

ALEXANDER MIDDLE SCHOOL NEKOOSA, WISCONSIN



Course Description Book

2011-12

Mission Statement

Alexander Middle School Promotes:

- A safe learning environment
- An interaction between family, community, and school
- A basis for life-long learning
- A balance of physical, intellectual, emotional, and social needs
- The opportunities for students to reach their highest potential



Core values Stressed:

- Trustworthiness*
- Respect*
- Responsibility*
- Fairness*
- Caring*
- Citizenship*

Alexander Middle School Staff

4th Grade Teachers

Mrs. Wendy Dudley
Mrs. Tammy Schmidt–Spees
Mrs. Heidi Hartman

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Teachers

Mrs. Amy Reardon
Mr. Al Crider
Mr. Eric Peterson
Mrs. Sarah Budny
Mr. Mike McClellan
Mrs. Jolene McClellan
Mr. Bill Parks
Ms. Amy Lehner
Ms. Alyssa Steinmetz
Mrs. Kellie Beggs

Special Education Teachers

TBA – EBD
Mrs. Carrie Copeland – CDB
Mrs. Stacey Hahn – LD
Mrs. Venessa Gronski – LD

Custodial

Mr. Harland Felch
Mr. Leon Nehring
Mr. Steve Stein
Mr. Chuck Stebbins

Special Program & Teacher Assistants

Mrs. Laurie Heil
Mrs. Kimmy Hass
Mrs. Colleen Kauth
Mrs. Lori Enerson
Mrs. Gloria Krueger
Mrs. Janae LaMont
Mrs. Betty Heckman
Mrs. Jenny Roth
Mrs. Telma Diaz
Mrs. Kathy Johnson

5th Grade Teachers

Mrs. Katie Stropich
Mr. Shane Steltenpohl
Mr. Chuck Baldeshwiler

Specials Teachers

Mr. Jeff LaRose – Band
Mrs. Darcy Johnson – General Music 4, 5, 6, & Chorus 7
Mrs. Julie Stoffel – Chorus 8
Ms. Jackie Jadack – Phy. Ed. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Mr. Jim Carroll – Phy. Ed. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8/Health 7, 8
Mr. Dave Osterbrink – Tech. Ed.
Mrs. Daria Skibba – Art 4, 5, 7, 8
Mrs. Melissa Rokser – Art 6
Mr. Nathan Black – German
Mrs. Christina Yach - Spanish

Student Services

Mr. Rod Winters – Guidance Counselor
Mrs. Kellie Blaser – Title Reading
Mrs. Sue Wolfe – Title Reading
Mrs. Elizabeth Hipke – Speech/Language

Secretarial & Clerical

Mrs. Michelle Linzmeier – Office
Mrs. Beth Schaeftbauer – Office
Mrs. Tracy Ashbeck – Guidance
Mrs. Teri Doherty – Library
Mrs. Karen Hansen – Food Service

Kitchen

Mrs. Linda Thurber
Mrs. Peni Keller
Mrs. Bonnie Sutherland
Mrs. Trina Knoll

Administration

Mr. Jon Sprehn - Principal
Mr. Keith Johnson – Associate Principal

Alexander Middle School 4th Grade Course Descriptions

4th Grade Language Arts

Our fourth grade Language Arts program targets building student skills in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking. The writing process is taught step by step, with students applying critical thinking skills to their work, and using listening, speaking, and grammar skills in a meaningful context. The important elements of grammar and mechanical language skills are taught. Themes and concepts from other content areas are incorporated into language arts lessons. Students discuss and share their work, give oral presentations, and frequently read in an “author’s chair”. Students participate in “Daily Oral Language” to improve editing skills.

