

**CURRICULUM GUIDE
2020-2021**

MOLALLA RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL



WOLVERINES

CREATING EXCEPTIONAL READERS, OUTSTANDING WRITERS, AND INFLUENTIAL COMMUNICATORS

WE ARE UNSTOPPABLE!

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

It is our mission to provide our students with a rich, academic experience that breathes new life into their education. Each class that we offer will directly support our goal of creating exceptional readers, outstanding writers, and influential communicators. New and existing courses will be designed to use relevant material and focus on purposeful reading, writing, and discussion.

Outlined below is the programming designed for the 6th grade year:

Sixth Grade

Language Arts	Full Year
Social Studies.....	Full Year
Math.....	Full Year
Science.....	Full Year
Physical Education and Health.....	Full Year
Communications 1.....	1 Trimester
Type Like A Pro.....	1 Trimester
Electives.....	4 Trimesters
OR	
Band/Choir.....	Full Year
AND 1 Elective class	1 Trimester

Sixth Grade Sample Schedule

Period	Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
1	Language Arts		
2	Social Studies		
3	Math		
4	Homeroom		
5	Science		
6	PE/Health	PE/Healthiest	PE/Health
7	Type Like a Pro	Communications 1	Elective
8	Band/Choir/ELD or 3 Elective Classes		

Seventh and Eighth Grade

Language Arts	Full Year
Social Studies.....	Full Year
Math.....	Full Year
Science.....	Full Year
Physical Education and Health.....	2 Trimesters
Communications 2 (7th grade).....	1 trimester
Communications 3 (8th grade).....	
Electives.....	6 Trimesters

Seventh and Eighth Grade Sample Schedule

Period	Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
1	Language Arts		
2	Social Studies		
3	Math		
4	Homeroom		
5	Science		
6	PE/Health	PE/Health	Elective 1
7	Elective 2	Communications 2 or 3	Elective 3
8	Band/Choir/ELD or 3 Elective Classes		

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ART

DRAWING 1

Grade 6-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: Intro to Art

Repeatable: No

An introductory course exploring the basic elements and principles of observational drawing, using traditional and experimental media. Students will participate in critique and write three critique response papers and three reflection papers over the course of the trimester.

CERAMICS 1

Grade 7-8

Length- 1 trimester

Fee- \$10

Prerequisite: Intro to Art

Repeatable: No

Survey of ceramic construction techniques, including pinch, coil, and slab. Use of surface decoration, glazes and ceramic kiln firing. Students will participate in critique and write three critique response papers and three reflection papers over the course of the trimester.

CERAMICS 2

Grade 7-8

Length- 1 trimester

Fee- \$10

Prerequisite: Ceramics 1

Repeatable: No

A continuation of ceramic construction techniques, including pinch, coil, and slab. Use of surface decoration, glazes and ceramic kiln firing. Students will participate in critique and write three critique response papers and three reflection papers over the course of the trimester.

INTRODUCTION TO ART

Grade 6-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: No

This is an Art survey course. Students learn the basics in a variety of media, ranging from drawing, painting, basic design, and sculpture. Students will learn Art vocabulary and must read three articles and write three response papers over the course of the trimester.

INTRODUCTION TO BLOCK PRINTING

Grade 6-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: Intro to Art

Repeatable: No

Students will explore block printing through history and cultures around the world. Prints will be designed from observation and from imagination to illustrate a theme and students will explore single and multi layered printing to create an aesthetically pleasing work of art. Prints will be made on paper as well as textiles. Students will participate in critique and write three critique response papers and three reflection papers over the course of the trimester.

INTRODUCTION TO GRAPHIC DESIGN

Grade 7-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: Intro to Art

Repeatable: No

This course is an introduction to the profession of graphic design. This includes the fundamentals of visual communication using symbology, typography, illustration, and photography. Lectures include an introduction to the history of graphic design and art movements that influenced the field. Students are made aware of and will acquire experience in the graphic design profession. Students will participate in critique and write three critique response papers and three reflection papers over the course of the trimester.

