

Edwardsburg Middle School

Course Descriptions

6th Grade

Achieve to Succeed

Achieve to Succeed is a class designed specifically for 6th grade students. This class aims to assist students in strengthening their academic, study and organizational skills as they transition to middle school. Teachers have the opportunity to provide individual and group support to students who demonstrate academic deficiencies. Skill work is tailored to the needs of the individual student through the use of technology and the support of the classroom teacher.

Art

Students will focus on the basic skills in art: elements/principles of design, drawing, painting, mixed media, printmaking, and ceramics. Drawing skills will be studied using many different media types including: pencils, chalk pastels, oil-pastels, and markers. Each student will have the opportunity to practice problem solving skills and learn concepts and techniques that will give them control of the visual images they produce.

Band

Sixth grade Band is the second year of instrumental music instruction for Edwardsburg students. It is a continuation of the 5th Grade Beginning Band or the equivalent in a different school system. Students who have not completed Beginning Band are considered on an individual basis and will be allowed into Sixth Grade Band only with the director's permission. Sixth Grade Band members expand on the concepts learned the previous year. Class instruction will focus on musical skills that will prepare students for public performance. Performances will include a winter and spring concert. Concert attendance is required. This is a yearlong course.

Choir

Sixth grade Choir is an introduction to choral music. The main purpose and objective of the Sixth grade Choir is to begin reading music and to begin developing a good choral sound with unison to two-part repertoire. Our main focuses are on breathing technique, vowel formation, and professionalism in a choral atmosphere. This choir provides students the opportunity to study and perform music of all genres and periods in musical history. Our ensembles are given many opportunities to provide the

school and community with high-quality performances, such as our Meet the Choirs Concert, our Holiday Concert, our Festival Concert, our Spring Concert, Choral Festival, and many other opportunities for choral and solo performances. These performances are a required portion of this class.

Computers

The sixth grade Computer course is a nine-week course where students will be able to better use their Chromebooks and utilize programs such as Google Docs, Sheets, Slides, Calendar.

English

In sixth grade English, the writing emphasis will be on well constructed paragraphs and essays focusing on the use of details, dialogue, text evidence, claims, and citing sources. Types of writing include narrative, informational, descriptive, and argumentative. Grammar and vocabulary are also a focus within this class.

Family & Consumer Science

This course is a nine-week Family and Consumer Sciences exploratory course designed to introduce the student to the topic areas listed below through a hands-on experience. Instruction in each topic area will be delivered through discussion, laboratory work, written and oral presentations, and project construction.

- Self
Discovery/Responsibility
- Communication
- Decision Making
- Relationships
- Babysitting
- Foods/Nutrition
- Sewing

Mathematics

Sixth grade Math will shift the focus from whole numbers to an introduction of integers and rational numbers. All of the number emphasis is intended to lay a foundation for the algebra expectations that are included in grade six and beyond. Skill areas include using concepts of ratios and rates to solve problems, as well as working with rational numbers, including negative numbers and division of fractions. In addition, students will apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions and equations. Real-world and mathematical problem solving will involve area, surface area, and volume. The development of an understanding of statistical thinking will also be an area of focus.

Physical Education

In sixth grade Physical Education, there is a focus on increasing students' fitness levels. This goal is achieved through the five health related fitness components, team sports, and various other games. As students progress through each unit, they will acquire the skills and strategies necessary to increase their success in team sports. Students will be graded on psychomotor skills, personal-social attributes, cognitive skills, fitness components, and participation.

Reading

The emphasis in sixth grade Reading is on reading analysis. Students will practice the skills of recognizing and analyzing main ideas, plot, inference, cause and effect, compare and contrast, drawing conclusions, theme, and author's purpose. A variety of reading genres, including short stories, novels, poetry, and non-fiction will be used to practice these skills. Vocabulary is also a main focus in reading.

Science

Science will challenge the individual student to examine their environment. Sixth graders will be provided with opportunities to construct and to reflect about important ideas of life science such as Ecosystems, World Biomes, Cells and Heredity, along with an introduction to Earth's Surface. Through inquiry based instruction, sixth grade students will deepen their understanding of these key concepts.

Social Studies: World Geography

Sixth grade Social Studies explores the geography of the world. World regions are explored using the five themes of geography: location, region, place, human environment interaction, and movement. The students learn about the physical and political features, government, economic growth, and diverse cultures of these regions. Students will analyze and interpret graphs, charts, and maps through daily geography skills. A variety of activities are employed to help students learn about these regions of the world. Current events are examined through the use of the magazine, Time for Kids.

