



Farquhar Middle School

COURSE BULLETIN
2023-2024

GRADE 6

AT A GLANCE

The 6th grade student's instructional program consists of a total of seven (7) classes that encompass educational growth, program continuity, and preparation for high school & college. This instructional program is achieved through a combination of required and elective courses, with options for advanced level programs:

- 1) ENGLISH 6 OR ADVANCED ENGLISH 6
- 2) DIGITAL LITERACY OR ACADEMIC LITERACY
- 3) MATH 6 OR ACCELERATED MATH 6 PLUS OR APPLIED INVESTIGATIONS IN MATH
- 4) INVESTIGATIONS IN EARTH SCIENCE
- 5) HIST. INQUIRY WRLD STUDIES 6 OR HIST. INQUIRY GLOBAL HUMANITIES 6
- 6) PE 6/HEALTH EDUCATION 6
- 7) ELECTIVE: *Arts Rotation, or MS Band 6, or MS Orchestra 6*

Note: Students enrolled in special programs should consult with their counselor to choose the appropriate elective option.

ENGLISH

ENGLISH 6 (1009)

This course involves implementation of the StudySync English 6 curriculum. This course integrates the five English/language arts processes (reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing) and the two contents (language and literature) in a thematic organization of four units. Rigor and challenge are essential components of the instructional approach to English 6, and instruction in reading and writing strategies, grammar, and vocabulary is embedded in every unit. Students read, analyze, and study different genres related to each of the themes and complete required common tasks. The common tasks focus primarily on the writing process for three types of writing—argument, narrative, and informative/explanatory—and they include the use of information, word processing, and presentation technology to address a variety of language skills. Students have opportunities to present their work orally and through various technology tools. All students develop portfolios and revisit their compositions as they work to strengthen their writing skills.

ADVANCED ENGLISH 6 (1010)

This course involves implementation of the English 6 curriculum for motivated students with a lively interest in the power and versatility of language. In preparation for advanced middle and high school English courses, students read challenging texts written in various time periods and rhetorical contexts. Students develop their ability to express ideas with clarity and precision by writing increasingly complex compositions for a variety of purposes, including literary analysis, persuasion, and research.

DIGITAL LITERACY (1030)

The Digital Literacy curriculum focuses on developing critical and creative thinking through reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing in a 21st century approach. Working through a problem-based process, students learn to define real-world problems of interest, research the causes of those problems using real-time global texts and then create solutions to address the problems. Students will advance their understanding of comprehension, analysis, and evaluation of text as well as vocabulary acquisition through the reading of complex informational and argumentative texts in a technology-rich medium. Students will collaborate regularly both through the research and the solution phases of their investigations.

MATHEMATICS

GRADE 6 MATHEMATICS (1005) – This course extends students' understanding of concepts developed throughout the elementary grades. The intent of this course is that students will work collaboratively to deepen their understanding of concepts, practice procedural skill and fluency, and apply their understanding to a variety of contexts.

ACCELERATED MATH 6+ (1015) – This course extends students' understanding of concepts developed throughout the elementary grades. Current Grade 5 students enrolled in the Math 5 course will be able to take the Accelerated Grade 6+ course in Grade 6, the Accelerated Grade 7+ course in Grade 7, and Algebra 1 in Grade 8. The Illustrative Mathematics 6–8 Math Accelerated course is a comprehensive, standards-aligned, two-course curriculum designed to provide an effective accelerated pathway to Algebra 1. It includes all of the standards in Illustrative Mathematics Grades 6–8 Math and compacts them into a two-year curriculum meant to be covered during the 6th and 7th grades. The pace is faster than Illustrative Mathematics Grades 6–8 Math, but no crucial mathematical concepts are missed.

APPLIED INVESTIGATIONS in MATHEMATICS (1003) - This course is recommended for students who have taken the compacted 5/6 mathematics course and successfully completed the Math 6 standards. This course compacts all of the Grade 7 Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and much of the Grade 8 CCSS into a single year. Students who successfully complete AIM are prepared for Algebra 1 in Grade 7.

SCIENCE

INVESTIGATIONS IN EARTH SCIENCE (1022)

This NGSS aligned course provides opportunities for students to engage in science and engineering practices and apply crosscutting concepts to deepen their understanding of core ideas across science disciplines. Instruction provides opportunities for hands-on explorations, productive discourse, and purposeful reading and writing. The course starts with a foundational approach to science instruction to develop student skills in the metric system, scientific method, and science and engineering practices, taught through the lens of stream ecology. Additional units include weather and climate, earth's materials and processes, natural resources, and geologic history. Students are awarded 10 SSL (Student Service Learning) hours for participating in activities built into the course.