3-D DESIGN

Grade 7-8

Length- 1 trimester

Fee- \$10

Prerequisite: Intro to Art

Repeatable: No

This is an introduction to design elements and principles as they apply to three-dimensional space and form. Idea explorations in various media including wire, clay, plaster, paper, and found objects. Students will participate in critique and write three critique response papers and three reflection papers over the course of the trimester.

PAINTING 1

Grade 6-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: Intro to Art

Repeatable: No

This is an introduction to watercolor, tempera, and acrylic painting techniques. Students will explore observational painting as well as painting from reference material. Students will participate in critique and write three critique response papers and three reflection papers over the course of the trimester.

PAINTING 2

Grade 7-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: Painting 1

Repeatable: No

Students take a deeper look into watercolor, tempera, and acrylic painting techniques. Students will explore observational painting as well as painting from reference material. Students will participate in critique and write three critique response papers and three reflection papers over the course of the trimester.

PHOTOGRAPHY 1

Grade 7-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: Intro to Art

Repeatable: No

An introduction to the fundamental principles of digital photography as applied in fine art, documentary, photojournalism and commercial applications. Students will gain practical understanding of manipulating a digital single lens reflex 35mm camera (DSLR) and out putting images for the web and print through an introduction to hardware, software, internet technologies and computer file organization. Topics range from managing light by balancing meter reading by controlling the ISO, aperture, shutter speed. Students will create an internet portfolio presented on a template website, live on the internet, as part of their final project. Students will participate in critique and write three critique response papers and three reflection papers over the course of the trimester.

BUSINESS

BUSINESS AND MARKETING

Grade 7-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: No

Students will explore successful business practices and learn about the qualities of successful entrepreneurs. Many of the assignments in the class will be group projects and presentations. Students will be encouraged to be innovative as they develop mock businesses and solve problems.

THE GAME OF LIFE

Grade 7-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: No

Students will learn the foundations of personal finance through videos, reading, research, and discussion. Cash, credit, debit, debt, saving, investing, budgeting and decision making will be the key points covered in this course.

LANGUAGE ARTS

6TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade 6

Length- 3 trimesters

Prerequisite: Required Course

Repeatable: No

6th grade students will be taught the literacy skills of reading, writing, speaking, listening, comprehending, and reflecting. Students gain practice in grammar, punctuation, and writing skills. Assignments include all writing modes identified by the State of Oregon: persuasive, narrative, expository, descriptive and imaginative. The writing process includes ideas and content, organization, sentence fluency and voice. In literature we read classic and contemporary literature, including short stories, dramas, and nonfiction. Personal connections, interpretations and responses to literature are made to show understanding of the text. Vocabulary instruction and growth is emphasized throughout the year.

7TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade 7

Length- 3 trimesters

Prerequisite: Required Course

Repeatable: No

Seventh grade students will grow in areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussions, and reflection on their own work. Fiction and nonfiction selections enhance student understanding of quality writing. Poetry, drama, short stories, and novels engage students to learn and become better writers, readers, and communicators. Accelerated Reader embedded in the classroom encourages student growth in the areas of reading and writing. Students will focus on creating and revising short responses, paragraphs, and essays using the Common Core as requirements.

8TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade 8

Length- 3 trimesters

Prerequisite: Required Course

Repeatable: No

Eighth grade Language Arts will continue students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, and reflection and work to prepare the students for high school success. The study of literature explores all genres including short story, poetry, novels, nonfiction, and drama. The novels selected serve as a focus for discussion, writing assignments, reading strategies, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary building. The Accelerated Reader/IRLA program also assists in implementing reading instruction. The focus for writing instruction will be response to literature, narrative, informational, and argumentative writing with requirements based on Common Core standards. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students.