Edwardsburg Middle School
Course Descriptions
7th Grade

Art

This class will offer opportunities to learn the language of art. By learning the elements and principles of art, working with various media and evaluating master artists' works, students will develop an awareness of the appreciation for the presence of art both within the classroom and in their everyday experiences. This course will give the students the opportunity to create works of art and use various media and techniques, including the use of their chromebooks.

Band

Seventh grade Band is for the student who has completed sixth grade Band or the equivalent in another school system. Students will study the many concepts of instrumental music with a focus on performance. Students will perform at the winter, pre-festival, and spring concerts, as well as the Solo and Ensemble and Band Festival. Concert attendance is required. Other engagements may arise throughout the year. Seventh grade Band is a year-long course.

Choir

Seventh grade Choir is a choir where students learn two-part to three-part music. The main purpose and objective of the Seventh grade Choir is to develop skills reading music and to continue developing a great choral sound. The Seventh grade Choir performs at various concerts throughout the school year as well as District Choral Festival. This choir provides students the opportunity to study and perform music of all genres and periods in musical history. Our ensembles are given many opportunities to provide the school and community with high-quality performances, such as our Meet the Choirs Concert, Holiday Concert, Festival Concert, Spring Concert, Choral Festival, and many other opportunities for choral and solo performances. These performances are a required portion of this class.

Computers

During the seventh grade Computer course, students will learn more in depth about Digital Citizenship, Internet research, and different presentation software. Students will be able to use Microsoft Office Suite, including; Word, Excel, Access and Powerpoint.

Core Tutoring

EMS has a tutorial class for seventh graders that is designed to provide additional academic support for students who are in the bottom 30% due to academic deficiencies demonstrated on the M-STEP assessment and if they are currently failing a core class (especially in the content areas of Language Arts and Mathematics). Students receive individual assistance from a highly qualified teacher with organizational skills, productive study habits, and test-taking skills and their progress is continually monitored in the students' Language Arts and Mathematics classrooms. A multi-tiered system support of Interventions are provided for students to assist them with their academic difficulties in Language Arts and Mathematics.

English

Seventh grade English is a course designed for students to read and analyze a wide variety of classic and contemporary literature and other texts to seek information, ideas, enjoyment, and understanding of their individuality, our common heritage and humanity, and the rich diversity in our society. Students will also demonstrate the ability to write clear and grammatically correct sentences, paragraphs, and compositions. Part of their writing experiences will include writing an argument, explanatory, and narrative essay, as well as correctly cited textual evidence based responses.

Family & Consumer Science

This is a one-semester course offered at the seventh grade level. The class is designed to give the student a working knowledge and hands-on experience in each topic area listed below through lecture, discussion, laboratory work, written and oral presentations, and project construction.

- Self Discovery/Responsibility
- Consumer Education
- Foods/Wellness
- Family Issues
- Personal Living Skills
- Sewing

Health

The seventh grade Health class is an 18-week course. Through health education, students learn to obtain, interpret, and apply health information and services in ways that protect and promote personal, family, and community health. This course will also provide students with an understanding of the responsibility that they have for their own personal health. Students will be introduced to course content as specified in the Michigan Model for Comprehensive Health Education.

Mathematics

Seventh grade Math concepts center around developing, understanding, and applying proportional relationships; operations with rational numbers, and working with expressions and linear equations. Students will also be expected to solve problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes, with the purpose in finding area and volume and draw inferences about populations based on samples.

Physical Education

In seventh grade Physical Education, there is a focus on increasing students' fitness levels. This can be achieved by students participating in activities that relate to the five health related fitness components, while refining team sports skills and strategies previously acquired. As they progress through these units, they will also be introduced to lifetime sports. Students will be graded on psychomotor skills, personal-social attributes, cognitive skills, fitness components, and participation.

