

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE

All students participate in a required academic core curriculum, and an elective-based exploratory curriculum.

The seventh and eighth grades operate on a seven-period schedule that includes an academic focus, or homeroom. Students have four required academic core classes, academic focus, and two exploratory classes. The required academic core includes Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies in each grade.

Exploratory classes vary from year to year, but always include Band, Choir, Health, and Physical Education. Other classes that have been offered include woodshop, Study Island, Art, Computers, and Foreign Language.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Academic Focus Program

Academic Focus

Full Year **Grades 7 & 8**

Academic Focus is designed to give students extra skill-building exercises in each academic area. It provides a structured time during which special activities, study skills and Channel One News are presented. Seventh grade groups rotate through four different teachers to get help with each academic subject. Eighth graders who choose Academic Focus concentrate on one academic subject in which to get extra help.

Fine Arts

Art

Nine Weeks **Grades 7 & 8**

This class will be exploratory, and give the student the opportunity to try a variety of media, such as two-dimensional drawing, painting, three-dimensional work in clay and/or Paper mache, as well as other media as time allows. This class is designed to allow the student to explore art and look at their interest in continuing art throughout high school.

Middle School Band

Full Year **Grades 7 & 8**

Middle School Band is open to any student who completed the previous year of beginning band or has taken lessons and has had a successful audition with the director. Students are expected to complete the full year. Emphasis in the Middle School Band will be toward continued musical growth through participation in the Solo and Ensemble Festival, concerts, and District Six Band and Orchestra Festival. Students will also participate in the Niles Memorial Day Parade. Daily homework will include individual practice. Successful completion of this class is a prerequisite for students to participate in band at the high school level.

Middle School Choir
Full Year **Grades 7 & 8**

This choir is designed for beginning and intermediate vocal students, and will help them develop better singing and music-reading skills. They will participate in four concerts which are planned throughout the school year. The student will learn to sing in two and three-part harmony. Each choir student will need to have black pants and black shoes for performances, and the school will provide a choir shirt. The student is expected to complete the full year and will be transferred only with a conference involving the student, teacher, counselor and parents.

Foreign Language

Advanced students in 8th grade will have an opportunity to select a French or Spanish class for high school credit in place of Academic Focus. The class will be for 8th graders only, but will have identical content to the high school level I courses. Students who choose this option will be strongly encouraged to take the second year of their language in ninth grade.

French I
Full Year **Grade 8**

During this introductory French course, students will gain the necessary skills to function in a Francophone (French speaking) society. In cooperative groups, students will write, speak, and “role-play” in French. Along with learning basic vocabulary and grammar, emphasis will be on using the learned material in real-life situations. Students will experience topics

such as sports and activities, going to a French restaurant and café, talking on the phone, shopping, and visiting various Francophone countries.

Spanish I
Full Year **Grade 8**

This course is designed to give the student a very basic understanding of the spoken and written language. Students will learn the Spanish sound system, vocabulary—such as numbers, colors, weather, and time expressions—and will practice active responses to simple commands given in Spanish. A great deal of emphasis will be placed upon oral response to teacher-directed questions. Short conversations will be memorized and students will write short exercises in the present tense. The past tense will be introduced during the last marking period of the second semester. Emphasis will be on comprehension and building an active, rudimentary vocabulary.

Industrial Arts

Woodworking
Nine Weeks **Grade 8**

Woodworking is designed to provide the student with learning experiences in the use of hand tools and the simpler woodworking power tools. The development of proper attitudes when working in a woodshop environment will be stressed. Problem solving techniques will be stressed in the designing of their projects.

Language Arts

Language Arts 7

Full Year **Grade 7**

Language Arts 7 is literature based and uses a whole language approach to learning. Students will study grammar, spelling, vocabulary development, writing, and speaking skills in conjunction with literary works. The literary works used will be the short story, drama, poetry, and the novel. Specific requirements for this class include: book reports, oral presentations, compositions, reading literary works, grammar exercises, spelling proficiency, and a research project.

Language Arts 8

Full Year **Grade 8**

Language Arts 8 is designed to prepare the student for high school English. Vocabulary development, grammar, writing, and oral skills are stressed. These skills are developed through reading novels, short stories, and poetry. Writing proficiency is developed through the composing of essays, poems, and stories, and completion of vocabulary, and grammar exercises.

Life Management

Health 7

Nine Weeks **Grade 7**

The main topics of instruction in seventh grade Health will be nutrition, tobacco, alcohol, puberty, STD's (sexually transmitted diseases and infections), and refusal skills.

Health 8

One Semester **Grade 8**

The main topics of instruction in eighth grade Health will be organs and contraception. Also, students will go through a leadership program (4-5 sessions) with the Michigan State Police. The leadership program covers responsibility, decision-making skills, leadership, violence prevention, and internet safety.

