

GATEWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG



Gateway Middle School
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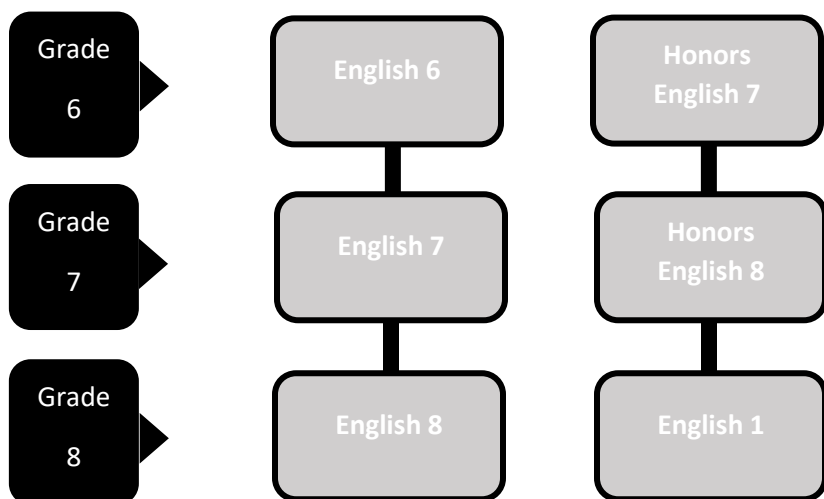


Three Year Planner

Sixth Grade	
1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
English History Science Math PE Elective	English History Science Math PE Elective
Seventh Grade	
1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
English Washington State history Science Math PE Elective	English History Science Math PE Elective
Eighth Grade	
1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
English History Science Math PE Elective	English History Science Math PE Elective

English

Course Options for Grades 6-8



English 6

Grade Level:	6
Credit:	None
Length:	Two semesters (yearlong)
Other:	This is the standard course for 6 th grade students.

SpringBoard Grade 6 is developed around the thematic concept of **change**. Sixth grade students begin the year in Unit 1 by writing a short story that reflects internal and external changes in a character. They must use various sources to incorporate factual details into their fictional tale while including a lesson related to the theme of change. During the year, students will learn how writers use that theme to tell stories in poetry, short stories, and nonfiction texts. Initially, students will use what they learn in Unit 1 to write short stories based on personal experiences, which will demonstrate their understanding of plot structure and the narrative techniques that bring a story to life. In Unit 2, students read the book *Walk Two Moons* and delve into literary analysis and expository writing. Can they determine how a story is affected by the author's decisions in setting, plot, characterization, or theme? We then begin our unit on animals helping people; students will collect evidence from a variety of sources and conduct their own research to support an expository essay. From there, we will transition to Unit 3 and begin focusing on argumentation. Students will learn about rhetoric and how to identify the different ways that language is used persuasively. After learning the basics of argumentation and participating in a debate, they will produce an argumentative essay on a controversial issue of their choice. Finally, Unit 4 introduces students to Shakespeare and gives them an opportunity to interpret and perform one or more scenes from a Shakespearean play.

English 7 *(Honors English 7 for 6th grade students)*

Grade Level:	7
Credit:	None
Length:	Two semesters (yearlong)
Other:	This is the standard course for 7 th grade students and is the advanced course for 6 th grade students. 6 th grade students not coming from a Highly Capable program in 5 th grade that choose to take this course will skip a full year of writing instruction (English 6) and must have exemplary writing and reading skills

SpringBoard Grade 7 is developed around the thematic concept of **choice**. Seventh grade students begin by writing a personal narrative about a choice they made, the consequences of that choice, and what they learned from it. Next, students will create a myth that explains a natural phenomenon, as well as teaches a lesson. In Unit 2, students will explore the role advertisers play in the lives of youth and write an expository essay on the topic; they will also write an argumentative essay on a topic of interest. For Unit 3, the novel *Tangerine*, by Edward Bloor, will be read as a class, with students writing a literary analysis piece on the impact of choices on the main character. Afterwards, students will create and present a multimedia presentation in cooperative groups on a leader that has made a positive impact on society. In Unit 4, students will write and present a monologue on a topic of their choice and present to their peers.

