

ART

ART 7:

Students in this course will develop a basic understanding of the visual language through use of the elements and principles of design. They will explore various art techniques, and materials as well as historical and cultural reasons for making art.

ART 8:

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ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

ENGLISH 7:

The purpose of this class is to enhance student understanding and enjoyment of reading, writing, speaking, and group work skills. These objectives will be accomplished through the study of a variety of literature and reading strategies, exploration of writing skills, styles, and techniques and practicing appropriate class interaction and participation. As the year progresses, students will gain knowledge in each of these areas and demonstrate continued growth as outlined by the Michigan Department of Education's Grade Level Content Expectations. A listing of these expectations can be found on the State of Michigan website at:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/ELAGLCE_140483_7.pdf

ENGLISH 8:

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FOREIGN LANGUAGE

SPANISH 7:

This is an exploratory course that will introduce students to basic level Spanish language skills through participation in a variety of hands on and interactive activities such as Total Physical Response, songs, and props.

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HEALTH

HEALTH 7:

A character-based, anti-impulse, relationship and marriage preparation curriculum that focuses on the social science of what it takes to have healthy relationships. Training includes lessons on disease and the consequences of premarital sexual activity.

HEALTH 8:

Health 8 contains lessons related to violence prevention including intimidation, harassment, abuse, and other forms of violence as well as healthy and dangerous relationships.

MATHEMATICS

PRE-ALGEBRA 7:

In this course students will continue to build a foundation upon which Algebra is based. Students will develop an understanding of all real numbers and their applications in solving equations, proportional reasoning, and linear functions. They will also learn how to interpret, represent, and compute statistics of given data. This course prepares students for further work in Algebra and science.

ALGEBRA 8:

In this course students will continue to develop their knowledge of the real number system and begin exploring both linear and non-linear functions. They learn to identify and represent linear, quadratic, and exponential functions. Students will also explore two and three dimensional figures' classification, area, and volume. This course will help prepare students in further course study of mathematics and science.

MUSIC**MUSIC APPRECIATION 7/8:**

Music appreciation is a class that will explore a variety of types and styles of music. Students will improve their music literacy and will analyze music from the perspective of a performer, listener, composer and historian. Students will study the role of music on the stage, radio, TV, movies and video games.

MIDDLE SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC:

Instrumental music exposes students to the fundamentals of music such as rhythm, melody, harmony, form, and timbre through the mastery of a wind or percussion instrument. Students will gain the skills necessary to be successful in High School Instrumental Music. Enrollment in elementary instrumental music is optimal for success in Middle School Instrumental Music, but is not required. Students seeking enrollment without participating in elementary instrumental music must meet the director's approval.

CHOIR 7/8:

Choir is a vocal ensemble for students interested in the study of vocal music. Students in Choir are presented with opportunities to reach artistic levels of musicianship and vocal performance on repertoire that is diverse and encompassing. Each student will be expected to rehearse and perform with the goal of producing performances that meet superior standards of musical performance. Students in Choir are required to participate in concerts and festivals outside the school day.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION**PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7:**

Middle School PE is a sequential educational program that provides students with the knowledge, skills, fitness, and attitudes necessary to lead a healthy lifestyle through the emphasis of team sports.

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SCIENCE**SCIENCE 7:**

This course begins with students practicing the scientific method and learning to use the tools of science such as microscopes and other pieces of laboratory equipment. Our studies will focus on using science process and experimentation to gain an understanding of fundamental concepts. Students will frequently be challenged to find a solution to a problem or question. They will learn to design experiments to test their thinking. Finally, students will learn to generate and interpret data from their work and from the work of others. Topics include cell function and processes, water systems and weather, matter, earth's layers, rocks and minerals, and the importance of the fossil record.

SCIENCE 8:

This course begins with a study of energy transformations through physical science and the motion of particles. Sometimes, particles move randomly and somewhat gently. Other times, they move wildly, sparking explosions. Our study will begin with heat, sound, and light energy. Then we will study the energy available from the nucleus of an atom, nuclear energy. We will look at the way we heat our homes, fuel our cars, use lasers to play music, or refrigerate our food. Our focus will be how things work and how the use of energy provides us with both convenience and problems. From there, we will investigate energy transformations focusing on the scientific nature of work as well as force and motion. We will conclude with a unit on earth science and space science.

SOCIAL STUDIES

GEOGRAPHY 7:

This class will prepare you to become responsible world citizens, displaying social understanding and civic efficacy. You will explore the human condition and how it has changed over time, the variations that occur in different physical environments and cultural settings, as well as study the emerging trends that appear likely to shape the future in an interdependent world. Each student will also learn what responsibilities a citizen has and how, when, and where to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good in a democratic society. To grasp these concepts we will draw on many different subjects including history, political science, geography, civics and economics. There isn't a more exciting subject than Social Studies, so get ready to have fun and work hard!

HISTORY 8:

In this class you will learn about United States History beginning with our creation and continuing until the turn of the twentieth century. You will be able to construct meaning through understanding powerful ideas drawn from history, geography, civics, government and economics. These ideas will be learned in a variety of ways from historical reenactments, to in depth scrutiny of primary sources. You will receive instruction which allows you to think and act as historians, geographers, political scientists, and economists. You'll find the past is a happening place, filled with thousands of eccentric characters and world altering events. What you learn from history will teach you about contemporary issues and solutions and prepare you to be a responsible and productive world citizen.

TECHNOLOGY

COMPUTERS 7:

This is an introductory keyboarding class. There is no textbook assigned for this class. Exercises are offered through handouts and networked keyboarding training.

Week 1: Introduction, file management

Week: 2-5 Keyboarding, transcribing from text.

Week: 6-7 Keyboarding using "UltraKey"

Week: 8-9 Beginning document formatting.

COMPUTERS 8:

8th Grade Computer Literacy introduces the student to the computer as a tool for personal use. This course includes an introduction of computer components, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint), file management techniques, and improvement of keyboarding skills. Internet skills and e-mail safety will be stressed. The course will include keyboarding assignments, hands-on exercises, and projects. There is no textbook assigned with this class. Exercises are provided using handouts.