

COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

FIFTH GRADE

Math: required full year class

Math allows students to build on their basic math skills while pushing them towards higher order and critical thinking. Throughout the school year, fifth grade students become more in tune with their number sense and mathematical confidence. Below is the Grade 5 overview from the common core standards.

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Write and interpret numerical expressions.
- Analyze patterns and relationships.

Number and Operations in Base Ten

- Understand the place value system.
- Perform operations with multi-digit whole numbers and with decimals to hundredths.

Number and Operations—Fractions

- Use equivalent fractions as a strategy to add and subtract fractions.
- Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to multiply and divide fractions.

Measurement and Data

- Convert like measurement units within a given measurement system.
- Represent and interpret data.
- Geometric measurement: understand concepts of volume and relate volume to multiplication and to addition.

Geometry

- Graph points on the coordinate plane to solve real-world and mathematical problems.
- Classify two-dimensional figures into categories based on their properties.

Mathematical Practices

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Social Studies: required full year class

Historical topics to be studied within this course include African life before the 16th century, European exploration leading to the colonization/settlement and struggle for control of North America, the consequences of interaction between European, African and American Indian peoples during the late 15th century through the 17th century, the American Revolution and its consequences, and the creation of a new government and the United States Constitution.

Students will study the role of individual citizenship by first learning how to derive statements from graphic data. Students will then use those statements and other information within reasoned responses to contemporary public issues related to the United States Constitution.

Reading: required full year class

The fifth grade reading curriculum aligns with the Michigan ELA Grade Level Content Expectations, Strand 1.

Reading will focus on various forms of narrative and informational text. An emphasis will be put on improving word recognition, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. Students will be reading a variety of literature genres including: historical fiction, realistic and science fiction.

Students will be tested using the STAR reading diagnostic test. The Accelerated Reader program will be used daily during independent reading.

Science: required full year class

Students will demonstrate an understanding that scientific inquiry and reasoning involves observing, questioning, recording, communicating, and developing solutions to problems. Students will use the scientific method to conduct research and analyze the information. In addition to science processes, students will study in three major disciplines of science:

1. Physical Science - describe the motion of an object in terms of distance, time and direction, change in motion due to forces, describe what happens when two forces act on an object, distinguish between contact and non-contact forces, and illustrate how motion can be measured on a graph.
2. Life Science - adaptations that help animals survive, body systems and how they work together, traits and heredity, environmental changes and catastrophic events, and how fossils provide evidence of the past.
3. Earth Science - explain the seasons, explain the phases of the moon, explain eclipses and the rise and fall of the tides, describe motion of planets and moon, make a model of the solar system that shows relative order and scale of the planets.

Writing: cross-curricular all year long

The writing curriculum focuses on the writing process along with parts of speech and grammar. Students will write daily and learn to improve their writing with elaboration, sentence variety, word choice, voice, and conventions. Various writing purposes will be explored through assigned pieces including poetry, business letters, mysteries, descriptive writing, fables, research papers, and magazines.

TECHNOLOGY (once a week all year)

In this course we will be following Michigan's Educational Technology Standards. As part of these standards, we will review and practice being good Digital Citizens. We will also spend time using Pages and Keynote for assignments given by classroom teachers. This year we will be learning about writing in a computer language. This is called coding. We will be using a website called Code.org that presents information and lets students practice using code in a game like format. This format helps nurture creativity, problem solving, collaboration, and logic through interactive, self-paced tutorials, featuring short video lectures and game-like puzzles.

Computer (once a week all year)

We will be using a program called All The Right Type to learn to touch type in this class. Emphasis will be placed on students memorizing the key locations in order to type without looking at the keys. We will also concentrate on the technology standard of Creativity and Innovation by using Keynote, PowerPoint, iMovie and iPhoto to create presentations, which will be shared with classmates.

Physical Education (once a week all year)

5th grade Physical Education Class introduces and reinforces sport, locomotor, knowledge, personal-social and fitness skills related to recreation and life-long activities.