English 8 *(Honors English 8 for 7th grade students)*

Grade Level:	8
Credit:	None
Length:	Two semesters (yearlong)
Other:	This is the standard course for 8 th grade students and is the advanced course for 7 th grade students. 7 th grade students who choose to take this course that were not in Honors English 7 last year will skip a full year of writing instruction (English 7). They must have proven exemplary writing and reading skills.

SpringBoard Grade 8 is developed around the thematic concept of **challenge**. During the first unit, students will focus on the *Challenge of Heroism* by analyzing the hero's archetype in literature. They will then write a hero's narrative and an expository essay to explain their real-life heroes. In the *Challenge of Utopia* unit, students will analyze dystopian literature, conduct Socratic Seminar discussions, write timed responses, research major issues, and write in the argumentative mode. 8th graders will then focus on the *Challenge to Make a Difference*; throughout that unit, students will read Holocaust fiction as they prepare for Literature Circle discussions and Multimedia Presentations. The final unit is the *Challenge of Comedy* where students will evaluate comedic elements to analyze their own sense of humor and will ultimately perform a Shakespearean comedy.

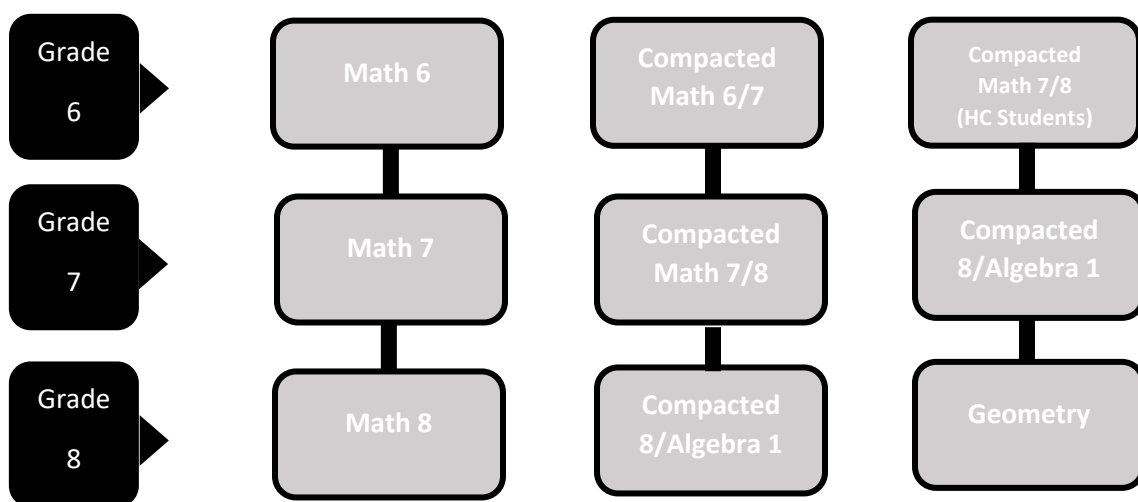
Pre-AP English 1 103ENG

Grade Level:	8
Credit:	1.0 High School Credit (0.5 per semester)
Length:	Two semesters (yearlong)
Other:	This is an advance level class for 8 th grade and students enrolled in this class can earn high school credit.

Pre-AP English 1 focuses on the close reading, analytical writing, and language skills that have immediate relevance for students across their current courses and that are most essential for their future work in high school, college, and careers. Texts take center stage in the Pre-AP English 1 classroom, where students engage in close, critical reading of a wide range of materials. The course trains the reader to observe the small details within a text to arrive at a deeper understanding of the whole. It also trains the writer to focus on crafting complex sentences as the foundation for writing to facilitate complex thinking and communicate ideas clearly.

Math

Course Options for Grades 6-8



Math 6

- Grade Level:** 6
Credit: None
Length: Two semesters (yearlong)
Prerequisites: None
Other: This is the standard course for 6th grade students.

