

Grade 8

Course Information

2026-2027



See the registration form for students' options for selecting and requesting elective courses.

***Please keep in mind, students will be able to request electives, but requests cannot always be granted depending on the student's schedule and class sizes.*

Students struggling academically may be placed in a smaller, structured homeroom per teacher recommendation for a quarter or more where they will receive more individualized assistance.

All 8th grade students are required to be scheduled in a music class; either Band and/or Choir for the full year OR one quarter of Music Exploration. Please review the course descriptions for these classes.

Listed below are brief descriptions of the courses offered to students in 8th grade.

REQUIRED FULL-YEAR COURSES

Algebra 1 OR Accelerated Algebra 1 (placement determined by math teacher)

Accelerated Algebra 1 topics include recognizing and developing patterns using tables, graphs and equations. In addition, students will explore operations on algebraic expressions, apply mathematical properties to algebraic equations. Students will solve problems using equations, graphs and tables to investigate linear relationships. Technology will be used to introduce and expand upon the areas of study listed above. Use of computers and graphing calculators will be the most widely used forms of technology.

In Algebra 1, you will learn about and explore topics including integers, order of operations, algebraic expressions, one and two-step equations, proportions, percents, probability, geometry, and linear equations. These skills learned will serve as the basic foundation of supporting your mathematics learning throughout high school and college. You will learn by direct instruction, cooperative groups and use of calculators. This course prepares students to be mathematically literate as well as prepare them for future courses.

English 8 OR Honors English 8 (placement determined by English teacher)

The focus of this core class will be developing our skills as critical thinkers, readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. Several genres will be covered including, but not limited to, fiction and nonfiction (articles and novels), short stories, poetry, drama, grammar, writing and research skills, media literacy, and speech communication.

Honors English 8 will develop the same skills, but with a deeper focus on critical thinking and analysis, higher-order reading and writing requirements, and some public speaking opportunities.

Science 8

Science 8 is a required year-long physical science course that covers the basics in chemistry and physics. Students will learn using labs, 2 at home projects, group work and daily tasks. Topics include matter, atomic structure, chemical bonds, reactions, motion, forces, and magnetism.

Social 8

Throughout the year we will be covering a wide variety of cultures, climates, regions and people. Specific subjects covered will include the geographic features of the different continents of the world and how those features relate to the civilizations living there, the history of different cultures and people, interactions between people, economic activities, religions, gender roles, and changes from past to present. Most of the culture, traditions, laws and government that we know today is based on the ideas and achievements of early civilizations. By studying the history and origins of these civilizations my goal is to educate students to have a better understanding of how these places and achievements have affected us today. Topics/Regions covered: 5 Themes of Geography, U.S. & Canada, Latin America, Africa, Southwest Asia, Russia & “The Stans”, Europe, South Asia, and East Asia.

REQUIRED QUARTER COURSES

Physical Education (2 Quarters)

Two quarters of Physical Education 8 are required for all students. **Band students will have physical education every other day opposite band for the entire year.* The primary objective is to encourage and develop physical, emotional, and social skills necessary for the participation in sports and life-long activities. Students will participate in a variety of team and individual activities along with working on fitness. Students are graded on dressing for PE class as well as full participation to the best of the student’s ability in all activities. Students may not wear the clothes they wore to school for physical education class. Appropriate, functional athletic shoes are also required. Student dress will follow the school dress code policy and the PE department.

Family & Consumer Sciences (1 Quarter)

This required class consists of two units. Unit 1 (Personal Growth and Safety) is a 2-3 week unit that covers areas of self-esteem, identifying personal strengths, bullying, values, developing goals with a growth mindset, study skills, and personal safety. In Unit 2 (Sewing) each student will learn how to operate a sewing machine and will construct a sports bag. There is a fee for the sports bag kit. There may be a 3rd “Foods” unit, as time allows, of 1-2 weeks.

Middle School Writing (1 Quarter)

This writing intensive class will be required for one quarter. This class will focus on writing skills including: sentence structure, grammatical concepts, language usage, summarizing, paragraphing, and a final standards based writing assignment.