Art (once a week for half a year)

Students in 5th grade will get the chance to experience art once a week for a semester. During this time students will be introduced to different art materials and famous artists.

Instrumental Music (once a week all year)

In 5th grade instrumental music, students will learn the fundamentals of music and how to apply them. This includes understanding the beat, creating a pulse, reading and demonstrating rhythms, and reading note names on both treble and bass clef staff. They will apply these concepts to instruments such as percussion, recorder, and ukulele.

Choral Music (once a week for half a year)

Students are exposed to a variety of basic music concepts with a focus toward singing. We will learn music basics through music games and activities. Many of our music games involve singing and students will focus more on singing as the semester progresses.

COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

SIXTH GRADE

MATH: Required full-year class

Sixth grade mathematics builds upon the basic skills learned in elementary. This course covers the content areas of ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, expressions and equations, geometry, statistic and probability. Students master the four arithmetic operations with whole numbers, positive fractions, positive decimals, and positive integers; they accurately compute and solve problems. They apply their knowledge to statistics and probability. Students understand the concepts of mean, median, and mode of data sets and how to calculate the range. Students conceptually understand and work with ratios and proportions; they compute percentages (e.g., tax, tips, interest). Students know about pi and the formulas for the circumference and area of a circle. They use letters for numbers in formulas involving geometric shapes and in ratios to represent an unknown part of an expression. They solve one-step linear equations. Students will learn through examples, discovery activities, discussions, writing and group work. Students will be evaluated by quizzes, tests, projects and class participation.

English Language Arts: Required full-year class

The sixth grade English Language Arts curriculum aligns with Michigan's Common Core Standards, and will stress four strands; **Reading, Writing, Speaking, & Listening/Viewing**.

The primary focus of this class will be on various forms of **narrative and informational text**, with an emphasis on improving comprehension in all reading areas. Students will read, analyze, and assess a variety of literature genres including: fiction, poetry, drama, classic and multicultural folktales, graphic stories, nonfiction, essays and speeches, biographies, letters, autobiographies, informational texts, and functional documents. **LITERARY ELEMENTS and READING STRATEGIES** will be developed, as students become active readers. The STAR reading diagnostic test and "Accelerated Reader" program will be used to promote daily independent reading in a student's own reading level. ReadWorks.org (which is aligned with the Common Core State Standards) will be used throughout the year to improve reading comprehension with research-proven tools and support.

Speaking, listening and writing, along with enhancing literature-based vocabulary, spelling, and grammar will be reinforced as outlined in grade level common core standards. Students will learn "effective sentence writing" strategies and "process write" a **narrative, informative, and**

argumentative/persuasive paper. Some of these writing projects will be implemented in other "core" classes such as math, social studies, and science.

Student progress will be evaluated using a combination of formative and summative assessments based on their daily classwork, participation, tests, quizzes, journals/writing projects and Accelerated Reader Goal.

Social Studies: Required full-year class

Sixth Grade Social Studies investigates the economy, culture, geography, and history of Central America, South America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Canada. The five themes of geography will be included (location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region) in the study of each region. Students will learn how to use a variety of reference materials to create projects and class presentations. Materials to be used include Western Hemisphere textbook, Geography Alive textbook, as well as other supplemental resources. Students will be evaluated to assess progress by means of daily class work, participation, homework, quizzes, tests, projects, and other activities.

SCIENCE 6: Required full-year class

Students will demonstrate an understanding that scientific inquiry and reasoning involves observing, questioning, recording, communicating, and developing solutions to problems. In addition to science processes, students will study in three major disciplines of science:

Physical Science - including kinetic and potential energy, gravity, energy transfer, conservation of energy and matter laws, atoms, molecules, and changes in states of matter.

Life Science - producers, consumers, decomposers in an ecosystems, and environmental impact of organisms and their interactions.

Earth Science - soil, rock formation, plate tectonics, magnetic field of Earth, fossils, and geologic time.