Science

Seventh grade Science will enable the students to become knowledgeable about the important concepts and theories of physical science. Students will look at the specification of real-world contexts and how often they focus on phenomena, such as motion, electromagnetic interactions, and/or physical, and chemical changes in matter. The Scientific Method will be examined by means of metric measurements and SI units. There will be a strong focus on the State of Matter with emphasis on behaviors, atoms, the chemical reactions in terms of reactants and products, and explanations of how visible changes in matter are related to atoms and molecules. Newton's Laws of Motion, Forces, and Energy, and the basic principles of forces on solids and fluids will be discussed with the emphasis on: mass, acceleration, friction, gravity, heat and thermal energy, and the study of simple machines. The topic of sound, light, and electricity will be demonstrated and discussed with focus on the characteristics and behaviors of the various waves, as well as, the electromagnetic spectrum in different mediums.

Social Studies: World History and Geography

The seventh grade Social Studies curriculum will review the tools and mental constructs used by historians and geographers. They will develop an understanding of Ancient World History, Eras 1-4: The Beginnings of Human Society, Early Civilizations and Cultures, Classical Traditions, World Religions and Major Empires. Geography, civics/governments, and economics content will be integrated throughout the year.

Strategies for Academic Success

This one-semester elective class for selected/recommended seventh grade students will provide them the skills needed to successfully organize and navigate their first year with a full-secondary course load. Students use Edgenuity, an internet-based instructional program, to help them learn the skills necessary to take control of their academic success, how to take online classes, test preparation and test-taking strategies, effective study skills, organizational strategies, and reading techniques. Students are monitored and supported by a highly-qualified EMS teacher, who serves as a mentor during their first online-class opportunity.

Edwardsburg Middle School Course Descriptions 8th Grade

Algebra

This class is a high school level class focusing on the Michigan high school Algebra standards. Algebra is a theoretical tool for analyzing and describing mathematical relationships and it is also a powerful tool for the mathematical modeling and solving of real-world problems. These problems can be found all around us: the workplace, the sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics. In addition to deepening and extending the student's knowledge of these specific concepts, Algebra I also draws upon and connects to topics related to number and geometry by including the formalized study of the real number system and its properties, and by introducing elementary number theory.

Art

This class is designed to help the new art student acquire skills necessary for understanding and creating artwork. This class will offer opportunities to learn the language of art. By learning the elements and principles of art, working with various media and evaluating master artists' works, students will develop an awareness of and appreciation for the presence of art both within the classroom and in their everyday experiences. This course will give the students the opportunity to create works of art and use various media and techniques, including computers. Students will be able to sharpen their visual perception. Careers will also be explored in this art class. As students explore, theorize, and apply the principles of aesthetics and art criticism to their own artwork and the artwork of others, they will formulate a lifelong appreciation and satisfying experience in the arts.

Art, Advanced

Advanced Art is a course for the very serious art student. This course will develop a more intense art vocabulary. By acquiring advanced elements and principles of art, working with various media and evaluating master artists' works, students will develop an awareness of and appreciation for the presence of art within the classroom and in their everyday experiences. This course will allow freedom of expression, use of tools and techniques. Art careers will be further explored. At the end of this session, the student will have created a portfolio of their work. As students explore, theorize, and apply the principles of aesthetics and art criticism to their own artwork, and the artwork of others, they will formulate a lifelong appreciation and satisfying experiences in the arts.

Band

Eighth grade Band is for the student who has completed seventh grade Band or the equivalent in another school system. This course will prepare the student for participation in the high school band. Activities will include units in marching band, jazz, and smaller ensemble playing. Performances will include winter, pre-festival, and spring concerts, as well as Solo and Ensemble and Band Festival. Students in eighth grade Band will occasionally perform at middle school functions. Members of this group will also be eligible to participate in the high school pep band and will be required to march in the Memorial Day Parade. This is a year-long course. Concert attendance is required.

Choir

Eighth grade Choir is a choir where students learn three-part to four-part music. The main purpose and objective of the eighth grade Choir is to continue developing skills reading music and to continue developing a great choral sound. The eighth grade Choir performs at various concerts throughout the school year as well as District Choral Festival. This choir provides students the opportunity to study and perform music of all genres and periods in musical history. Our ensembles are given many opportunities to provide the school and community with high-quality performances, such as our Meet the Choirs Concert, Holiday Concert, Festival Concert, Spring Concert, Choral Festival, and many other opportunities for choral and solo performances. These performances are a required portion of this class.

Computers/iBIZ Business Education Exploratory

Eighth grade Computer students during 1st semester will be able to use Microsoft Office Suite, including: Word, Excel, Access and Powerpoint. Students will be able to use the Microsoft Office Suite to create a multi-program project incorporating all elements of the suite.