COMMUNICATIONS 1

Grade 6

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: Required Course

Repeatable: No

The course is designed to prepare students for academic and social success by improving their comfort and public speaking, their ability to build and maintain healthy relationships, and their awareness of media and mass communication in their culture. The course is divided into three main categories:

1. Public Speaking- Researching, writing, notating, and delivering speeches in a variety of modes.
2. Media Literacy- Gaining awareness and understanding of the many media messages we all receive on a constant basis. Becoming an informed and discerning consumer of goods as well as Information. Identifying the purpose, source, and potential bias in the media and commercial messages.
3. Non-Verbal Communication- Students will learn the basic principles of nonverbal communication and how understanding non-verbal interaction can help you improve relationships and impact your success in life.

COMMUNICATIONS 2

Grade 7

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: Required Course

Repeatable: No

This class builds on the concepts of Communications I, but with advanced/extended subjects or ideas.

COMMUNICATIONS 3

Grade 8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: Required Course

Repeatable: No

Students will discuss, defend, argue and persuade in small and large groups to practice the art of communication. Topics of research and discussion will be oriented more toward current events and/or local topics important to the community or environment. Students will learn to brainstorm, discuss a problem, and seek solutions with a group. Students will then practice presenting the solutions to outside groups such as school staff, community, business, school board, or city council.

ELECTIVES

AMERICAN CULTURE

Grade 7-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: No

Students will explore American Culture through music, literature, film, art, language, religion and food. How did Rock and Roll begin, who created the Big Mac and who or what is responsible for creating movie theaters and video games? Explore these questions and more while learning about American Culture!

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS AND INNOVATIONS

Grade 6

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: No

Students will explore ancient civilizations and how their innovations changed the world. Explore and research ancient innovations and learn how society uses those inventions in current society. Learn to work with and replicate those inventions and innovations and apply your own personal twist!

CREATIVE NON-FICTION/MEMOIRS

Grade 7-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: No

Explore the style of writing of other authors in this genre. Students will begin by mimicking published authors' manners when writing, eventually developing a style of their own. Students will then write their life stories and create their own book.

CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD

Grade 7-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: No

Students will explore cultures around the world through art, literature, innovations, religion, music, film and food. The world is a diverse place full of interesting people, places and differences. Explore the world and all it contains with a focus on culture. Build cultural literacy through study and exploration.

GREEK MYTHOLOGY

Grade 7-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: No

Come dive into the world of Zeus, Poseidon, Athena, and many more. Students will learn about basic Greek mythology through short readings and questions, how it relates to words and stories today, and then read [The Lightning Thief](#), by Rick Riordan. Comparing the novel and the movie also increases student's analytic skills. Students may also cover the basics of Roman Mythology.

HISTORICAL STUDIES

Grade 7-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: No

Come dive into the world of history and time by reading novels and learning about human interaction and major historical events.

JOURNALISM/YEARBOOK

Grade 7-8

Length- 3 trimesters

Prerequisite: Teacher Approval

Repeatable: Yes

Students will be responsible for putting together the school newspaper and yearbook. Students will be taking on leadership roles in writing, editing, photographing, and marketing of both publications.

LANGUAGE ARTS PLUS

Grade 6-8

Length- 1-3 trimesters

Prerequisite: Teacher Approval

Repeatable: Yes

This class is intended to support students in their writing skills.

POETRY ANALYSIS AND BOOK CREATION

Grade 6

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: No

Read, analyze, and write different types of poetry. Look at the author's purpose and word choice. Find new meaning and create your own choice poetry.

READING LAB B

Grade 6-8

Length- 3 trimesters

Prerequisite: Teacher Approval

Repeatable: Yes

This class is for students with significant reading needs- specifically in basic decoding and sight word vocabulary. Focus is placed on helping students to recognize patterns in ½ syllable words, to increase the volume of reading practice, and to help students gain basic comprehension skills.