Music Exploration 8 (1 Quarter, only required if *not* in Band or Choir)

Music Exploration 8 is required only for students who do not register for band and/or choir. Students will learn basic music reading and performance on recorders. They will study rhythm and wind instruments. Students will study some music history and make homemade instruments.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Soprano/Alto Choir 7/8 OR Tenor/Bass Choir 7/8 (Full-year)

***Students registering are expected to stay in choir for the entire year.**

Choir is a year-long course that meets every day during 5th period opposite of Homeroom. Boys and girls choirs are a continuation of the skills that were worked on in the 7th grade choirs. The boys will be combined with the 7th grade boys choir and the girls with the 7th grade girls choir. Students will continue to improve their singing voices along with working on expression, music reading, solfege, technique, general musicianship, concert preparation and teamwork. These choirs sing mainly two-part and three -part choral music. Both choirs perform in concerts in December and May. All 8th grade students are encouraged to sign up for choir.

Band 8 (Full-year)

***Students registering are expected to stay in band for the entire year.**

****STUDENTS MUST BE IN 7TH GRADE BAND TO AUTOMATICALLY REGISTER FOR BAND.**

Band is a full year course which will meet every other day opposite physical education. The 8th grade band is designed for students who wish to play the traditional woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments in a large group ensemble. We give three concert performances a year. In addition to our three concerts, students will participate in our local marching band performances and have the opportunity to be in pep band and jazz band. Students must attend a minimum number of lessons per grading period. Home practice is highly encouraged, but not required for participation.

*****STUDENTS NOT CURRENTLY IN BAND, MUST GET PERMISSION FROM MR. MEEKS BEFORE HANDING IN THEIR REGISTRATION FORM.** A quarter of lessons only will be required before a student may join band. School instruments are available to use at no charge. We have trumpets, trombones, baritones, saxophones, clarinets, and tubas available. If interested in trying any of these, contact Mr. Meeks at 927-2115, Ext. 3120

Art 8 (1 Quarter)

A class designed for all students to develop a deeper understanding and apply the Elements of Art and Principles of Design in their own artwork. In addition, students will develop various art skills and techniques. Throughout the class students will actively engage in various art activities including: art production art criticism or critiquing and exploring art history. Students will be given the opportunity to experience a wide variety of art media and develop techniques in their own work.

Industrial Technology (1 Quarter)

Eighth grade students will be exposed to a variety of hand tools and machines, and will learn to safely operate a band saw, drill press, and belt sander. Students will get the opportunity to learn trade skills and gain knowledge that they will be able to use in their future within many different areas in their life. For example, students will learn techniques for home repair, woodworking, safety, tool repair, and metalworking. Students will learn about bridges including bridge history, engineering, and modern bridge building. This is a fun hands-on unit including both group and individual activities. Students will develop a PowerPoint as a group project that they will present to the class to assist them in finding information, completing research, and with their public speaking skills. Students will make four hands-on shop projects including: a Push Stick, Sanding Block, Cribbage Board, and a String Art Project. Students will be learning about Roller Coasters and Theme Park attractions and rides. This is a fun hands-on unit with some group work and some individual work. Students will have the opportunities to make, create, design two different roller coaster projects in class, following up with some fun thrilling theme park videos. The 8th grade shop will be fun and incorporate hands-on learning.

Intro to Agriculture (1 Quarter)

This introductory class will briefly cover a multitude of topics in agriculture. Students will begin by learning about the history of plant and animal domestication and then move into soil science, plant science, livestock production, veterinary science, and technology in agriculture. Subject and content will be taught as project based instruction.

****Eighth graders who participate in Future Farmers of America (FFA) as an extracurricular MUST take this course in order to participate in FFA competitions.***

STEM (1 Quarter)

This course is designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking through hands-on learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Students will engage in interactive projects, problem-solving challenges, and real-world applications of STEM concepts. Students will: 1) explore engineering design and build prototypes, 2) conduct scientific experiments and analyze data, 3) apply mathematical reasoning to solve real-world problems, and 4) work collaboratively on STEM challenges and presentations. This class encourages teamwork and innovation while preparing students for future STEM opportunities. Get ready to design, build, and explore!

INTERVENTION COURSE

Literacy Intervention 8 (varies, typically 1-2 quarters based on student need)

**Enrollment in this course is based on teacher recommendation based on student need. Parents will be notified if their child is recommended for the course.*

This course will reinforce reading comprehension skills by developing vocabulary, providing opportunities to answer and ask questions about a text, teaching a routine for determining main idea, teaching students to monitor their understanding while reading, and practicing reading complex texts. Students may also be given structured homework assistance.

If you have questions regarding course registration please contact:

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