4th Grade Math

The fourth grade math class covers a variety of mathematical concepts including: computation, money, measurement, geometry, problem solving, graphing, probability, calculator skills, and fractions. We use many different activities, games, and materials to try to increase each child’s interest. Fluency in basic facts is also important for students to continue to be successful in math. We stress practice of the basic facts (+, -, x, ÷) with weekly quizzes in each homeroom. Students move to higher levels each time they pass a quiz. Look for reward certificates to come home.

4th Grade Reading

The fourth grade reading goals are: To continue to build the student’s reading skills using various materials and methods, and to foster a love of reading by encouraging students to read and introducing them to different genres and authors.

4th Grade Title 1 Reading

Title 1 is a federally funded program under the No Child Left Behind Act. The purpose of Title 1 is to enable all children to meet high academic standards. This is accomplished by providing meaningful and challenging opportunities for student learning. Title 1 helps schools and families form a partnership to assist students who need this support. AMS offers this program through small group instruction, inclusion in class, and individual help.

4th Grade Spelling

Our fourth grade spelling program at AMS targets helping students spell words which are meaningful and useful to them. Spelling lists are introduced and reviews are given weekly. Five new words are introduced every week. The review consists of 20 words – 15 review and 5 new words.

4th Grade Science

Topics of study in fourth grade science include plants, animals, ecosystems, the solar system, weather, rocks and minerals, and electricity. Some of the things we do to build understanding of the science disciplines are: explore light and color, connect electric circuits, experiment with growing conditions for plants, examine rocks and minerals, grow crystals, and research animals. As part of our environmental focus, fourth graders travel to Baraboo to visit the International Crane Foundation and “adopt” a crane for the year. We are

closely following the reintroduction of whooping cranes to Central Wisconsin. Bird identification has come to be a favorite unit which coincides with the spring migration.

4th Grade Social Studies

The focus of fourth grade social studies is our great state of Wisconsin. We concentrate on the areas of Wisconsin geography, history, people, and government. Our text is The Wisconsin Journey; however, we will use many other resources including magazines, newspapers, literature, reference books, video, and computers to learn about our state. Highlights of the year include Native American dioramas, Lumberjack Day, a Madison field trip, and various other Wisconsin projects.

4th Grade Art

Students are introduced to the art of the Japanese with Gyotoku (fish printing), Kiragami (paper cutting), still lifes of floral arrangements, and other Japanese related projects. This is working art together with their Reading class' projects for the fall. Grandma Moses along with Folk Art and landscapes are studied with two projects. We are incorporating the study of mysteries by the Reading class with our own "Art Auction Mystery", which studies the art of various famous artists. Also, the 4th graders will be working with clay, a Native American project, and various other medias.

4th Grade Library

Fourth grade students come to the library once a week for a half hour. During this time the students learn the basics of finding materials in the library. They begin with instruction in the layout of the library including the locations of fiction, nonfiction, paperbacks, and reference materials. Very quickly the students get hands-on instruction in computer Lab A on how to find books using the on-line catalog. Fiction books are arranged on the shelves alphabetically by the author's last name. Indexes for books, reference sets, and magazines are also alphabetical. Non-fiction books are shelved using the Dewey Decimal System. Students will learn the basics of the Dewey Decimal System and how to locate non-fiction books. The joy of reading is also shared by talking about the different genre, Wisconsin authors, illustrators, and medal winners. Finally, students are introduced to the use of the on-line catalog and on-line encyclopedia.

4th Grade General Music

This class is the study of folk music in our country and many world cultures. There is an introduction to note reading, sight singing, folk dance and folk instruments of the world.

4th Grade Physical Education

In fourth grade Physical Education, we begin to develop the entire individual including physical, emotional, social, and intellectual aspects of the student. The curriculum provides individual and team activities. These are modified according to age and ability levels. Stressed are physical fitness, skill development, warm ups, safety, teamwork, fair play and sportsmanship. Some activities include floor hockey, football, soccer, rope jumping, bowling, badminton, and basketball.