READING LAB R

Grade 6-8

Length- 1-3 trimesters

Prerequisite: Teacher Approval

Repeatable: Yes

This class is for students that are working on increasing decoding skills in reading to include multisyllabic words and to learn vocabulary in context. Focus is on the ability to break down unknown words by recognizing syllable chunks, prefixes, suffixes, and roots; to increase the volume of reading practice; and to increase skills in comprehension and writing in response to text.

READING LAB: SOCIAL JUSTICE

Grade 6-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: Teacher Approval

Repeatable: No

Readings will focus on current issues in our social culture: bullying, social media, cultural differences, and making appropriate life choices. This class is designed for those students needing extra support in improving academic vocabulary and writing structure in response to text. The focus is on the ability to respond to nonfiction and fiction texts with well-structured paragraphs that utilize multiple pieces of text evidence to support a claim.

READING LAB: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

Grade 6-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: Teacher Approval

Repeatable: No

Readings will focus on intriguing historical characters, significant historical events and inventions, and their impact on society. This class is designed for those students needing extra support in improving academic vocabulary and writing structure in response to text. The focus is on the ability to respond to nonfiction and fiction texts with well-structured paragraphs that utilize multiple pieces of text evidence to support a claim.

READING LAB: X-FILES EDITION

Grade 6-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: Teacher Approval

Repeatable: No

Readings will focus on the study of all things spooky, mysterious, and unexplained: mummies, zombies, UFO sightings, ghosts, unsolved mysteries, and a host of other interesting phenomenon. This class is designed for those students needing extra support in improving academic vocabulary and writing structure in response to text. The focus is on the ability to respond to nonfiction and fiction texts with well-structured paragraphs that utilize multiple pieces of text evidence to support a claim.

SCI-FI/FANTASY WRITING

Grade 7-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: Yes

Want to publish all those ideas floating in your head? Want to battle an Orc? Create a fantasy world? We will be looking at classic examples of science fiction or fantasy stories, learning how they are designed, then creating our own short story and see what it takes to publish them. Learn from a published author what it takes to create your world.

THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT - DYSTOPIAN

Grade 6-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: No

Wallow in the awfulness that might come. Hunger Games and Divergent, The Giver and Among the Hidden. What makes this future world so dangerous?

XTREME LITERATURE

Grade 7-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: No

Students will dive into a theme, reading and writing and learning all they can about it. Topics could include: Life's Great Adventures, World Disasters, Real Life Heroes & Villains.

MATHEMATICS

6TH GRADE MATH/6th GRADE HONORS MATH

Grade 6

Length- 3 trimesters

Prerequisite: Required Course

Repeatable: No

The goal of the course is to cover factors and multiples, ratios, rational numbers and equivalence, operations with fractions, computing with decimals and percentages, two dimensional measurements, variables and patterns, and statistics and data analysis.

Students will need to declare they would like to be in the Honors Math program by the first three weeks of school (application for this option will be sent home with the students during the class). The grade level honors curriculum will be to complete a project and a performance task for each unit in the general education math class. These assignments will not be in addition to the class work but in replace of assignments after mastery of the target has been demonstrated.

In order to receive the Honors designation, students will need to complete the following:

- 1) Attend math enrichment team meetings twice a month during homeroom.
- 2) Complete grade level honors curriculum within the general math class.
- 3) Prove mastery on basic skills in the Moby Max program. The expectation will be for each student to either be at grade level or show one years worth of growth on the program by the end of the school year.

7TH GRADE MATH/7th GRADE HONORS MATH

Grade 7

Length- 3 trimesters

Prerequisite: Required Course

Repeatable: No

Topics covered will include rational numbers, proportional relationships, operations with integers, writing expressions, writing and solving equations, 2 and 3 dimensional geometry, and if time allows, probability and statistics.

Students will need to declare they would like to be in the Honors Math program by the first three weeks of school (application for this option will be sent home with the students during the class). The grade level honors curriculum will be to complete a project and a performance task for each unit in the general education math class. These assignments will not be in addition to the class work but in replace of assignments after mastery of the target has been demonstrated.