This course focuses on rates and ratios using tables, proportions, diagrams, graphs, and equations, but they also tackle other concepts including percents, volume, area, and more work with fractions and decimals.

Compacted Math 6/7

Grade Level:	6
Credit:	None
Length:	Two semesters (yearlong)
Prerequisites:	5 th grade teacher recommendation
Other:	This is the advanced course for 6 th grade students.

This course covers the following units: Integers and Exponents, Expressions and Equations, Operations with Fractions, Understanding Decimals (Multiplying and Dividing) Ratios and Proportional Reasoning, Probability, Perimeter, Area, Volume and Surface Area and Organizing and Analyzing Data.

Math 7

Grade Level:	7
Credit:	None
Length:	Two semesters (yearlong)
Prerequisites:	Math 6
Other:	This is the standard course for 7 th grade students.

This course covers the following units: Rational Numbers, Proportional Relationships, Scale and Scale Factor, Expressions and Equations, Percent and Proportional Relationships, Statistics and Probability and Geometry.

Compacted Math 7/8

Grade Level:	6-7
Credit:	None
Length:	Two semesters (yearlong)
Prerequisites:	Math 6/7
Other:	This is the advanced course for 6 th grade students who were in the Highly Capable Program in Elementary school and for 7 th grade students.

This 7/8 Compacted course is designed to prepare students for 8/Algebra I Compacted course the following year. Topics include Proportional Reasoning and Percents, Expressions and Linear Equations, Geometry Volume and Circles, Graphing Linear Equations, Solve and Graph Linear Inequalities, Geometry Angles, Transformations, Similarity and Congruence and Pythagorean Theorem and Rational Numbers.

Math 8

Grade Level:	8
Credit:	None
Length:	Two semesters (yearlong)
Prerequisites:	Math 7
Other:	This is the standard course for 8 th grade students.

This course covers Functions, Linear Equations, Exponents & Scientific Notation, Number System Rational/Irrational Pythagorean Theorem, Solving Equations, Angles, Lines, Congruence and Similarity, Transformations, Systems of Equations, Volume of cones, cylinders and spheres and Statistics and Probability.

Compacted 8/Algebra 1 101MTH

Grade Level: 7-8

Credit: 1.0 High School Credit (0.5 per semester)

Length: Two semesters (yearlong)

Prerequisites: Math 7/8

Other: This is the advanced course for 7th and 8th grade students (who have completed Math 7/8 course work) and students can earn high school credit for this class. Students also cover several concepts from Math 8 in addition to all the Algebra 1 concepts.

Algebra integrates traditional curriculum with statistics, data analysis, functions, discrete mathematics, geometry and probability. Students work with data-rich, real-world situations and applications in an applications-based context where investigations precede the introduction of formulas and expressions. From iteration and self-similarity to technology-accessible techniques through the use of the graphing calculator for statistical analysis, students participate in cutting-edge mathematics as well as time-honored topics and concepts. The TI-83+ calculator is used to enhance this course.

Geometry 201MTH

Grade Level: 8

Credit: 1.0 High School Credit (0.5 per semester)

Length: Two semesters (yearlong)