ELECTIVE CLASS CHOICES

The following section describes elective classes, which are available to 6th graders. Some elective classes may change depending on changes in staffing during the summer and their availability to teach elective classes.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Elective 18 week class

Students will learn and participate in developmental exercise and stretches, group games, and work on independent basic skills for various organized sports. Students will use these basic skills in modified games or activities related to the organized sport. The student will have an opportunity to experience several recreational activities as well as organized sports. Students will be graded on the basis of daily participation, unit assessments, and a fitness challenge. Health topics will also be covered during this 18 week course.

COMPUTER (KEYBOARDING): Elective 18 week class

Students will work on mastery of the National Educational Technology Standards by receiving an introduction to basic word processing, spreadsheets & electronic presentations using the Microsoft Suite. They will also be exposed to iMovie, iPhoto, Keynote, Numbers and Pages in order to complete individual and group projects.

6th GRADE ART: Elective 18 week class

This is an introductory course designed to offer students an opportunity to explore a wide range of art media/materials and processes. Through lectures and demonstrations as well as students accomplishing a variety of hands on assignments, students will be given the opportunity to develop a basic understanding of art materials, techniques, and practices. Grades are based on set criteria for each project as well as on level of effort and classroom participation.

*** Students will be asked to pay a small Art Fee of \$4.00 in order to keep their clay project**

6TH-GRADE BAND: Elective full year class

Students are taught all of the basic fundamentals for playing a band instrument. If starting an instrument, this is the only level in which they can enter. They will learn the basics of their instrument such as how to put their instrument together, produce a good tone, correct breathing techniques, how to count rhythms, and more. They will perform several times during the year to demonstrate their knowledge.

DRAMATIC VIDEO Elective 18 week class

Students in this class will be given an introduction to the concepts of drama as well as video editing techniques. Through the use of video editing, students will create a video showing their work for the trimester. Students will gain knowledge of video recording techniques as well as public speaking skills, creative drama, and voice projection. Students will also employ planning and time management skills and tools to meet deadlines.

INTRO TO SPANISH: Elective 18 week class

Students will learn the basics of conversation, how to discuss likes and dislikes, describe one-another, and lay a strong foundation for future language learning. Students will also participate in cultural projects, learn songs in Spanish, and practice using various games and hands-on activities.

HEALTH AND PERSONAL SAFETY: Elective 18 week class

Health/ Personal Safety Class is a one-semester class for 6th grade students at LMS. The class will focus on the following areas:

1. Nutrition and Physical activity needs
2. Alcohol, Tobacco, and other drug prevention
3. Personal Safety Issues
4. Internet Safety
5. Social and Emotional Health

Through an emphasis on group discussion and presentations, the class will work on preventing at-risk behavior among Lakewood Middle School students as well as increasing student knowledge of the changing world of a sixth grade student.

MUSIC 6: Elective class, 18 week semester class

The purpose of this class is to develop lifelong music and singing skills and to develop an appreciation and understanding of music. Singing fundamentals of breathing, breath support, vocal tone, and vocal placement are covered. Music concepts and music reading are taught through songs and music games. Grading is based on participation.

MATH LAB - 6TH GRADE ELECTIVE - ONE SEMESTER CLASS

The Math Lab Class is a class designed for the struggling math student. Students are recommended for this class by test scores and teacher recommendation. Through a variety of methods, students in this class are given extra assistance in their mathematics' education. They are provided with the means necessary to become successful in their regular math classes through online coursework and in-class discussions and lessons.

COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

SEVENTH GRADE

SCIENCE: Required, full year class

Students will demonstrate an understanding that scientific inquiry and reasoning involves observing, questioning, recording, communicating, and developing solutions to problems.

Students will be engaged in the STEM philosophy, which encourages creativity by presenting students with a problem or challenge that has many potential avenues, none of which are obviously superior to others. Students contemplate, design, build, and later explain a solution that complies with specifications.