In order to receive the Honors designation, students will need to complete the following:

- 1) Attend math enrichment team meetings twice a month during homeroom.
- 2) Complete grade level honors curriculum within the general math class.
- 3) Prove mastery on basic skills in the Moby Max program. The expectation will be for each student to either be at grade level or show one years worth of growth on the program by the end of the school year.

ALGEBRA 1

Grade 8

Length- 3 trimesters

Prerequisite: Teacher Approval

Repeatable: No

The primary goal in Algebra 1 is to help students transfer their concrete mathematical knowledge to more abstract algebraic generalizations. Topics include the Real Number System, Expressions, Equations and Inequalities, Exponential Functions, Quadratic Functions, etc. Successful completion of this course will result in the acquisition of High School credit for Algebra 1.

Students will qualify for Algebra in the 8th grade based on teacher recommendation and have at least three of the following criteria:

- Passing SBAC scores in 6th grade
- Passing SBAC scores in 7th grade
- Completion of 6th and 7th grade Honors Math
- A grade of an A or B in both 6th and 7th grade classes

8TH GRADE MATH

Grade 8

Length- 3 trimesters

Prerequisite: Required Course

Repeatable: No

The primary goal of this course is to help students prepare for success in Algebra 1, Geometry, and beyond by emphasizing topics critical to a strong foundation in mathematical thinking. Topics include the Pythagorean Theorem, Expressions and Equations, Slope, Functions, Exponent Operations, Function Relationships, Systems of Equations, and Lines and Angles.

ELECTIVES

The Ultimate MATH Warrior

Grade 6-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: Instructor Approval

Repeatable: Yes

This is an elective designed for students that like a challenge coupled with competition. The course will include math battles, math projects and problem solving that takes true grit. The class will also be used to sharpen our student's skills for the state math competition.

MATH LAB

Grade 6

Length- 1-3 trimesters

Prerequisite: Teacher Approval

Repeatable: Yes

The goal of this course is to help students begin to use logic and mathematical thinking to demystify math. While fluency with algorithms will be addressed, the primary focus is paid to problem solving and the application of the 8 Mathematical practices (make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, reason abstractly, etc.) which proficient math students employ.

PERFORMING ARTS

ELECTIVES

BEGINNING BAND

Grade 6-8

Length- 1-3 trimesters

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: Yes

Beginning Band is the entry level class of the band program. Students are taught to have a fundamental knowledge of their instrument and read music. Students will be performing on instruments alone and with others. Students will be exposed to the music of various genres. Students will need to provide their own band instrument (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, baritone, trombone, bells) or rent one from the school district. This class has graded activities that take place during non-school hours.

CONCERT BAND

Grade 6-8

Length- 1-3 trimesters

Prerequisite: Teacher Approval

Repeatable: Yes

Concert Band is the intermediate level class of the band program. It is appropriate for students that are in their 2nd and 3rd year of playing. Students are expected to have a fundamental knowledge of their instrument and be able to read music. Students will be performing on instruments, alone and with others. Students will be exposed to music of various genres and cultures. Students will need to provide their own band instrument or rent one from the school district. This class has graded activities that take place during non-school hours.

CHOIR

Grade 6-8

Length- 1-3 trimesters

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: Yes

Choir is a vocal course that explores various genres of choral music, as well as singing in languages such Latin, South African, and of course, English. Learning to read music is like learning any other foreign language, so included in the course are units on topics such as musical intervals, note and rest values, and the names of notes. Students will learn to sing accompanied music, as well as acapella forms of music, and they will put on **mandatory evening performances** during both the holiday season and the spring, which WILL require an outfit, which will be outlined in the class syllabus.

DRAMA

Grade 6-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: Yes

Are you the next Johnny Depp? The next Shailene Woodley? Here's your chance to show off your acting skills! We will be working as a team on a production of a play or musical that will be performed for a live audience. There will also be opportunities for props, costumes, and set design. **Evening performance required.**

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!