SOCIAL STUDIES 6

HISTORICAL INQUIRY IN WORLD STUDIES 6 (1001)

Students learn about the rich cultures and history from the earliest human settlements of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, and China to great civilizations of the year 1000 CE. Students are challenged to analyze archeological evidence, ask questions to further their knowledge, and understand history as an ongoing investigation. They are introduced to historical thinking skills including sourcing, close reading, corroboration, and research as they analyze primary and secondary documents. This course lays a foundation for students to understand key principles of cultural, political, economic and geographic systems both in the past and today.

HISTORICAL INQUIRY INTO GLOBAL HUMANITIES 6 (1009)

This course is built around the core Grade 6 social studies curriculum, Historical Inquiry in World Studies 6,

that includes historical content from early civilizations, the empires of Greece and Rome, the dynasties of China, and civilizations of the first millennium. Cohort students will go beyond this core as they learn additional content, explore deeper connections to today, engage in investigative inquiry to strengthen their writing through Document Based Questions, and enhance their learning through relevant literature connections. They will also participate in a culminating Model UN simulation at the end of the year.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE) & HEALTH

PE Grade 6 (1003)

Middle school physical education instruction focuses on standards-based content that has been categorized into three measurement topics: health-related fitness, movement skills and concepts, and personal and social responsibility. Students will engage in fitness testing, skill acquisition, and game-type activities during three quarters of their 6th grade school year. Our goal is to have students become physically literate by establishing healthy habits and a mindset that motivates performance as well as positive sportsmanship.

HEALTH EDUCATION Grade 6 (1000)

Comprehensive Health Education promotes positive health-related attitudes and behaviors that support self-reliance and self-regulation while developing health literacy skills and lifelong wellness. The health literacy skills emphasized throughout the program include analyzing influences, accessing information, interpersonal communication, decision making, goal-setting, self-management, and advocacy.

6TH GRADE ELECTIVES – CHOOSE ONE

Arts Rotation (Three trimester courses) OR 2) **Band 6** (Full Year) OR 3) **Orchestra 6** (Full Year)

1) **ARTS ROTATION:** Students will explore introductory courses that may include:

- **MS Studio Art 1 (1024)**

Students will work with a variety of art materials, create drawing, painting, and sculpture projects, and will study master artists throughout history.

- **MS Digital Art and Photography 1 (1018)**

This course is designed for students to learn the photo-editing software, *Photoshop CS6*. They will be able to make adjustments to photographs and artistically transform them into a piece of artwork. Photographic quality printers and paper will be used for the final products.

- **MS Invent the Future (1026)**

In this elective course, students will create an invention to address an environmental problem and present their invention at a school showcase. Students will work through the Engineering Design Process -- defining a problem, developing solutions, building prototypes, testing and optimizing a solution, and communicating ideas -- all while working as a team through failure and iterating on ideas. Throughout the course, students will participate in a series of field trips with KID Museum to learn technical skills in coding, technology, fabrication, and engineering, and use these skills to build and present their invention prototype.

2) **MS BAND 6**

Band 6 is open to any 6th grade student with an interest, including students with no prior instrumental music experience and those at an intermediate level. Students with an aptitude for learning a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument are encouraged to enroll. Areas of study include the elements of musical form, terms and symbols, tone production, instrument care and maintenance, and the importance of consistent practice habits. Cultural context of the music and its historical significance as they relate to performance is studied. Students will perform beginning level music publicly and begin to develop more advanced performance and rehearsal techniques. Additional experiences may be offered in jazz ensemble and/or solo and ensemble performances. Participation in concerts is mandatory.

3) MS ORCHESTRA 6

The string orchestra is open to all students who play the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. This course is open for students with no prior experience on an orchestral string instrument. Basic instrumental skills are developed by performing a variety of music. Students are taught the elements of musical form, terms and symbols, tone production, instrument care and maintenance, and the importance of consistent practice habits. Cultural context of the music and its historical significance as they relate to performance is studied. Students will perform beginning level music publicly. Participation in concerts is mandatory.

**Note: Final elective offerings will be based on the number of students choosing a particular elective and on staffing availability.*

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)

ELP LEVELS 1 through 4 as determined by WIDA assessment and teacher recommendation.

MS ACADEMIC LITERACY 6 (1029)

This is an intensive reading intervention program designed to meet the needs of students whose reading achievement is below the proficient level. The program directly addresses individual needs through adaptive and instructional software, high-interest literature, and direct instruction in reading and writing skills. Students rotate between a small-group, teacher-directed lesson, a computer station for reinforcement and practice, and an independent reading center where students read books at his/her reading level. The program is designed to rapidly accelerate student achievement, with the goal of bringing them to grade level.

MATH 180 (1010)

This course is a comprehensive system of instruction, assessment, and professional development designed to help students struggling in mathematics. The program directly addresses individual needs through adaptive and instructional software, high-interest materials, and direct instruction in mathematical calculation and application skills.