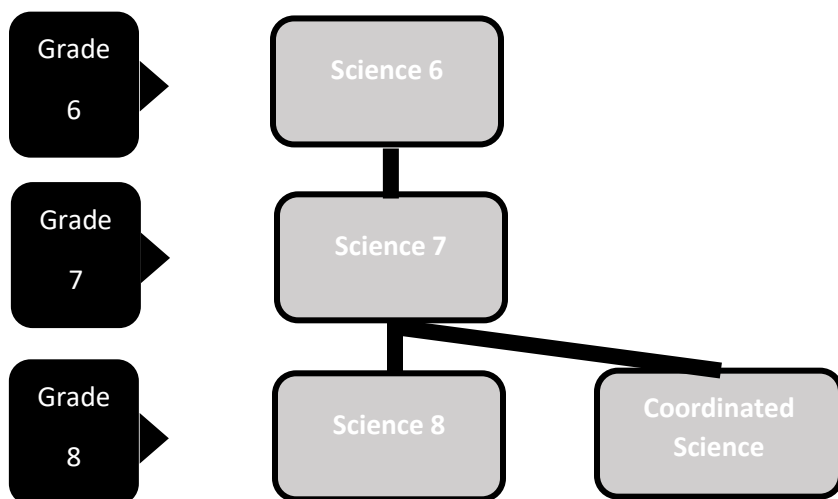
Prerequisites: Algebra 1

Other: This is an advanced course for 8th grade students and students can earn high school credit for this class.

Geometry includes the study of logical reasoning, algebraic applications, and characteristics of geometric forms. Students explore geometric relationships with a wide variety of tools including compasses, computers, and graphing calculators. Students perform constructions, measure figures, observe patterns, discuss findings, write definitions, and formulate geometric conjectures. The skills used throughout this course assist students in becoming self-motivated, independent thinkers.

Science

Course Options for Grades 6-8



Science 6

Grade Level: 6
Credit: None
Length: Two semesters (yearlong)
Other: This is the standard course for 6th grade students.

Students will be encouraged to think critically, develop solutions to problems, and demonstrate an understanding of science concepts. This inquiry-based science class is designed to introduce students to different areas of study in science. The class focuses on Diversity of Life and Catastrophic Events.

Science 7

Grade Level: 7
Credit: None
Length: Two semesters (yearlong)
Other: This is the standard course for 7th grade students.

Students will be encouraged to think critically, develop solutions to problems, and demonstrate an understanding of science concepts. This inquiry-based science class is designed to introduce students to different areas of study in science. The class focuses on Populations and Ecosystems, Human Body Systems and Earth in Space.

Science 8

Grade Level:	8
Credit:	None
Length:	Two semesters (yearlong)
Other:	This is the standard course for 8 th grade students.

Students will be encouraged to think critically, develop solutions to problems, and demonstrate an understanding of science concepts. This inquiry-based science class is designed to introduce students to different areas of study in science. The class focuses on Properties of Matter, Energy, Force, Motion and Light.

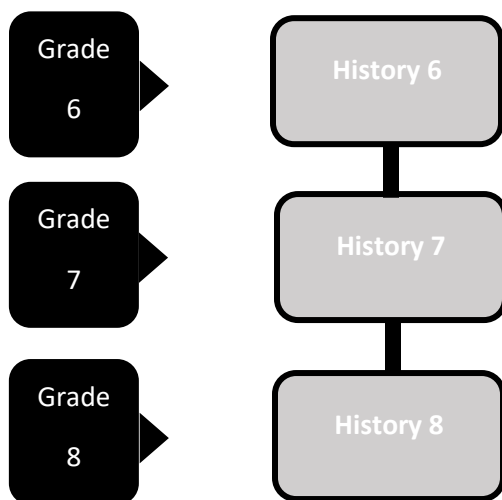
Coordinated Science 155SCI

Grade Level:	8
Credit:	1.0 High School Credit (0.5 per semester)
Length:	Two semesters (yearlong)
Prerequisites:	
Other:	This is the advanced course for 8 th grade students and students cover <u>TWO</u> years of science in one year (8 th grade standards and 9 th grade standards). Students can earn high school credit for this class.

Coordinated Science focuses on physical science and earth science. Major areas of study include chemistry, physics, climate, energy resources, and the structure and history of the universe. Investigations, activities, and projects will help develop problem solving and critical thinking skills. Lab activities are an important component of this course.

History

Course Options for Grades 6-8



History 6

Grade Level:	6
Credit:	None
Length:	Two semesters (yearlong)
Other:	This is the standard course for 6 th grade students.

Through the study of history, geography, politics, culture, and economic systems, 6th grade students will develop an understanding of the Earth and its peoples. They will study some of the major ancient civilizations and explore why they developed in the areas where they did, and the reasons behind their decline. In addition, they will develop their critical thinking skills as they analyze the interactions among the various ancient cultures as well as the link to our world through their enduring legacies.