Grade 7-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: No

Students will learn to recognize and analyze persuasive techniques through writings and advertising- then apply that knowledge in a group project to design and produce a radio and/or television commercial for a favorite product utilizing Garageband and iMovie.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

6TH GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Grade 6 **Length- 3 trimesters**
Prerequisite: Required Course **Repeatable: No**

Students will complete 9 weeks of Physical Education and 3 weeks of Health per trimester. During PE students are required to dress down every day, participate in required activities, and complete a one mile run 3-4 times per trimester. During health class students are in the classroom learning about wellness/health promotion, social/emotional learning, safety/first aid, nutrition/physical activity, comprehensive sexual health, and substance use/abuse. These topics will be discussed over the course of 3 years (6th-8th grade).

7/8TH GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Grade 7/8 **Length- 2 trimesters**
Prerequisite: Required Course **Repeatable: Yes**

Students will complete 9 weeks of Physical Education and 3 weeks of Health per trimester. During PE students are required to dress down every day, participate in required activities, and complete a one mile run 3-4 times per trimester. During health class students are in the classroom learning about wellness/health promotion, social/emotional learning, safety/first aid, nutrition/physical activity, comprehensive sexual health, and substance use/abuse. These topics will be discussed over the course of 3 years (6th-8th grade).

RECREATIONAL SPORTS

Grade 7-8 **Length- 1 trimester**
Prerequisite: PE **Repeatable: Yes**

Students will complete a full 12 weeks of Recreational Sports. During this class students are required to dress down every day and participate in required activities. Students will be involved in daily warm-ups, conditioning, and recreational sports games. The sports games will change throughout the trimester. There will be no mile or fitness center for this class.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

6TH GRADE SCIENCE

Grade 6 **Length- 3 trimesters**
Prerequisite: Required Course **Repeatable: No**

Students will use a digital curriculum to learn essential concepts about energy, engineering design, cells, body systems, adaptations, the five senses, weather, climate, and global climate change.

7TH GRADE SCIENCE

Grade 7 **Length- 3 trimesters**
Prerequisite: Required Course **Repeatable: No**

Students will learn essential concepts about states of matter, chemical reactions, atomic models, photosynthesis, food webs, interactions between organisms, interactions of populations in ecosystems, rock cycle and plate tectonics.

8TH GRADE SCIENCE

Grade 8 **Length- 3 trimesters**
Prerequisite: Required Course **Repeatable: No**

Students will learn essential concepts about natural selection, DNA, mutations, embryo development, structural anatomy of modern versus fossilized organisms, fossil record, earth's geological history, human population affecting earth's systems, earth, sun, moon system, gravity, properties of planets, Newton's laws, potential and kinetic energy, electric and magnetic fields and waves.

ELECTIVES

AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS (Project Lead The Way)

Grade 8 **Length- 1 trimester**

Prerequisite: S.T.E.M Machines **Repeatable: No**

Students learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students apply what they know to design and program traffic lights, robotic arms, and more.

ECOLOGY

Grade 7-8 **Length- 1 trimester**

Prerequisite: None **Repeatable: No**

In this class you will learn about the forest and streams in our area and do activities related to this. You will learn how to identify some plants and aquatic insects and also learn the chemistry and physics of a river.

ENGINEERING AND DESIGN

Grade 6-8 **Length- 1 trimester**

Prerequisite: None **Repeatable: Yes**

In this class you will be exposed to the design process, research and analysis, teamwork, communication methods, global and human impacts, engineering standards, and technical documentation. In other words, you will design things and then write about what you designed.

NATURE OF SCIENCE

Grade 6-8 **Length- 1 trimester**

Prerequisite: None **Repeatable: No**

In this class you will learn about how science changes and how science works by doing some small science activities related to the vocabulary of science. We will do some writing, some group readings, lots of measurements using scientific tools and some group discussions. We will conduct an inquiry project using the scientific method and write up the project.