RESOURCE 6 (Special Education) (1007)

Students who receive special education instruction in a resource program will have focused and sustained instruction in learning strategies and skills that they will apply to their other classes. These strategies will help them attain their Individual Educational Plan (IEP) goals and objectives so that they can meet the academic demands of their content classes.

****NOTE: Final elective and special program course offerings are based on student enrollment and staffing availability. In some cases, electives may be combined 7th and 8th grade classes. Students enrolled in special programs will consult with their counselor to design the appropriate elective option.***

GRADE 7

AT A GLANCE

The 7th grade students' instructional program consists of a total of seven (7) classes that encompass educational growth, program continuity, and preparation for high school & college. This instructional program is achieved through a combination of required and elective courses, with options for advanced level programs:

- 1) **ADVANCED ENGLISH 7**
- 2) **GRADE 7 MATH, ACCELERATED MATH 7 PLUS OR GRADE 7 ALGEBRA 1**
- 3) **INVESTIGATIONS IN LIFE SCIENCE 7**
- 4) **HIST. INQUIRY WORLD STUDIES 7 OR HIST. INQUIRY GLOBAL HUMANITIES 7**
- 5) **PE 7/HEALTH EDUCATION 7**
- 6) **FULL YEAR ELECTIVES:** French or Spanish 1A/1B, MS Academic Literacy 7, MS Band 2, MS Orchestra 2, Guitar/Modern Band
- 7) **HALF YEAR ELECTIVES:** MS Studio Art 2, MS Digital Art & Photography 2, MS Innovation & Engineering Design, Marine Geoscience, TV Studio 7

Note: Students enrolled in special programs or opting out of World Language/Reading should consult with their counselor to choose the appropriate elective option.

ENGLISH

ADVANCED ENGLISH 7 (1012)

This course involves implementation of the StudySync English 7 curriculum. This course integrates the five English/language arts processes (reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing) and the two contents (language and literature) in a thematic organization of four units. Rigor and challenge are essential components of the instructional approach to English 7, and instruction in reading and writing strategies, grammar, and vocabulary is embedded in every unit. Students read, analyze, and study different genres related to each of the themes and complete required common tasks. The common tasks focus primarily on the writing process for three types of writing—argument, narrative, and informative/explanatory—and they include the use of information, word processing, and presentation technology to address a variety of language skills. Students have opportunities to present their work orally and through various technology tools. All students develop portfolios and revisit their compositions as they work to strengthen their writing skills. Students are awarded 10 SSL hours at the completion of English 7 for their full participation in SSL activities.

MATH

Grade 7 MATH (1006) - The Grade 7 Math Course begins by studying scale drawings and makes use of grade 6 arithmetic understanding and skill. Students then build on their understanding of ratios to study proportional relationships and apply that knowledge to the study of circles. The first semester ends by building on percentage work started in grade 6 to include operations with multiple percentages involving decrease or increase in value. During the 2nd semester, significant learning occurs involving computation with rational numbers and solving more complex equations and inequalities. The course is completed by building on knowledge of angle relationships and the introduction of probability.

ACCELERATED MATH 7+ (1016) - This advanced course follows Accelerated Math 6+ by including the remaining grade 7 standards and all grade 8 standards. In this course, students will study rigid transformations and congruence, scale drawings, similarity, and slope. Students will build upon their understanding of expressions and equations by learning how to represent relationships in different algebraic

forms, writing equivalent expressions, solving one variable equations and inequalities, and begin the study of linear relationships. Students will also explore topics related to functions, volume, exponents and scientific notation, the Pythagorean Theorem, and irrational numbers.

GRADE 7 ALGEBRA 1 (2000A/2000B) - This is a high school course, in which students earn high school credit and take the state MCAP Assessment for Algebra. Students successfully completing this course take Curriculum 2.0 Honors Geometry in the 8th grade. In this course students explore, analyze, and model real-world phenomena through a mathematical lens. Exploration of linear, exponential, and quadratic functions forms the foundation of the course. Students develop conceptual understanding and fluency in solving equations, inequalities, and systems by explaining and validating their reasoning with increased precision. Students deepen their understanding of functions and their ability to represent, interpret, and communicate about them.

SCIENCE

INVESTIGATIONS IN LIFE SCIENCE (1023)

The NGSS aligned course provides opportunities for students to engage in science and engineering practices and apply crosscutting concepts to deepen their understanding of core ideas across science disciplines. The curriculum is phenomena-based; instruction is woven around a relevant anchoring phenomenon/project that drives student learning. Students apply their understanding of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to propose solutions to problems. Instruction provides opportunities for hands-on explorations, productive discourse, and purposeful reading and writing. The course engages students in learning around cellular structures and processes, matter and energy flow in organisms, inheritance and variation of traits, ecology, and biological evolution.

