the instruction begun in the beginning band and will focus on developing more proficient music reading, playing, and performance skills.

Elective Courses

6TH GRADE TECHNOLOGY BASICS

Elective Course

Yearlong

Grade 6

No prerequisites

Helping 6th grade students gain a basic understanding Google Drive and Gmail, Google Docs, Google Sheets and Slides. Students are also introduced to the basics of Digital Citizenship. A basic introduction of digital groupwork is also introduced.

7TH AND 8TH GRADE TECHNOLOGY BASICS

Elective Course

Yearlong

Grades 7-8

No prerequisites

A more intense study of the various Google Applications, the classwork implements various scenarios produced by Techno-Kids to Help the students understand how the applications are used in real life. A deeper discussion of what makes a good digital citizen, and a deeper discussion about online bullying, is one of the primary focuses of this class. We begin to examine computer hardware, and how it works.

SEMINAR/SUPPORT/RECOVERY

Required Course

Yearlong

Grades 6 - 8

No prerequisites

This course is assigned weekly for a 30-minute period of the school day. Seminar is designed to be individual student work time. Support is scheduled time to assist students with incomplete assignments. Recovery is a time for teachers to re-teach learning targets/objectives that have been taught but not mastered. Special Education teachers may also work with students during this 45-minute period.