Mathematics

Essential Math

Full Year **Grade 7**

Essential Math is designed to strengthen the basic mathematical skills necessary for future success in Algebra. This course will expand on concepts addressed in Grade 6, including, but not limited to, the following: whole number operations, operations involving fractions and decimals, measurement, integers, ratios, and order of operations. Emphasis is placed on applying these concepts to real world situations through the use of manipulative and problem based inquiry.

Math 7

Full Year **Grade 7**

This course is designed to strengthen basic mathematical skills so that a student can be successful in algebra. Topics to be covered include, but are not limited to, fractions, decimals, percents, graphs, probability, integers, measurement, and basic algebra.

Pre-Algebra 7 Adv.

Full Year

Grade 7

Pre-Algebra 7 is the advanced class for seventh grade. It is intended to prepare students to take Algebra I in eighth grade. Topics will include, but are not limited to, integers, rational numbers, expressions, equations, inequalities, ratios, proportions, percents, scale drawings, circles, surface area, volume, probability, statistics, angles, triangles, graphing linear equations, Pythagorean Theorem, exponents, and scientific notation. In addition, this class will be doing the MDOT Bridge building contest. To take this class you need to have a grade of A or B in 6th grade math and a teacher recommendation.

Pre-Algebra 8

Full Year

Grade 8

This course is designed to build on the skills already covered in Math 7. Other topics include, but are not limited to, problem solving, real numbers, area, volume, coordinate geometry, equations, and angles.

Algebra I

Full Year

Grade 8

Algebra I is the study of operations related to positive and negative numbers. These operations are applied to equations, inequalities, polynomials, linear equations and their graphs, and work problem solving of various types. It is intended to build the foundation for the future study of mathematics and is designed for the college-bound student. Students with a passing grade will earn one elective high school credit.

Online Courses

Michigan Virtual School Grades 7 & 8

Students may take up to two courses per semester online through Michigan Virtual School. View the catalog of courses at www.mivu.org. See your counselor for details.

Physical Education

Physical Education

One Semester

Grades 7 & 8

Middle school physical education promotes the development of physical skills, coordination, and fitness. A variety of team and individual sports will be introduced to accomplish these goals. Good sportsmanship and a positive attitude will be stressed throughout the semester.

Science

Science 7

Full Year

Grade 7

Seventh grade science will provide the student with the opportunity to develop a basic knowledge and understanding of science exploration. Topics of study will include weather, climate, energy effects, chemical properties, cells, cell division, and photosynthesis.

Science 8

Full Year

Grade 8

Eighth grade science is a required one-year earth science course. Units of study include the following: 1) units of measure, 2) chemistry, 3) rocks and minerals, 4) earthquakes, 5) volcanoes, 6) atmosphere, and 7) weather.

Social Studies

History 7

Full Year

Grade 7

This class will focus on early humans and ancient world history. Students will examine the interrelationship between history, economics, government and physical and cultural geography. Students will develop and understanding of how and where human settlements formed and how civilizations developed.

History 8

Full Year

Grade 8

This is a United States social studies course that covers American History from the American Revolution through the eras of Reconstruction, Reshaping and Reform. History is told from a multicultural perspective integrating geographic, civil, and economic themes. Students will be engaged in a discussion of historical, ethical and political controversies that have changed the course of American History to 1900.

Technology Education

Computer Education

Nine Weeks

Grade 7

The main goal of this course is to teach students proper keyboarding fundamentals while learning the basics of Computers. Topics range from the Internet, online safety, how a computer processes data, input, output and storage, operating systems, and how networks work. Students will also be introduced to basic concepts of Microsoft Office tools such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Publisher.

Computer Education

One Semester

Grade 8

The main goal of this course is to provide students the opportunities to properly use Microsoft tools such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Publisher. We will create several different documents over the semester while also trying to improve our typing skills. Some key topics for the course include evaluating electronic information, creating a web page, online safety and technology, and society.

Media Production

Full Year

Grade 8

This course will introduce students to the basics of broadcasting and video production, including writing, filming, and editing videos. Students need to be creative, self-motivated, self-reliant, responsible, and comfortable with technology.

Special Education

Special Education services are available to all students who are eligible according to the Federal and State guidelines and who have current Individual Education Plans (IEP's). Services include Resource Room, Inclusion Services, and Consultation Services. Questions regarding Special Education can be directed to Michelle Wruble at 683-8805, ext. 212.

Study Skills

Moby Max

9 Weeks

Grade 7

Moby Max is an outstanding online resource that offers math, language, and reading curriculum for 6-8 teachers. All personalized lessons are aligned with the Common Core Standards to find and fix learning gaps with practice and assessment of a variety of academic content. Teachers are able to monitor students progress and assign grade level materials with the click of a button. MobyMax is both engaging and fun; yet easy to use for students and staff.