4 PIE

4 PIE (Prevention, Intervention, & Exploration) is time set aside in the day for students to address specific academic needs. Based on the individual student needs, students may receive skill reinforcement, receive instruction pertaining to test taking skills, or participate in peer tutoring. It could also serve as an intervention for students who need small group instruction from a teacher in a specific content area. It could also be a time of exploration for students to who wish to go beyond a specific classroom topic.

Alexander Middle School **5th Grade Course Descriptions**

5th Grade Language Arts

The goal of 5th grade Language Arts is to develop students' 21st Century Literacy Skills: the skills needed to flourish in today's society and in the future. These are acquired through instruction in writing, reading, listening, and speaking. Focus will be given to using context clues, comprehension skills, genres of literature, correct punctuation, the 8 parts of speech, the writing process, the four types of writing, oral presentations, research skills, primary sources, and sentence and paragraph structure. These skills will help students be in charge of their own learning and become life long learners.

5th Grade Information Skills

The goal of the 5th Grade Information Skills class is to develop students' ability to work independently and with others to use tools and resources responsibly to access and evaluate information in any format. The computer labs and the provided software programs will be used as well as the Library Media Center. The information gathered by students will be used to solve problems, communicate clearly and in a variety of ways, make informed decisions, and construct new knowledge.

5th Grade Grammar

Grammar is taught in a manner that reviews and reinforces the proper use and identification of parts of speech and mechanics in speech and writing.

5th Grade Mathematics

5th Grade Mathematics is a science that our students use to make their lives easier and more understandable. Here are some topics covered: Number Skills are used when you add, subtract, multiply, or divide; Measurement Skills are used when you tell time, use money, or find the length or weight of an object; Geometry is used when you deal with shapes and lines; Patterns and Functions are used when you find a pattern in numbers or shapes, and when you find the rule for the pattern; Statistics and Probability Skills are used when you use a graph to record how often a six-color cube lands with a certain side up and when you throw the cube; Logic is used when you make a reasonable guess or draw a conclusion; and Algebra is used when you write a number sentence or solve problems with number sentences.

5th Grade Title 1 Reading

Title 1 is a federally funded program under the No Child Left Behind Act. The purpose of Title 1 is to enable all children to meet high academic standards. This is accomplished by providing meaningful and challenging opportunities for student learning. Title 1 helps schools and families form a partnership to assist students who need this support. AMS offers this program through small group instruction, inclusion in class, and individual help.

5th Grade Spelling

Spelling is taught with a mastery approach via pre-test, worksheets, and testing of words.

5th Grade Science

The goal of this class is to give students a broad base of science knowledge and experiences in the following major units of study:

1. Classifying Matter
2. Motion and Forces
3. Energy
4. Earth's Structure
5. The Earth's Resources
6. Comparing Living Things

In each of these areas students are given general background and the vocabulary necessary to understand the concepts. The course contains lab activities related to the content, and stresses the importance of working cooperatively with others toward a common goal. Health standards are also integrated into the science curriculum

5th Grade Social Studies

The curriculum for fifth grade Social Studies follows guidelines set by the State of Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction. The Social Studies Curriculum for the School District of Nekoosa was revised by a committee of teachers in the social studies area, administrators, and community members.

The major elements of instruction involve the teaching of American History up to, and including, the Civil War. Major units of study are as follows:

- U.S. Geography
- Discovery and Early Settlement
- Colonization
- The Revolutionary War
- The Industrial Revolution
- The Westward Movement
- The Civil War
- Current Events

5th Grade Art

The fifth grade artists will begin the year drawing and painting Circus clowns with the study of Picasso and his interest in Circus people. Mexican tin art will be our next study, working with the reading of various countries in their Reading class. The "Cars" movies influence our 3-D construction pieces and our 2-D drawings/paintings using the same theme. We'll also design a mixed-media weaving, a slab construction clay piece, as well as a print working with Social Studies for Western Days.