Washington State History and History 7

Grade Level:	7
Credit:	0.5 High School Credit (for the Semester of WA State History)
Length:	Two semesters (yearlong)
Other:	This is the standard course for 7 th grade students. The WA State History semester can meet a high school graduation requirement and earn 0.5 HS credits.

Washington State History – All 7th graders will learn about the geography, history, and government of our state. This class is required for high school graduation. Each student who passes this course will receive a check

off on their high school transcript. Students who do not receive a passing grade will be required to retake the course in high school.

World Geography – Students experience hands on learning, through mapping labs, pictures, and various texts. Each unit focuses on the geography of the region, and an engaging case study. The seven units include Canada and US, Latin America, Europe and Russia, Africa, SW and Central Asia, Monsoon Asia, and Oceania and Antarctica.

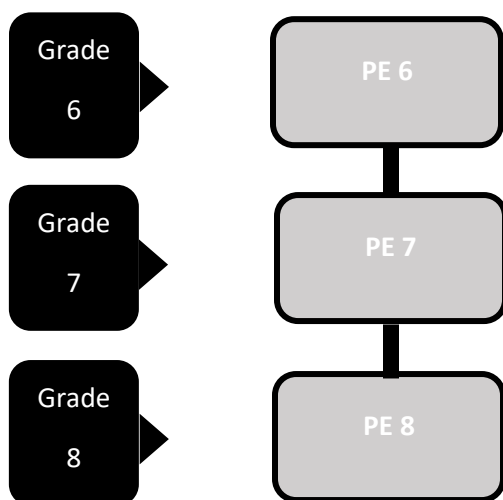
History 8

Grade Level:	8
Credit:	None
Length:	Two semesters (yearlong)
Other:	This is the standard course for 8 th grade students.

In eighth grade U.S. History, students will learn about the people, events, and issues that have had an impact on American History from colonial America through the Civil War. Students will... a. Learn about the people, events, and issues that have had an impact on American History and the country we are today, b. Use American History to improve reading, research, writing, and thinking skills, c. Build knowledge of American History through text-based analysis and discussion of content-rich nonfiction and informational texts, d. Problem solve and think critically about past issues and current events.

Physical Education and Health

Course Options for Grades 6-8



PE 6

Grade Level: 6
Credit: None
Length: Two semesters (yearlong)
Other: This is the standard course for 6th grade students and incorporates both the PE and Health curriculum.

The Health and Fitness Program is based on four goals: 1) Teach students how to be healthy for life, 2) Help students learn to have positive attitudes about fitness and nutrition, 3) Mastering of basic sports and movement skills, and 4) Learning the cooperative aspect of sports by participating in teams and team building activities. Classes also include fitness testing, nutrition journals and Health curriculum.

PE 7

Grade Level: 7
Credit: None
Length: Two semesters (yearlong)
Other: This is the standard course for 7th grade students and incorporates both the PE and Health curriculum.

The Health and Fitness Program is based on four goals: 1) Teach students how to be healthy for life, 2) Help students learn to have positive attitudes about fitness and nutrition, 3) Mastering of basic sports and movement skills, and 4) Learning the cooperative aspect of sports by participating in teams and team building activities. Classes also include fitness testing, nutrition journals and Health curriculum.