SOCIAL STUDIES 7

HISTORICAL INQUIRY IN WORLD STUDIES 7 (1004)

Through the study of world civilizations and global interactions from 1000 CE to 1450 CE, students learn about political, cultural, geographic and economic systems today and in the past. They study the rise of empires and nation-states in Europe, Africa, and Latin America and the impacts of their interactions still felt today. Building on historical thinking skills learned in 6th grade, students continue to engage in sourcing, close reading, corroboration, investigation, contextualization, and historical interpretation as they examine primary and secondary sources.

HISTORICAL INQUIRY INTO GLOBAL HUMANITIES 7 (1010)

This course is built around the core Grade 7 social studies curriculum, Historical Inquiry in World Studies 7, that includes historical content from civilizations of Latin America, Africa, and medieval Europe as well as global interactions following Columbian Exchange. Cohort students will go beyond this core as they learn additional content, explore deeper connections to today, engage in investigative inquiry to strengthen their writing through Document Based Questions, and enhance their learning through relevant literature connections. They will also participate in the National History Day (NHD) competition to research historical topics related to an NHD annual theme.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE) & HEALTH

PE Grade 7 (1004)

Students participate in a daily program of physical education that includes activities designed to challenge them to cooperate and compete while practicing teamwork, sports etiquette, cooperation, decision-making, and communication. Students will have opportunities to:

- Develop, maintain, and refine motor development.
- Experience a variety of physical activities to meet each individual's fitness, skill and interest needs.
- Participate in individual, dual, small and large group physical activities.
- Recognize and deal positively with strengths and limitations while developing self-confidence, personal responsibility and individual initiative.
- Study fundamental athletic skills and principles.

HEALTH EDUCATION Grade 7 (1001)

Comprehensive Health Education promotes positive health-related attitudes and behaviors that support self-reliance and self-regulation while developing health literacy skills and lifelong wellness. The health literacy skills emphasized throughout the program include analyzing influences, accessing information, interpersonal communication, decision making, goal-setting, self-management, and advocacy.

7TH GRADE ELECTIVES

All 7th grade students who are reading on grade level or higher are strongly encouraged to enroll in a world language as their first elective. This provides students with opportunities to be challenged at the highest level, while acquiring important skills necessary to compete in an interconnected global society.

Note: Students not reading on grade level are strongly encouraged to enroll in Academic Literacy as their first elective.

7th grade students may pick one of the following:

2 Full Year electives OR 1 Full Year elective and 2 Semester electives OR 4 Semester Electives

Final elective course offerings are based on student enrollment and staffing availability. In some cases, electives may be combined 7th and 8th grade classes.

WORLD LANGUAGES - (FULL YEAR ELECTIVES)

HIGH SCHOOL WORLD LANGUAGE:

Students begin to learn to communicate orally and in written form, and to derive meaning from the written and spoken language they are studying. The emphasis is on immersion, conversation, and vocabulary development, although simple grammatical structures are taught as a means to understanding and producing meaningful communication. Students will:

- Apply language skills to real-life communication.
- Communicate in simple terms about issues that surround them on a daily basis.
- Learn about the culture of the people.
- Make comparisons between their language and culture, and that of the language and culture they are learning.

FRENCH or SPANISH A/B (Full year)

This course option is identical to the MCPS high school class both in content and in pacing. Students take 1A/B in 7th grade and then, upon successful completion, continue into 2A/B in 8th grade. Taking this course series allows students to enter Level 3 in the ninth grade.

This course is appropriate for students who:

- Were recommended by their English teacher and Reading teacher
- Work consistently and independently in a fast-paced learning environment and seek additional academic rigor
- Are strong readers in English and have Reading/English grades of "A" or "B"
- Can use advanced-level vocabulary and sentence structure in their verbal and written communications
- Have excellent organization and study skills

Note: Students who have previous experience speaking the language, speak the language at home, should see the World Languages Department Chairperson for proper placement.

MUSIC - (FULL YEAR ELECTIVES)

MS BAND 2

Students develop and refine their technical skills in order to perform music at an increasing level of difficulty. Emphasis is placed on developing formal rehearsal decorum, following a conductor and developing pitch and rhythmic security in preparation for performing an independent part in the traditional band or orchestra ensemble. Students learn the social, cultural, and intellectual influences reflected in the musical works they are studying and discuss performance styles and musical forms of corresponding historical periods. The study of music theory includes performance and recognition of major scales, diatonic and chromatic intervals, and simple melodic dictation. The critical listening skills that are developed as a result of preparation for instrumental performance is used to help the student formulate criteria for effectively evaluating his/her own performance as well as the performance of others. Band 2 students are eligible to audition for All County, Honors, and Junior All State Band. Participation in concerts is mandatory.