In addition to science processes, students will study in three major disciplines of science:

- Physical - Energy in the form of sound waves, energy transformations and solar energy effect, properties of matter in terms of elements and compounds and also chemical properties and changes
- Life - Organization of living things including cell functions, growth and development, unicellular vs multicellular organisms and photosynthesis, also heredity focusing on asexual and sexual reproduction
- Earth - Earth systems involving solar energy, human consequences, weather climate and the water cycle, also Fluid Earth involving the atmosphere

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/Literature : Required, full year class (one class)

The seventh grade English Language Arts curriculum aligns with Michigan's Common Core Standards, and will stress four strands; Reading, Writing, Speaking, & Listening/Viewing.

This class will focus on various forms of narrative and informational text, with an emphasis on improving comprehension in all reading areas. Students will read, analyze, and assess a variety of literature genres including: fiction, poetry, drama, classic and multicultural folktales, essays and speeches, legends, and informational texts. Throughout these studies, students synthesize, infer, summarize, and question texts. They study authors' use of literary devices and vocabulary, and they are required to keep a thoughtful, high quality class journal with written reflections on the literature read and questions that connect to the texts' content. The STAR reading diagnostic test and "Accelerated Reader" program will be used to promote daily independent reading in a student's own reading level.

Speaking, listening and writing, along with enhancing literature-based vocabulary, spelling, and grammar will be reinforced as outlined in grade level common core standards. Creative and informative expressions are also stressed through class presentations and daily class participation. Research is included in the curriculum. Daily assignments and short-term projects, evaluated through a

variety of assessments, are part of expectations in meeting responsibilities for the class.

Student progress will be evaluated using a combination of formative and summative assessments based on their daily work, writing assignments, tests, quizzes, journals, vocabulary work, and Accelerated Reader Goals.

SOCIAL STUDIES: Required, full year class

The seventh grade social studies course will teach students about the eastern hemisphere through geographical skills; history; culture; economics; and animals of the continents. The following continents will be researched: Asia, Africa, Oceania and Europe. We will learn about early civilizations that formed on the continents and study how they changed through the centuries.

MATH: Required, full year class

Seventh grade mathematics focuses upon reinforcing previously learned concepts, as well as preparing students for pre-algebra or algebra in eighth grade. This course covers the content areas of ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, equations and expressions, geometry, and statistics and probability. Specific focus is given to positive and negative number operations, writing and solving linear equations, graphing in the coordinate plane, writing and solving ratios and proportions, determining probability, measuring angles, and calculating surface area and volume of three-dimensional shapes. Students will learn through examples, discovery activities, discussions, writing, and individual and group work. Students will be evaluated by quizzes, tests, projects and class participation.

ELECTIVE CLASS CHOICES

The following section describes elective classes, which are available to 7th graders. Some elective classes may change depending on changes in staffing during the summer and their availability to teach elective classes.

COMPUTER: Elective 18 week class

Students will work on mastery of the National Educational Technology Standards including Image Captures, File name extensions, Keyboard Shortcuts, Basic Troubleshooting Techniques, Cloud Management strategies, online Visual Organizers and Quick Response Codes. Focus will be made on exploring student Digital Footprints in order to remain safe and secure on the Internet. Students will also explore Blogs and Wikis and email in order to learn communication techniques that will assist them in a real world setting. They will continue with Copyright, Public Domain and Digital Citizenship; all things that will help students make smarter decisions about their future education. Google Drive will be a major focus of our learning as students endeavor to learn the best search strategies to use when completing research on the Internet. We will complete our trimester by learning how to use some Web 2.0 tools that can help students edit and alter digital images.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH: Elective 18 week class

Students will learn and participate in developmental exercise and stretches, group games, and work on independent basic skills for various organized sports. Students will use these basic skills in modified games or activities related to the organized sport. The student will have an opportunity to experience several recreational activities as well as organized sports. Students will be graded on the basis of daily participation, unit assessments, and a fitness challenge. Health topics will also be covered during this 18 week course.