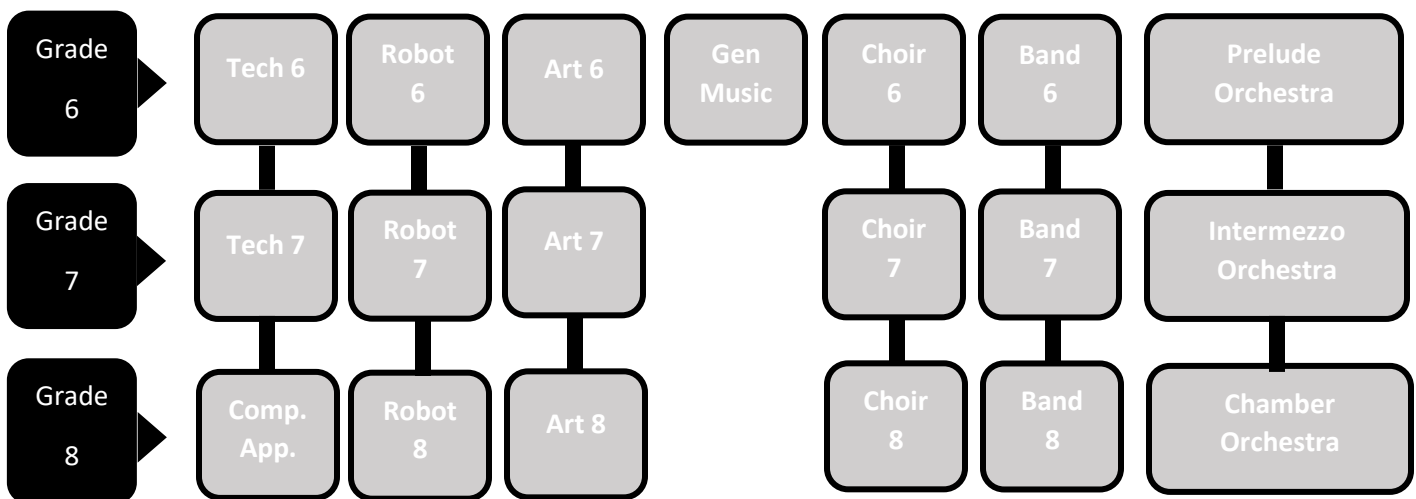
PE 8

Grade Level:	8
Credit:	None
Length:	Two semesters (yearlong)
Other:	This is the standard course for 8 th grade students and incorporates both the PE and Health curriculum.

The Health and Fitness Program is based on four goals: 1) Teach students how to be healthy for life, 2) Help students learn to have positive attitudes about fitness and nutrition, 3) Mastering of basic sports and movement skills, and 4) Learning the cooperative aspect of sports by participating in teams and team building activities. Classes also include fitness testing, nutrition journals and Health curriculum.

Fine Arts and STEM

Course Options for Grades 6-8



Industrial Tech 6

Grade Level: 6
Credit: None
Length: One semester
Prerequisites: None
Other:

6th grade Industrial Technology is a lab/project-based class in which students work on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) oriented projects. The work is largely done in partner groups in which students are expected to complete the labs cooperatively. Students will be proficient in the use of PowerPoint, Tour Builder and have a basic understanding of Algodoo simulation software which includes the designing/programming of simple games and machines.

Industrial Tech 7

Grade Level: 7
Credit: None
Length: One semester
Prerequisites: None
Other:

7th grade Industrial Technology is a lab/project-based class in which students work on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) oriented projects. Students will know how to draw, read and work from plans of their own design. They will also be able to use these plans to create structures and vehicles that not only meet design specifications but function as they are intended to when tested. By the end of the class students will have an understanding of elementary physics terms such as tension, compression, torsion and load.

Computer Applications (Computer Aided Design & 3D Printing Using Autodesk Fusion 360)

Grade Level: 8
Credit: 0.5 High School Credit
Length: One semester
Prerequisites: None
Other: Students can become officially certified Autodesk Fusion 360 users.

8th grade Computer Applications students will learn to use Autodesk Fusion 360 CAD software to design/engineer their projects. They will be able to print these projects using one of our four 3D printers. Students will be able to take their completed projects home. During the course students will train for and take the Autodesk Fusion 360 certification test. Those that pass the certification test will become officially certified Autodesk Fusion 360 users. Students earn 0.5 high school credits for passing the class.