MS ORCHESTRA 2

The string orchestra is open to all students who play the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students learn the social, cultural, and intellectual influences reflected in the musical works they are studying and discuss performance styles and musical forms of corresponding historical periods. The study of music theory includes performance and recognition of major scales, diatonic and chromatic intervals, and simple melodic dictation. The critical listening skills that are developed as a result of preparation for instrumental performance is used to help the student formulate criteria for effectively evaluating his/her own performance as well as the performance of others. Orchestra 2 students are eligible to audition for All County, Honors, and Junior All State Orchestra. Participation in concerts is mandatory

MS GUITAR 1

Students will learn to create, perform, and respond to guitar music in a variety of styles/genres. Students will learn and develop beginning guitar skills, including selected major, minor, and seventh chords; pentatonic scales; basic strumming and picking technique; and tuning technique. They study cultural, historical, personal, and social context as they relate to guitar repertoire. Students will develop effective practice habits so they can progress independently. This course is open to all students, regardless of music background.

SEMESTER ELECTIVES (SEMESTER ELECTIVES - CHOOSE TWO OR FOUR)

MS STUDIO ART 2

Creativity, innovation, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration continue to be developed throughout the course. Students in Studio Art 2 expand on their knowledge of materials and techniques. The theme of Relationships will guide students throughout the semester as they use personal reactions and responses to

create meaningful artwork. Students will learn in a Teaching for Artistic Behavior style class (T.A.B.). This means that they choose the subject of their artwork, the media they will use, and the skills they will learn to complete their masterpieces. In a T.A.B. classroom, students are treated as artists instead of art students. Creativity, innovation, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration continue to be developed throughout the course. Studio 2 units include a variety of media such as drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking, and collage.

MS DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY 2

This course is designed for students to learn how to use a digital camera, upload pictures to a PC computer, and use the photo-editing software, *Photoshop CS6*. They will be able to adjust photographs and artistically transform them into a piece of artwork. Photographic quality printers and paper will be used for the final products.

MS INNOVATION & ENGINEERING DESIGN 7 (1025)

Students develop an understanding of the cultural, social, economic, and political effects of technology; the role of society in the development and use of technology; and the influence technology has on history. Students use engineering design, troubleshooting, research and development, invention and innovation, and experimentation in problem solving while learning to use and maintain technological systems. Students will be introduced to technological systems and learn and apply the Engineering Design Process to a variety of challenges.

MARINE GEOSCIENCE - ADVANCED ACADEMIC ELECTIVE

Students will explore topics of oceanography and its connection to atmospheric science. Students will explore the chemistry of the ocean, marine life and ecosystem dynamics, and how human activity impacts our ocean. Students will engage in lab activities throughout the semester and will focus on the Next Generation Science Standards. Students taking this elective science course should anticipate high school level rigor with some homework, be concurrently earning A's and B's in Algebra or Geometry, have earned a 4 or 5 on the MCAP Math in the 2022 – 2023 school year, and have an interest in taking accelerated or advanced science courses in high school. Preference will be given to those who took the Intro to Chemistry elective in their 7th grade year.

TV STUDIO 7

In this course, students will be introduced to the basics of mass communication forms and processes. Students will begin to critically analyze media messages and will learn written and oral communication skills by producing content that informs, entertains, or persuades the viewing audience. TV Production also provides students with a preliminary introduction to some of the career possibilities in the television industry and fundamental technical and production roles.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)

ELP LEVELS 1 through 4 as determined by WIDA assessment and teacher recommendation.

ACADEMIC LITERACY/DEVELOPMENTAL READING 7 (1029)

This is an intensive reading intervention program designed to meet the needs of students whose reading achievement is below the proficient level. The program directly addresses individual needs through adaptive and instructional software, high-interest literature, and direct instruction in reading and writing skills. Students

rotate between a small-group, teacher-directed lesson, a computer station for reinforcement and practice, and an independent reading center where students read books at his/her reading level. The program is designed to rapidly accelerate student achievement, with the goal of bringing them to grade level.

MATH 180 (1010)

Math 180 is a comprehensive system of instruction, assessment, and professional development designed to help older, struggling students thrive in algebra. The program directly addresses individual needs through adaptive and instructional software, high-interest materials, and direct instruction in mathematical calculation and application skills. Students rotate among a small group, teacher-directed lessons, a computer station for reinforcement and practice, and an independent brain arcade where student's complete math problems at their instructional level. Built with the student in mind, the learning experience is a uniquely motivating and fun way to accelerate to grade-level ability.

RESOURCE 7 (Special Education) (1007)

Students who receive special education instruction in a resource program will have focused and sustained instruction in learning strategies and skills that they will apply to their other classes. These strategies will help them attain their Individual Educational Plan (IEP) goals and objectives so they can meet the academic demands of their content classes.