7th GRADE ART: Elective 18 week class

Students in 7th grade art will have an opportunity to explore a wide range of art media/ materials and processes. Throughout the trimester 7th grade art students will keep a sketchbook that will show the growth in their drawing and creative problem solving skills. Students will take part in a variety of observational drawing exercises that will assist the students as they learn how to draw a self-portrait. Students will also have the opportunity to learn slab construction techniques in order to make a personalized clay container. Other mediums will also be explored. Grades are based on set criteria for each project as well as on level of effort and classroom participation.

- ***Students will be asked to pay a small Art Fee of \$4.00 in order to keep their clay project.***

7TH GRADE BAND: Elective class, full year

In 7th grade band, students will take the fundamentals they learned the year previous and begin building onto them. They will still learn new rhythms, perform many times, produce good tone, play different types of music, learn to sight read, and they will begin to connect the music to the larger picture of fine arts.

CHOIR I: Elective class, full year

A middle school students' first experience in choir is designed as an exposure to choral music as a performing art. Students will learn the fundamentals of singing technique and beginning music theory through the performance of music from varied cultures and time periods. Students will apply skills and knowledge to sight-read basic melodies, sing and read parts, perform in small and large groups, and analyze and evaluate works of art. Activities in this class will include daily rehearsal of music, listening activities, sight-reading, some written music theory, and concert performances. Teamwork is stressed, and attendance at performances is required. Previous musical experience is not required.

EXPLORE SPANISH: Elective 18 week class

Students will build upon previous Spanish knowledge by covering such topics as family, physical descriptions, food words, stem-changing verbs, and more. Students will read "Las aventuras de Isabela," a small chapter book in Spanish.

3D-Art: Elective 18 week class

This course is designed to give students hands on experience using a variety of building materials. Through this course students will gain knowledge about 3D design and create works of art using cardboard, papier-mâché, and clay among others. Projects will be completed both collaboratively and individually. Students will also work as curators of their own artwork. Grades are based on set criteria for each project as well as on level of effort and classroom participation.

**** Students will be asked to pay a small Art Fee of \$4.00 in order to keep their clay project***

WORLD CULTURES 7: Elective 18 week class

This course will focus on the similarities and differences between the Japanese, German, French & Spanish cultures in relation to our own culture. Emphasis will be made on the people, their customs & lifestyles, economy, language & religion in contrast to our own culture. Technology will be integrated into all projects.

MATH LAB - 7TH GRADE ELECTIVE - ONE SEMESTER CLASS

The Math Lab Class is a class designed for the struggling math student. Students are recommended for this class by test scores and teacher recommendation. Through a variety of methods, students in this class are given extra assistance in their mathematics' education. They are provided with the means necessary to become successful in their regular math classes through online course work and in-class discussions and lessons.

COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE----EIGHTH GRADE

SCIENCE: Required, full year class

Students will demonstrate an understanding that scientific inquiry and reasoning involves observing, questioning, recording, communicating, and developing solutions to problems.

Students will be engaged in the STEM philosophy, which encourages creativity by presenting students with a problem or challenge that has many potential avenues, none of which are obviously superior to others. Students will contemplate, design, build, and later explain a solution that complies with specifications.

This class will involve the participation in problem-based and project-based learning activities, mathematics and science inquiry learning tasks, and using technology to gain and display information.

8TH GRADE STEM BLOCK (SCIENCE 8 AN ELECTIVE)

Students in the STEM block will be involved with a rigorous integration of science and math concepts, using technology, to solve real world (authentic) problems. Students will leave class with a strong skill set in problem-solving, creative thinking, and presenting to an audience, while meeting the standards for Science and using the skills taught in their Algebra class.

LANGUAGE/LITERATURE: Required, full year class

With 21st century emphasis on technology integration, eighth grade literature offers an interdisciplinary approach to language that aligns with Michigan's Common Core Standards. The focus will be directed towards various types of literature with an emphasis on four strands: reading, writing, speaking, and listening / viewing. The literature portion of the curriculum will involve the study of numerous genres including, but not limited to, short stories, poetry, drama, analytical essays, speeches, and young adult novels pertinent to contemporary or historical issues. Vocabulary and literary terminology will be explored in context with these genres. The STAR Testing / Accelerated Reading program will also be incorporated as well as emphasized in the curriculum this year. The writing aspect continues to expand upon the Thinking Map Write from the Beginning and Beyond program and includes journals, persuasive and creative writing, fiction, a personal essay on heroes, as well as other varied writing opportunities. Students will be assessed in various ways, including tests, quizzes, writing assignments, whole-class discussions, and public speaking opportunities.