5th Grade General Music

The emphasis is on participation in making music. The students will sight read music in class daily. They will use solfege to help with aural perception and play mallet instruments to help with the learning of pitch names. A variety of percussion instruments will be used to sharpen rhythmic skills. During this year, instruments of the orchestra, forms of music, and the music styles, will be introduced.

5th Grade Library

In the fifth grade, all instruction is aimed at helping the students acquire a good foundation for research skills. They begin with learning the parts of a nonfiction book including the use of the table of contents and index as tools to locate information quickly. Locating nonfiction books using the Dewey Decimal System is practiced.

Making the transition from using indexes in nonfiction books to using indexes for reference sets is an easy step. At the same time, students are exposed to the variety of reference sets available in the IMC.

Techniques for searching on-line databases are taught. The idea of combining keywords to quickly find information for their report is practiced.

The joy of reading for pleasure is also reinforced as the students learn about genre and the more popular authors in each area. Students come to the library for a half hour once a week in addition to their weekly book exchange time.

5th Grade Physical Education

In fifth grade Physical Education, we try to develop the entire individual including the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual aspects of the students. The curriculum provides for individual development and progression chosen in correlation with the student's age and ability level. Physical fitness, warm-ups, heart monitoring, safety, teamwork, good sportsmanship, fair play, basic rules for activities, and a respect for others in accordance with their individual skill level is stressed along with team and individual activities. Some of the activities are tumbling, rope jumping, and "cup stacking".

5 PIE

5 PIE (Prevention, Intervention, & Exploration) is time set aside in the day for students to address specific academic needs. Based on the individual student needs, students may receive skill reinforcement, receive instruction pertaining to test taking skills, or participate in peer tutoring. It could also serve as an intervention for students who need small group instruction from a teacher in a specific content area. It could also be a time of exploration for students to who wish to go beyond a specific classroom topic.

Alexander Middle School 6th Grade Course Descriptions

6th Grade Reading/Language Arts

Sixth graders will be taught using a reading-based language arts curriculum. Reading instruction will include a balanced usage of the reading series textbook and contemporary and classic novels. Grammar and sentence structure will be taught through the reading series material, and writing instruction will be based on the Six+1 Traits Writing System.

6th Grade Math

Sixth grade math is designed to provide activities and explorations that follow the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics' thirteen standards. These include: Mathematics as Problem Solving, and Number Relationships, Number Systems, and Number Theory, Computation and Estimation, Patterns and Functions, Algebra, Statistics, Probability, Geometry, and Measurement.

6th Grade Science

Course work in sixth grade science includes units in: Ecology, Weather, Chemistry, Electricity, Physics, and Simple Machines. Environmental topics such as the Greenhouse Effect, Ozone Layer Depletion, Loss of the Rain Forest, Acid Rain, etc. are also explored. Hands on activities are emphasized in all units with special projects currently including a “Leaf Collection” and a “Rock and Mineral Collection”.

6th Grade Social Studies

The curriculum for the sixth grade social studies follows the guidelines set by the State of Wisconsin’s Department of Public Instruction. World Geography and civilizations of the past are explored including: Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, Ancient Maya, and the Middle Ages. Current events are also incorporated into the social studies curriculum.

6th Grade Health Education

Students will meet with a certified health instructor once every four days for the duration of the school year. The units of study are as follows: Nutrition and Physical Activity, Growth and Development, Preventing Diseases, Tobacco, Alcohol, and Other Drugs, and Safety and the Environment.

6th Grade Technology Education

Sixth grade Tech Ed consists of the overview of technology, with an emphasis on the communication and transportation components. Three-dimensional drawing will be included into the curriculum by using mechanical drawings and CAD systems. A short unit in photography will be implemented using a digital camera. Designing and construction of a CO2 dragster will be a part of the transportation unit.