RELATED STUDIES 7 (1005)

This program is available to students who are having difficulty in the traditional program and require additional support. Instead of an elective, students enroll in this course to have focused, sustained instruction in learning strategies and skills that they will apply to their other classes. These strategies will help them meet the academic demands of their content classes. *This class requires a teacher recommendation.*

****Note: Final elective and special course offerings are based on student enrollment and staffing. In some cases, electives may be combined 7th and 8th grade classes. Students enrolled in special programs will consult with their counselor to design the appropriate elective option.***

GRADE 8

AT A GLANCE

The 8th grade student's instructional program consists of a total of seven (7) classes that encompass educational growth, program continuity, and preparation for high school & college. This instructional program is achieved through a combination of required and elective courses, with options for advanced level programs:

- 1) **ADVANCED ENGLISH 8**
- 2) **GRADE 8 MATH, ALGEBRA 1 OR HONORS GEOMETRY A/B**
- 3) **INVESTIGATIONS IN SCIENCE 8**
- 4) **ADVANCED U.S. HISTORY 8 OR HIST. INQUIRY INTO AMERICAN STUDIES 8**
- 5) **PE 8/HEALTH EDUCATION 8**
- 6) **FULL YEAR ELECTIVES:** HS World Language (French, Spanish 1A/B, French or Spanish 2A/2B), MS Academic Literacy/Developmental Reading 8, MS Band 3, MS Orchestra 3, Guitar/Modern Band
- 7) **HALF YEAR ELECTIVES:** TV Studio 8, MS Studio Art 3, Global Technology Systems, MS Digital Art & Photography, Introduction to Forensic Science

Note: *Students enrolled in special programs or opting out of World Language/Reading should consult with their counselor to choose the appropriate elective option.*

ENGLISH

ADVANCED ENGLISH 8 (1014)

This course involves implementation of the StudySync English 8 curriculum. This course integrates the five English/language arts processes (reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing) and the two contents (language and literature) in a thematic organization of four units. Rigor and challenge are essential components of the instructional approach to English 8, and instruction in reading and writing strategies, grammar, and vocabulary is embedded in every unit. Students read, analyze, and study different genres related to each of the themes and complete required common tasks. The common tasks focus primarily on the writing process for three types of writing—argument, narrative, and informative/explanatory—and they include the use of information, word processing, and presentation technology to address a variety of language skills. Students have opportunities to present their work orally and through various technology tools. All students develop portfolios and revisit their compositions as they work to strengthen their writing skills.

MATHEMATICS

GRADE 8 MATH (1007) - Students begin the Grade 8 Math Course with transformational geometry. They then apply the proportion relationship learning from 7th grade to study linear relationships in a variety of contexts and using a variety of representations. The first semester ends with students building on their prior work with linear equations and an introduction to linear systems. In the second semester, students are introduced to functions and then apply their understanding of linear relationships and functions to contexts involving data with variability. Work from 6th grade exponents extends to include all integers and the properties of exponents. In Grade 8 Math, students encounter both scientific notation and irrational numbers for the first time. The year concludes with the study and application of the Pythagorean Theorem and a study of volume.

ALGEBRA 1 (2000A/2000B) - This is a high school course, in which students earn high school credit and take the state MCAP Assessment for Algebra. In this course students explore, analyze, and model real-world phenomena through a mathematical lens. Exploration of linear, exponential, and quadratic functions forms the foundation of the course. Students develop conceptual understanding and fluency in solving equations, inequalities, and systems by explaining and validating their reasoning with increased precision. Students deepen their understanding of functions and their ability to represent, interpret, and communicate about them.

HONORS GEOMETRY A/B (2004A/2004B) - This is a high school credit course, in which students earn honors level high school credit. It is designed for students who have successfully completed Algebra 1. Students successfully completing this course take Algebra 2 with Analysis in the 9th grade. Honors Geometry formalizes and extends students' geometric experiences from the elementary and middle school grades. Students explore more complex geometric situations and deepen their understanding of geometric relationships, progressing toward formal mathematical arguments. Instruction at this level will focus on the understanding and application of congruence as a basis for developing formal proofs; the relationship among similarity, trigonometry, and triangles; the relationship between two- and three-dimensional objects and their measurements; exploration of geometric descriptions and equations for conic sections; and application of geometric concepts in modeling situations.

SCIENCE

INVESTIGATIONS IN SCIENCE 8 (1004)

IS8 is a problem/project-based curriculum. Instruction is interwoven around a relevant problem/project to allow a focus for student learning. Students engage in minds-on inquiry and hands-on explorations, productive discourse, and purposeful reading and writing. Units studied in IS8 center around topics related to Forces and Motion, Astronomy, Weather and Climate, and Earth's Materials and Processes. Students engage in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in order to propose solutions to identified problems.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

HISTORICAL INQUIRY IN US HISTORY 8 (1005)

Students explore the history of the United States from colonization to post Civil War Reconstruction and Industrialization while extending their understanding of political, economic, geographic and cultural systems. Throughout the course students analyze multiple perspectives and study how the diverse populations of Americans, including Native Americans, African Americans, women, immigrants, and Mexican Americans contributed to and were impacted by events. Connections to current issues help students identify patterns and themes that have shaped America in the past and continue to shape the nation today. Students extend their literacy practices by using the historical thinking skills learned in 6th and 7th grades to build effective, evidence based historical arguments. This course prepares students for continuing their study of U.S. History in 9th grade.