UNITED STATES HISTORY: Required, full year class

During the course of the year eighth graders will study U.S. history (formation of the U.S. through Reconstruction); concentrating on economic, social, and political changes during this period. The units of study are: Creating New Governments (Articles of Confederation) and a New Constitution; Challenges as an Emerging Nation (Foreign Policy, Political Conflict in the U.S., Establishing a National Judiciary and Its Power); Regional and Economic Growth (Comparing Northeast and the South, Institution of Slavery, Westward Expansion and the Consequences of Expansion); Reform Movements; The Coming of the Civil War; Civil War (Secession, roles of the North and the South, Abraham Lincoln's Presidency, and Effects of the War); Reconstruction (Policies, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments). Most of the daily course work can be completed during the class period if the student uses time wisely. Emphasis is placed on writing, speaking, listening, and problem solving. Students are assessed through quizzes, tests, writing assignments, authentic assessments, and projects. Analyzing and comparison between primary and secondary sources to gain multiple and historical perspectives on issues is a skill that will be worked on in this course. One objective of the class is for students to learn to enjoy and appreciate the study of historical and social issues. Discussion is encouraged and we try to relate how events from the past still impact life in the U.S. today. The class objectives prepare students to continue U.S. History as a freshman, which covers Reconstruction to the Cold War Era.

PRE-ALGEBRA: Required, full year class

This course is designed to prepare students for high school Algebra. The main areas covered include: formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations with a focus on linear equations grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships, simplifying powers and roots, working with scientific notation, as well as writing and solving systems of linear equations. Geometry-related concepts covered include understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem and finding the volumes of cylinders, cones, and spheres. Calculators are used for some assignments, quizzes, and tests. Students can expect daily homework assignments.

ALGEBRA 1: Full year class

This course covers the same material as the high school Algebra 1 class. Students will be working with linear, quadratic, and exponential functions with a focus on modeling, applying, and solving these types of functions. Applying and solving systems of equations and linear inequalities will be covered as well. Students will be introduced to radical and rational functions in preparation for Algebra 2. Graphing calculators will be used during the second semester of the course. Students are evaluated through a combination of homework, quizzes, tests, and semester exams. Regular daily homework can be expected. Students who achieve a grade of C or higher in this course are able to move directly into Accelerated Algebra 2 or Geometry.

ALGEBRA 2: Full year class (following successful completion of Algebra 1)

This course is a second year of algebra that integrates and expands upon topics from Algebra 1. Topics include the following: properties of real numbers, equations and inequalities, applications of linear graphs and linear systems, operations involving polynomials and rational expressions, relations and functions, conic sections, radicals, complex numbers, quadratic, exponential, and trigonometric functions, and sequences and series. This class will include the use of a graphing calculator. Students are evaluated through a combination of homework, quizzes, tests, and semester exams. Daily homework assignments can be expected.

ELECTIVE CLASS CHOICES

The following section describes elective classes, which are available to 8th graders. Some elective classes may change depending on changes in staffing during the summer and their availability to teach elective classes.

8th GRADE ART: Elective 18 week class

8th grade art is an exploratory class that will build on the knowledge of a student's previous art experiences, although 8th graders may sign-up even if they did not have art as a 7th grade student. A variety of mediums and techniques will be explored during the semester. Mediums that students will be exploring include drawing, painting and clay, among others. Grades are based on set criteria for each project as well as on level of effort and classroom participation.