6th Grade Computer Class

The sixth grade computer class emphasizes keyboarding skills. It meets every other day all year long. Students use the keyboarding program, Mavis Beacon, to refine their keyboarding skills. Projects from core classes are integrated to fill the rest of the class. Among the programs used are: Appleworks (word processing, paint, drawing, and spreadsheet), LOGO, iPhoto, iMovie, iWeb, and PowerPoint.

6th Grade Music

Music is a required class in sixth grade. It meets every other day for the entire year. The main emphasis in class is to identify the music elements, perform these elements with the voice or instruments, and to create new music by understanding the elements. Some time is spent on listening as a lifelong skill.

6th Grade Art

Sixth grade art emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach to the art making process. Many connections are made to the Social Studies Curriculum including the accomplishments, culture, and crafts of various ancient civilizations. Many media or materials will be explored including: paper-mache, pottery, painting, drawing and printmaking.

6th Grade Physical Education

At the sixth grade level in Physical Education, we strive to develop the entire individual. This includes the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual aspects of a student. The curriculum provides for age appropriate activities and allows for progression in learning. Physical fitness, daily heart monitoring, and sports are emphasized. Distance running is also an emphasis during the winter months, as well as skill progression and skill refinement.

6th Grade Band

This elective course is the beginning stage of a comprehensive music education through classroom performance on a wind or percussion instrument. The course is structured around the Essential Elements 200 Book 1, which teaches the fundamentals of tone production, melody, rhythm, and harmony; as well as the related vocabulary. A portion of the course is devoted to rehearsing music for public performance.

6th Grade General Music

This is the beginning choral experience for singers. Singing with good posture, intonation and a pleasing tone are stressed. The music will start in unison with rounds used to increase independence. As the level of the singers increase, the music will be in two and three parts. The students will sight read vocal and instrumental parts. A variety of music from different periods, styles and cultures will be used. There are required concerts in November, January, March, and May.

6 PIE

6 PIE (Prevention, Intervention, & Exploration) is an elective option for students. It is time set aside in the day for students to address specific academic needs. Based on the individual student needs, students may receive skill reinforcement, receive instruction pertaining to test taking skills, or participate in peer tutoring. It could also serve as an intervention for students who need small group instruction from a teacher in a specific content area. It could also be a time of exploration for students to who wish to go beyond a specific classroom topic.

Alexander Middle School 7th Grade Course Descriptions

7th Grade Language Arts

The emphasis of this full-year course is the development, improvement, and mastery of students' language arts skills as suggested by the Wisconsin standards. A major objective is to emphasize critical thinking, and develop critical thinking through the study of speaking, writing, and group interaction activities. The *Six Plus One Writing Model* is used to teach writing skills and help students recognize the qualities of creative, interesting, and acceptable writing techniques.

7th Grade Mathematics

Mathematics 7 is designed to cover a variety of mathematical topics. Some topic areas that will be covered are: numbers and numeration, measurement, geometry, probability and statistics, algebra, estimation, discrete mathematics, and problem solving. Some of the topics will be re-taught and mastered while other topics will be introduced and developed. Basic number skills will be reinforced throughout the course. This course will demonstrate the practical applications of mathematics. In addition to traditional classroom presentation methods, this course will include mathematical activities and projects.

7th Grade Life Science

This class explores life from cells through complete organisms, and the interactions between these organisms. Major Units may include: Cells, Life Functions, Bacteria, Protists, Fungi, Plants, Animals (including selected dissections), Systems of Humans, the Environment, Genetics, and Wisconsin Ecology.

7th Grade Social Studies

This is a full year course. For one quarter, students will study the behavioral sciences of psychology and sociology. Students will learn about basic economic concepts in another quarter. Finally, two quarters will be dedicated to studying citizenship and the foundations of American government.

7th Grade Academic Literacy

Academic Literacy allows students to develop skill in reading, writing, speaking and listening. To help students to prepare for life in a technological society, student use this course to integrate different disciplines. In their studies, students will gather, comprehend, evaluate, synthesize and report on information and ideas.