HISTORICAL INQUIRY INTO AMERICAN STUDIES 8 (1020)

This course is built around the core Grade 8 social studies curriculum, Historical Inquiry in US History 8, that includes historical content from colonization to post Civil War Reconstruction and Industrialization. In addition to the content in the core curriculum, students will learn in greater depth about the social and cultural history

of America including how the historical legacy of racism and discrimination continue to affect American society today. Students will also strengthen their writing through Document Based Questions, and enhance their learning through relevant literature connections. They will also participate in local or national competitions that allow them to connect their learning to broader themes of American democracy.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE) & HEALTH

PE Grade 8 (1005)

Students participate in a daily program of physical education that includes activities designed to challenge them to cooperate and compete while practicing teamwork, sports etiquette, cooperation, decision-making, and communication. Students will have opportunities to:

- Develop, maintain, and refine motor development.
- Experience a variety of physical activities to meet each individual's fitness, skill and interest needs.
- Participate in individual, dual, small and large group physical activities.
- Recognize and deal positively with strengths and limitations while developing self-confidence, personal responsibility and individual initiative.
- Study fundamental skills and principles.

HEALTH EDUCATION Grade 8 (1002)

Comprehensive Health Education promotes positive health-related attitudes and behaviors that support self-reliance and self-regulation while developing health literacy skills and lifelong wellness. The health literacy skills emphasized throughout the program include analyzing influences, accessing information, interpersonal communication, decision making, goal-setting, self-management, and advocacy.

8TH GRADE ELECTIVES

All 8th grade students who are reading on grade level or higher are strongly encouraged to enroll in a world language as their first elective. This provides students with opportunities to be challenged at the highest level, while acquiring important skills necessary to compete in an interconnected global society. Students not reading on grade level are strongly encouraged to enroll in Academic Literacy as their first elective.

8th grade students may pick two full year electives OR 1 full year elective and 2 semester electives OR 4 semester electives

WORLD LANGUAGES & READING (FULL-YEAR)

HIGH SCHOOL WORLD LANGUAGE:

Students who took a language in 7th grade continue to develop the skills to communicate orally and in written form, and to derive meaning from the written and spoken language they are studying. Students who are taking a language for the first time in eighth grade will start the series from the beginning in level 1A. The emphasis is on immersion, conversation, and continued vocabulary development. Students also learn more complex grammatical structures as an important means to understanding and producing meaningful communication. Students will continue to:

- Apply language skills to real-life communication.
- Communicate in the language about issues that surround them on a daily basis.
- Learn about the culture of the people whose language they are studying.

- Make comparisons between their language and culture, and that of the language and culture they are learning.

Option 1: FRENCH or SPANISH 2 A/B

This course is only open to students who have passed French or Spanish 1A/1B during the 7th grade year. Passing this course series allows students to enter Level 3 in 9th grade.

This course is appropriate for students who:

- Were recommended by their 7th grade world language teacher
- **Completed French or Spanish 1A/B with a C or better**
- Work consistently and independently in a fast-paced learning environment and seek additional academic rigor
- Can use advanced-level vocabulary and sentence structure in their verbal and written communications have excellent organization and study skills

Option 2: FRENCH or SPANISH 1 A/B

This course is offered to students who are beginning world language in the 8th grade. This is appropriate for students who:

- Were recommended by their English teacher and Reading teacher
- Work consistently and independently in a fast-paced learning environment
- Are strong readers in English and have English grades of C or higher
- Can use advanced-level vocabulary and sentence structure in their verbal and written communications
- Have excellent organization and study skills

MS BAND 3

Students develop and refine their technical skills in order to perform music at an increasing level of difficulty. In addition, students perform and historically categorize transcriptions of a variety of composers. Band 3 students are eligible to audition for All County, Honors, and Junior All State Band. Participation in concerts is mandatory.

MS ORCHESTRA 3

The string orchestra is open to all students who play the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students develop and refine their technical skills in order to perform music at an increasing level of difficulty. In addition, students perform and historically categorize transcriptions of a variety of composers. Orchestra 3 students are eligible to audition for All County, Honors, and Junior All State Orchestra. Participation in concerts is mandatory.

MS GUITAR 2

Expanding on beginning skills learned in MS Guitar 1, students will learn to create, perform, and respond to guitar music in a variety of styles/genres. Students will continue to learn and develop beginning guitar skills including power chords; major and minor scales; and basic fingerpicking, strumming, and picking technique. They will study cultural, historical, personal, and social context as they relate to guitar repertoire. Students will develop effective practice habits so they can progress independently.