Eighth grade iBiz computers during 2nd semester will be able to code for video game/app development in SCRATCH coding and HTML/CSS website development. Students will be able to create 3D design and printed projects using TinkerCAD software and a 3D printer.

Core Tutoring

EMS has a tutorial class for eighth graders that is designed to provide additional academic support for students who are in the bottom 30% due to academic deficiencies demonstrated on the M-STEP assessment and if they are currently failing a core class (especially in the content areas of Language Arts and Mathematics). Students receive individual assistance from a highly qualified teacher with organizational skills, productive study habits, and test-taking skills and their progress is continually monitored in the students' Language Arts and Mathematics classrooms. A multi-tiered system support of Interventions are provided for students to assist them with their academic difficulties in Language Arts and Mathematics.

English

Eighth grade English is a course designed to improve writing skills; reading comprehension; listening and speaking skills; and vocabulary. The reading standards will assist students in understanding an author's message and purpose in a variety of genres. The writing standards outline the skills students need to write clearly in a variety of styles. The essays stressed in eighth grade are: narrative, argumentative, explanatory - cause and effect, explanatory - compare and contrast, and explanatory - analytical research. The language conventions that students are expected to apply will enhance various communication modes, which include: grammar (with emphasis on verbals and verb usage), mechanics, capitalization, punctuation (with emphasis on ellipses, brackets, quotations, and commas), and citing sources correctly and responsibly. The listening and speaking skills applied will entail listening to short video clips and discussing the purpose and message, as well as citing the information correctly in short written responses. Lastly, vocabulary is taught through the selected reading assignments and the use of analyzing Greek and Latin root words.

Family & Consumer Science

This course is a one-semester class designed to allow students to further explore Family and Consumer Education. Additionally, the course will provide the student a working knowledge and hands-on experience in each topic area listed below through lecture, discussion, laboratory work, written and oral presentations and project construction.

- Career Exploration
- Personality Types
- Child Development
- Foods/Nutrition
- Home Interior Design
- Sewing

Mathematics

Eighth grade Math will encompass concepts in areas, such as: expressions and equations, functions, geometry, statistics and probability, as well as the number system. A majority of students' work will focus on algebra relating to the understanding of algebraic notation and functions and graphing of both linear and quadratic relationships. Data collection, organization, and interpretation in the form of bivariate data will also be explored. Geometry will be studied, highlighting special angle, line, space and plane relationships incorporated with congruence, similarity and a working knowledge of the Pythagorean Theorem. Finally, there will be a strong emphasis on using connections within the structure of number systems including rational and irrational numbers, as well as the relationships between addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division as conceptual organizers.

Physical Education

Holding true to the importance of health and wellness, students' increased fitness will be emphasized. This will be achieved through students participating in activities that relate to the five health-related fitness components, while refining team sports skills, strategies, and being introduced to a variety of lifetime activities. Ultimately, we hope students find an activity which is enjoyable and can provide an opportunity to be successful and increase the likelihood of lifelong physical activity. At times, the class will be set up similar to a health club atmosphere and students will create organic workouts specific to their desired outcomes. Students will be graded on psychomotor skills, personal-social attributes, cognitive skills, fitness components, and participation.

Science

Eighth grade Science is a hands-on/minds-on experience that will challenge the individual student to examine their environment, develop a hypothesis about their environment, and test their hypothesis to come up with their own conclusions. Students will explore various topics related to the area known as earth science, which includes the study of earth's surface, minerals, rocks, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, weathering and erosion, earth's history, energy resources, weather and climate, earth's fresh and salt waters, and astronomy. Due to the nature of science, several different types of activities or materials will be used during instruction. Specific learning activities will incorporate the use of the following: hands-on laboratory experiments, videos, demonstrations, student presentations, TV or video clips, newspapers, computer programs, research projects, graphs, chapter projects, outlines, worksheets, technology, drawings, maps, and various measuring tools.

Social Studies: U.S. History

Nineteenth Century U.S. History centers on the development of the United States as a nation. The students begin their exploration with the causes of the American Revolution and how those causes were incorporated in the writing of the United States Constitution. Exploration of U.S. History continues through the Civil War to the settling of the west. This course provides students with opportunities for knowledge beyond the textbook through discovery learning, providing a strong foundation for future knowledge in later courses in history, geography, economics, and civics. Students will be expected to complete persuasive essays incorporating research and historical knowledge. Students will also be expected to complete a variety of extended learning research projects.