7th Grade Physical Education

At the seventh grade level of Physical Education, we try to develop the entire individual by promoting age appropriate activities and allowing for progression in learning with maximum participation. Emphasis is given to personal fitness, and defining goals. Class skills and/or activities include: heart monitoring, warm-ups, soccer, speedball, football, floor hockey, basketball, volleyball, badminton, fitness and muscle circuit training, team handball, track, modern dance, self-defense, softball and distance running. Students are expected to show more responsibility at this level. Safety, good sportsmanship, and a respect for others is also stressed.

7th Grade Health Education

Students will meet with a certified health instructor every day for one quarter. The units of study are as follows: You and Your Health, Mental and Emotional Health, Tobacco, Drugs and Alcohol, and Growth and Development. Students who pass both 7th and 8th grade Health classes will receive the ½ Health credit necessary for high school graduation.

7th Grade German

Students will complete a nine-week foreign language course in German. These classes are exploratory in nature and will promote student understanding of the German language and culture. Students will actively participate, work in groups, and complete multi-media projects.

7th Grade Art

This nine week course begins with the study of Chinese Brush Painting using Chinese brushes and black ink. The difference between Eastern and Western Painting is extensively studied. Their favorite realistic, spontaneous and detailed paintings will compose their portfolio. The 7th graders will also study faces with three different projects including an abstract Picasso drawing/painting, a mask out of metal and a piece of pottery. A collage of mixed media incorporates printed pictures and materials from the computer, as well as, the study of postage stamps.

7th Grade Computers

Seventh grade computers class integrates content from all core subjects with various software to create projects that enhance learning in those core classes. The use of AppleWorks drawing helps students design a

newspaper for English. AppleWorks spreadsheet and word processing is used to create a family budget for social studies as well as to create and use graphs for math class.

7th Grade Band

This course is the logical continuation of Band 6. It is a comprehensive music education through classroom performance on a wind or percussion instrument. The course is structured around the first half of the Essential Elements 2000 Book 2, which expands upon the fundamentals of tone production, melody, rhythm, harmony, and history of music appreciation; as well as the related vocabulary. A portion of the course is devoted to rehearsing music for public performance and solo-ensemble festivals. A forty minute weekly private/group lesson is required for students.

7th Grade Choir

During this time the voices begin changing, so time is spent helping the singers work on the quality of their sound. The singers continue to work on their music reading skills and the other elements of music. Music will be in three and four parts with the boys singing the low part and the girls dividing on the upper parts. There are required concerts in November, January, March and May. The singers will have the opportunity to participate in the Solo and Ensemble Festival, which is close to the first Saturday of March.

Alexander Middle School 8th Grade Course Descriptions

8th Grade Math

Eighth grade math is an integrated approach to teaching the concepts of Algebra through exploration. Through student participation and discussion, students are directed in a manner that allows for ownership in the development of many algebraic concepts including such topics as linear algebra, exponential relationships, the Pythagorean Theorem, Quadratic relationships and possibly others. Each topic is explored in a manner in which skills are discovered and built through participation and discussion. This discovery allows students to “own” the idea, which theoretically will allow the student to retain the information learned at a much higher level. The Connected Mathematics Project (CMP) is the choice of delivery and has been designed with the mathematics standards in mind. This program (CMP) is an activity rich program designed to bring enjoyment and real life examples into the math classroom.

8th Grade English

The eighth grade English class emphasizes individual growth and development in reading, exposition, speech, and organizational skills. Social skills are used in different class activities and assignments.

8th Grade Geography

Geography is a year long course covering an introduction to the “Five Basic Themes of Geography” including Location, Place, Human-Environment Interaction, Movement, and Region. Maps, Globes, Resources, Climate, and Culture are reviewed. Students will conduct regional studies of the world, with special attention to interconnection of people and their surroundings. Included in the year is a major focus on current events, especially related to issues of culture, resource use and interactions between people and their environments.