SEMESTER ELECTIVES (SEMESTER ELECTIVES - CHOOSE TWO OR FOUR)

GRADE 8 GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

Technology Systems is designed to introduce students to systems and processes to develop an

understanding of the impact of technology on humans, the environment, and the global community. By investigating systems through their function, design, and development, students will understand what systems are, why they are developed and how 'systems thinking' can be used to describe them. Students engage in activities and experiences where they evaluate the impacts of technology through the lenses of culture, society, economics and the environment. Students are introduced to Computer Aided Design using TinkerCAD, build robots to learn introductory coding, and design and use our 3D Printer.

INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC SCIENCE—ADVANCED ACADEMIC ELECTIVE

Students get a comprehensive overview of forensic science including evaluation of evidence and crime scene investigation. Topics will develop alongside Investigations in Life Science including genetics, introductory chemistry, entomology, and use of biotechnology. Students will explore the differences between observations and inferences as they put themselves in the role of forensic scientists. Students will engage in lab activities throughout the semester, focusing on the Next Generations Science Standards practices. The course culminates with two case studies in which students must evaluate evidence to make a claim in solving the mysteries. Students taking this magnet elective science course should anticipate high school level rigor and regular homework. In addition, students should be earning A's and B's in both their Math and Science classes and have earned a 4 or 5 on the MCAP Math in the 2022 – 2023 school year.

TV STUDIO 8

In this course, students will continue to develop production skills and expand their aesthetic horizons. Students will critically analyze media messages and reinforce course concepts by producing a daily news broadcast and portfolio projects. Students will be challenged to think creatively, to function independently and as part of a group, to reason logically, to plan and anticipate, to deal with abstract, visual, and/or aural concepts, and to broaden their understanding of scientific advances and their part in modern technology. TV Production also provides students with a preliminary introduction to some of the career possibilities in the television industry and fundamental technical and production roles. Students in this course may film the daily televised announcements and if students film the daily televised announcements, they must fully participate as part of the production, camera, and news anchor teams. *This class requires a teacher recommendation.*

MS STUDIO ART

Students Studio Art 3 refine their skills and develop their own artistic style, as they focus on the meaning behind their art pieces. Students improve craftsmanship and expand their creative processes through units in design, drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking, and collage. The theme of Influence will guide Studio Art 3 students as they further their knowledge of art history, cultural influence, and social messaging. Students will learn in a Teaching for Artistic Behavior style class (T.A.B.). This means that they choose the subject of their artwork, the media they will use, and the skills they will need to learn to complete their masterpieces. In a T.A.B. classroom, students are treated as artists instead of art students.

MS DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY 3

Students will be introduced to the basic technology necessary for the production of their art work, as well as learning about the visual arts, how to look at and critique photography, photographic vocabulary, using tools such as framing, composition, "rule of thirds", light, texture, pattern, lines, symmetry, depth of field, distance, perspective, culture, space, balance, color and black and white photography, and be introduced to many works by well-known photographers. The editing software for this course will be Photoshop CS 6. The students will leave the course with a digital portfolio that can be used in high school and beyond.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)

ELP LEVELS 1 through 4 as determined by WIDA assessment and teacher recommendation.

MS ACADEMIC LITERACY 8 (1029)

This course is an intensive reading intervention program designed to meet the needs of students whose reading achievement is below the proficient level. The program directly addresses individual needs through adaptive and instructional software, high-interest literature, and direct instruction in reading and writing skills. Students rotate between a small-group, teacher-directed lesson, a computer station for reinforcement and practice, and an independent reading center where students read books at his/her reading level. The program is designed to rapidly accelerate student achievement, with the goal of bringing them to grade level.

MATH 180 (1010)

Math 180 is a comprehensive system of instruction, assessment, and professional development designed to help older, struggling students thrive in algebra. The program directly addresses individual needs through adaptive and instructional software, high-interest materials, and direct instruction in mathematical calculation and application skills. Students rotate among a small group, teacher-directed lessons, a computer station for reinforcement and practice, and an independent brain arcade where student's complete math problems at their instructional level. Built with the student in mind, the learning experience is a uniquely motivating and fun way to accelerate to grade-level ability.

RESOURCE 8 (Special Education) (1007)

Students who receive special education instruction in a resource program will have focused and sustained instruction in learning strategies and skills that they will apply to their other classes. These strategies will help them attain their Individual Educational Plan (IEP) goals and objectives so they can meet the academic demands of their content classes.

RELATED STUDIES 8 (1005)

This program is available to students who are having difficulty in the traditional program and require additional support and time during the school day. Instead of an elective, students enroll in this course to have focused, sustained instruction in learning strategies and skills that they will apply to their other classes. These strategies will help them meet the academic demands of their content classes. *This class requires a teacher recommendation.*

****Note: Final elective and special course offerings are based on student enrollment and staffing. In some cases, electives may be combined 7th and 8th grade classes. Students enrolled in special programs will consult with their counselor to design the appropriate elective option.***