Robotics 6

Grade Level: 6
Credit: None
Length: One semester
Prerequisites: None
Other:

This course will explore the use of robots through the scientific inquiry process. You will be encouraged to think critically, develop solutions to problems, test solutions, collect and interpret data, work in teams, and demonstrate an understanding of science processes. This STEM-based science class is designed to introduce students to how various robotic systems can be applied to tackle real-world inquiry-based problems. Students will be engaged in learning through engineering-based assignments that are aligned with state, district and [Next Generation Science Standards](#). During this semester, we will focus on problem solving through the use of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Robotics 7

Grade Level: 7
Credit: None
Length: One semester
Prerequisites: None
Other: Grade level math skills recommended.

This course will explore a wide range of ideas and answer many thought-provoking questions. You will be encouraged to think critically, develop solutions to problems, recognize the role of technology in our society, work in teams, and demonstrate an understanding of science concepts. This STEM-based science class is designed to introduce students to how various systems can be applied to tackle real-world inquiry-based problems. Students will be engaged in learning through direct instruction, laboratory investigations, and engineering-based assignments that are aligned with state and district standards. During this year, we will focus on problem solving through the use of science, technology, engineering and mathematics

Robotics 8

Grade Level: 8
Credit: None
Length: One semester
Prerequisites: None
Other: Grade level math skills recommended.

This course does not require skills and knowledge from the previous robotics courses in order to solve real-world engineering projects. Learners will work in engineering teams to define a problem, develop possible solutions, test solutions and then communicate the results of their design. The goal of this class is to allow students the opportunity think critically, collaborate and communicate through the use of both autonomous and remote control robots.

Art 6

Grade Level: 6
Credit: None
Length: One semester
Prerequisites: None
Other:

Through hands-on opportunities, this course is designed to provide students a setting in which they will learn to think and create as an artist. We explore various materials and methods with emphasis on understanding the Elements and Principles of Art. A variety of fine arts methods and materials such as sculpture, painting, drawing, printmaking, and mixed-media will be provided. In addition, research and technology will be incorporated into our classroom offering a wide variety of fresh and exciting coursework.

Art 7

Grade Level: 7
Credit: None
Length: One semester
Prerequisites: None
Other:

Through hands-on opportunities, this course is designed to provide students a setting in which they will learn to think and create as an artist. We explore various materials and methods with emphasis on understanding the Elements and Principles of Art. A variety of fine arts methods and materials such as sculpture, painting, drawing, printmaking, and mixed-media will be provided. In addition, research and technology will be incorporated into our classroom offering a wide variety of fresh and exciting coursework.

Art 8

Grade Level: 8
Credit: None
Length: One semester
Prerequisites: None
Other:

Through hands-on opportunities, this course is designed to provide students a setting in which they will learn to think and create as an artist. We explore various materials and methods with emphasis on understanding the Elements and Principles of Art. A variety of fine arts methods and materials such as sculpture, painting, drawing, printmaking, and mixed-media will be provided. In addition, research and technology will be incorporated into our classroom offering a wide variety of fresh and exciting coursework.

General Music 6

Grade Level: 6
Credit: None
Length: Two semesters (yearlong)
Prerequisites: None
Other:

This course is currently not
being offered

The purpose of General Music is to provide students an overall understanding of music through the practical application of performance. Music will be studied from the singer's perspective, with emphasis on the relationship between notation and sound, and the relationship between rehearsal and final performance.

Choir 6

Grade Level: 6
Credit: None
Length: Two semesters (yearlong)
Prerequisites: None
Other:

Sixth - Grade Choir offers the opportunity to participate in a vocal music program dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in music through performance. Students participate in daily rehearsals and perform 2-3 evening concerts during the school year. Students will explore the music in terms of the selections culture, lyric and personal meaning in addition to music's relevance in culture and history. Becoming a singer takes perseverance and dedication, but is accessible to all students in middle school.

Choir 7

Grade Level: 7
Credit: None
Length: Two semesters (yearlong)
Prerequisites: None
Other:

Seventh- Grade Choir offers the opportunity to participate in a vocal music program dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in music through performance. Students participate in daily rehearsals and will perform in a minimum of three evening performances during the school year. Students will also participate in at least one field trip experience. Broadening a student's understanding from 6th grade students will continue their development of vocal skills. Becoming a singer takes perseverance and dedication, but is accessible to all students in middle school.