** Students will be asked to pay a small Art Fee of \$4.00 in order to keep their clay project*

COMPUTER: Elective 18 week class

Students will continue learning in a paperless, virtual environment. They will explore presentation software using Google Drive and Prezi. They will look at interactive sites on the Web that will help them with homework in their core classes. We will use Google Drive to explore the functions of spreadsheet software. Students will learn the proper way to use Social Networking websites and how to use Career Prep software to prepare for the future. Additionally, Screen casting, Multimedia Creation, Online Shopping techniques, Mobile Computing & Game Design will be explored virtually.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH: Elective 18 week class

Students will learn and participate in developmental exercise and stretches, group games, and work on independent basic skills for various organized sports. Students will use these basic skills in modified games or activities related to the organized sport. The student will have an opportunity to experience several recreational activities as well as organized sports. Students will be graded on the basis of daily participation, unit assessments, and a fitness challenge. Health topics will also be covered during this 18 week course.

8TH GRADE BAND: Elective class full year

In 8th grade band, students will take the fundamentals they learned the year previous and continue building onto them. They will still learn new rhythms, perform many times, produce good tone, play and identify different types of music, learn to sight read, and they will begin to connect the music to the larger picture of fine arts.

CHOIR II: Elective class, full year

Choir II is offered for those students who want a more in-depth singing experience. Choral music as a performing art will be explored through learning and performance of music from varied cultures and time periods. Vocal technique will be further developed. Students will apply skills and knowledge to sight-read basic melodies in treble and bass clef, sing and read parts, perform in small and large groups, and analyze and evaluate works of art. Activities in this class will include daily rehearsal of music, listening activities, sight-reading, some written music theory, and concert performances. Teamwork is stressed, and attendance at performances is required. Students who had Choir I as a sixth or seventh grader, or have had substantial outside vocal music training, will be scheduled in the Choir II class at the discretion of the choir director..

SPANISH I: Elective class, full year class

Students will learn the basics of conversation, how to discuss likes and dislikes, describe one-another, and lay a good foundation for further foreign language development. Vocabulary topics include classroom objects, family, food, sports, clothing, house, travel, and body/illness vocabulary. Students will read “Pobre Ana” and “Patricia va a California”, two small chapter books in Spanish. Students will also participate in cultural projects, learn songs in Spanish, and practice using various games and hands-on activities. (This may count as the first year of the High School Language requirement provided that the students passes an entrance exam.)

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP: Elective, 18 week class

The community leadership class has the responsibility of promoting the school within the community and the LMS school population. Community leadership members organize social activities for the middle school students (dances, after school trips, etc.), are visible and assist at school functions (concession stand sales, assisting at parent / teacher conferences and open houses, etc.), and promote school spirit and pride (committee work, student initiated pride projects, etc.). The community leadership class members are the student leaders of the school and are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior and attitude at all times. Students will employ planning and time management skills and tools to meet deadlines. CLC students will solve problems using creativity and innovation while demonstrating critical thinking skills both independently and in teams. The class is a hands-on approach to real world experiences within the school through the use of Service Learning and School to Work Ideals. Participation at school sponsored activities after regular school hours is required in this class.

CAREERS: Elective 18 week class

This hands-on class will prepare students for the “real world”. Students begin the course by examining their own strengths, finding careers of interest, creating a resume, job applications, and interviewing. Students will also participate by creating a small business, having a classroom job, banking, buying real estate, insurance, and managing a checking account/money.

TEAM SPORTS: Elective 18 week class

The emphasis will be on developing active participation in leisure lifetime pursuits involving exercise, recreation, and various team sports. Students will learn and participate in personal exercise and stretches, group games, and work on independent basic skills for various team sports. The student will have an opportunity to experience several recreational activities as well as organized sports. Students will be graded on the basis of daily participation, unit assessments, and a final fitness challenge.

MATH LAB - 8TH GRADE ELECTIVE - ONE SEMESTER CLASS

The Math Lab Class is a class designed for the struggling math student. Students are recommended for this class by test scores and teacher recommendation. Through a variety of methods, students in this class are given extra assistance in their mathematics' education. They are provided with the means necessary to become successful in their regular math classes through online coursework and in-class discussions and lessons.