8th Grade Earth Science

The course provides an adequate balance between the study of physical geology, meteorology, oceanography, and astronomy. It is the study of Earth, its matter, features, processes and place in the universe. Through lecture/discussion, hand-on activities, and problem solving, the students become more aware of the planet Earth as it is presently and as it was in the past. Technology is vastly used to enhance the study of our Earth.

8th Grade Reading

Eighth grade Reading meets every fourth day throughout the entire year. The focus of this course is the development of positive attitudes toward reading. Recognition of skills will lead to reading competence to enhance reading enjoyment and independence. This course will involve communication processes of reading, writing, speaking, and listening toward better comprehension and retention of a wide variety of material.

8th Grade Computer Class

Eighth grade Computers is a quarter rotation class. In computers, students are involved in a variety of “hands-on” activities to learn the basic usage of a variety of programs. Programs used are Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, HyperStudio, and a variety of others. Each program has a project itself. Concepts similar to cut and paste, mail merge, changing fonts, styles, and sizes of text are emphasized as are the shortcut keystrokes. Other classes may assign projects that are worked on in this class as well.

8th Grade Academic Literacy

Academic Literacy allows students to develop skill in reading, writing, speaking and listening. To help students to prepare for life in a technological society, student use this course to integrate different disciplines. In their studies, students will gather, comprehend, evaluate, synthesize and report on information and ideas.

8th Grade Physical Education

In eighth grade Physical Education, we strive to further develop the physical, emotional, social and intellectual aspects of the student. Students are encouraged to set personal goals and refine their physical skills according to their ability level. Course activities include warm-ups, heart monitoring, soccer, football, floor hockey, basketball, volleyball, fitness testing, track, softball, and distance running. Students also participate in low organized games such as “speed away”, badminton, and bowling. There are also lessons in modern dance and self-defense. Individual responsibility, personal safety, good sportsmanship, teamwork, and a respect for others are emphasized.

8th Grade Health Education

Students will meet with a certified health instructor every day for one quarter. The units of study are as follows: Consumer Health, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Fitness, Body Image, Body Systems, and Growth and Development. Students who pass both 7th and 8th grade Health classes will receive the ½ Health credit necessary for high school graduation.

8th Grade Art

Eighth grade artists will experience a variety of different medias, working with both two and three dimensional forms in this nine-week course. In that work, they will be drawing, painting, creating with clay, as well as making their first jewelry piece out of a piece of metal. They will study the art of the Maori Tribes of New Zealand, along with Pop Art and its creators – Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, and Wayne Tiebald.

8th Grade Spanish

Students will complete a nine-week foreign language course in Spanish. These classes are exploratory in nature and will promote student understanding of Spanish language and culture. Students will actively participate, work in groups, and complete multi-media projects.

8th Grade Research

This course is designed to supplement the research skills students need in today's computer generation. Students learn about websites, url addresses, and authors. Students also learn about bogus and real website clues. Deciphering information on the web and putting together a project using computers are the backbone of this course.

8th Grade Band

This course is the logical continuation of Band 7. It is a comprehensive music education through classroom performance on a wind or percussion instrument. The course is structured around the second half of the Essential Elements 2000 Book 2. A portion of the course is devoted to rehearsing music for public performance and solo-ensemble festivals. One forty minute weekly private/group lesson is required for students.

8th Grade Choir

The eighth grade choir continues to build on the progress made in 6th and 7th grades. The voice ranges are expanded with special attention paid to the changes in the singers' voices. The singers continue to work on their music reading skills in addition to the other elements of music. Music that is chosen is usually in three and four parts with the boys singing tenor and bass and the girls singing alto and soprano. There are required concerts in November, January, March and May. The singers will have the opportunity to participate in the Solo and Ensemble Festival, which is close to the first Saturday of March.