Choir 8

Grade Level: 8
Credit: None
Length: Two semesters (yearlong)
Prerequisites: None

Other:

Eighth-Grade Choir offers the opportunity to participate in a vocal music program dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in music through performance. Students participate in daily rehearsals and will perform in a minimum of three evening performances during the school year. Students will also participate in field trip experiences. This course prepares students for high school music study, by encouraging development of vocal skill, music reading, and musicality in relation to performance. Becoming a singer takes perseverance and dedication, but is accessible to all students in middle school.

Band 6

Grade Level: 6
Credit: None
Length: Two semesters (yearlong)
Prerequisites: None
Other:

6th grade band is a true beginning band; that is, there are no expectations that students know how to play a band instrument prior to the class. We work on fundamentals of instrument selection and management, tone production, posture, music reading, and other bandroom-specific skills.

Band 7

Grade Level: 7
Credit: None
Length: Two semesters (yearlong)
Prerequisites: Band 6 or instructor approval with audition
Other:

7th grade band is an opportunity to deepen and expand the skills learned in 6th grade band and to explore the upper and lower ranges of the particular instrument. We work on scales, rhythms, and articulations.

Band 8

Grade Level: 8
Credit: None
Length: Two semesters (yearlong)
Prerequisites: Band 7 or instructor approval with audition
Other:

8th grade band assumes that students have learned the skills of the previous two years' band classes. Our efforts are focused on further refining those skills with special attention to intricate rhythms, unusual key signatures, and musicality. 8th grade band travels to contest and other events. We play challenging music that can act as a bridge to high school band. Students who successfully complete 8th grade band are ready to move to the next level in 9th grade.

Prelude Orchestra (Beginning)

Grade Level: 6-8
Credit: None
Length: Two semesters (yearlong)
Prerequisites: None
Other:

Prelude Orchestra offers beginning level instruction on violin, viola, cello, and string bass with emphasis on building strong technical skills necessary for long-term success. Students will learn how to care for and tune their instruments, read basic music notation, and apply basic music theory. Prelude Orchestra will perform in three concerts throughout the school year and participate in at least one field trip.

Intermezzo Orchestra (Intermediate)

Grade Level: 6-8
Credit: None
Length: Two semesters (yearlong)
Prerequisites: Placement by audition only
Other:

Intermezzo Orchestra builds on skills and concepts from Prelude Orchestra developing deeper instruction on violin, viola, cello, and string bass with emphasis on building strong technical skills necessary for long-term success. Students will learn how to read more advance music notation and apply more advanced music theory. Intermezzo Concert Orchestra will perform in three concerts throughout the school year and participate in at least one field trip.

Chamber Orchestra (Advanced)

Grade Level: 6-8
Credit: None
Length: Two semesters (yearlong)
Prerequisites: Placement by audition only
Other:

Chamber Orchestra is for students who already have an understanding of basic music reading, instrument assembly and maintenance, correct playing position and sound tone production. Instruction offers continued focus on the refinement of tone quality, technique, aural skills and music literacy. Chamber Orchestra will perform at three concerts throughout the school year and participate in at least one field trip. Placement in Chamber orchestra is by audition.

Spanish

Spanish 1 131WLA

Grade Level: 8

Credit: 1.0 High School Credit (0.5 per semester)

Length: Two semesters (yearlong)

Prerequisites: None

Other: This is an advance level class for 8th grade and students enrolled in this class can earn high school credit. It is recommended that student who enroll in this class have had A's and B's in all classes 6th and 7th grade. Students are committing to stay in this class for the entire school year.

Spanish 1 students learn to speak, understand, read, and write Spanish on a beginning level. Upon successfully completing this course, students communicate about the alphabet, numbers, the calendar, greetings, themselves, their daily routine, family, and food. Students write complete sentences with correct verb forms in Spanish and learn about cultures and customs through readings, videos, and supplementary exercises. Students gain the ability and confidence to communicate in Spanish at a beginning level.