S.T.E.M. MACHINES

Grade 7-8 **Length- 1 trimester**

Prerequisite: None **Repeatable: Yes**

A teamwork focused class that includes all aspects of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Students will get a basic understanding of electric motors, batteries, and RC design to build DIY RC (remote control) cars as a group. The class will focus on design and implementation of available parts to make a small remote controlled vehicle that they will compete against other teams in the class on an obstacle course (also designed by the class).

TYPE LIKE A PRO

Grade 6 **Length- 1 trimester**

Prerequisite: Required Course **Repeatable: No**

Students will become proficient in typing using prominent word processing programs, learning how to navigate the system to produce formal writing ready for both the educational and business worlds.

USING TECHNOLOGY TO INFLUENCE OTHERS

Grade 7-8 **Length- 1 trimester**

Prerequisite: None **Repeatable: No**

Students will become proficient in using Google Suite (Google Drive, Google Documents, Google Sheets, and Google Slides) as well as the presentation platform, prezi. Students will also learn how to successfully research a topic.

SOCIAL STUDIES

6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Grade 6

Length- 3 trimesters

Prerequisite: Required Course

Repeatable: No

Social Studies provides students with the opportunity to expand their knowledge and understanding of society and what is taking place in the world around them. 6th Grade Social Studies focuses on general geography skills, as well as looking at the history and cultures of the Americas.

7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Grade 7

Length- 3 trimesters

Prerequisite: Required Course

Repeatable: No

Social Studies provides students with the opportunity to expand their knowledge and understanding of society and what is taking place in the world around them. 7th Grade Social Studies focuses on economic topics, such as supply and demand, as well as a study of monotheistic religions. In addition to that, seventh graders will study the history and cultures of the people of the Mediterranean and Middle East Regions. Students will also look at aspects and lasting effects of Middle Ages Africa and Europe, the Renaissance, Reformation, and Enlightenment.

8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Grade 8

Length- 3 trimesters

Prerequisite: Required Course

Repeatable: No

Social Studies provides students with the opportunity to expand their knowledge and understanding of society, and what is taking place in the world around them. 8th Grade Social Studies focuses on the history and cultures that make up America. The historical focus is from early colonialism through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Students will also learn about the structure and function of the different parts of the U.S. government.

ELECTIVES

AMERICAN SCANDAL

Grade 7-8

Length - 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: No

Take a closer look at some of the most dramatic scandals in American History. Through videos, reading, and writing assignments, you will dig deeper into the scandals that changed American life ranging from Watergate, to scandals in Major League Baseball, to the Exxon Valdez.

COMMANDER IN CHIEF

Grade 6-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: No

Get a glimpse into the history of the United States, as seen by the Presidents who led the country. Through videos, readings, and writing assignments you will learn about how ten Presidents changed the world around them, and how they were changed by the world.

SPACE FORCE

Grade 6-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: No

Take a look at the history of space travel, from the first satellites in orbit, to moon landings, Mars Rovers, SpaceX, and beyond. Through videos, readings, and writing assignments you will have the opportunity to learn about space flight, and the United States' role in that process.

WORLD LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

ELECTIVES

SIGN LANGUAGE 1

Grade 6-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: No

Learn the second most common 'foreign' language in America and be able to communicate clear across the cafeteria! Try beginning sign language, basic interpersonal conversation and translation. Includes research of deaf issues in a wildly changing culture, as well as web sites to help you continue learning and practice.

SIGN LANGUAGE 2

Grade 7-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: Sign Language 1

Repeatable: No

A continuation of Sign Language 1 which includes a brief overview of words from the previous course and then increasing vocabulary in house, jobs, sports, hobbies and other experiences. Sentence structure and grammar are now emphasized. Students will be responsible for teaching one set of signs to the class which requires research and meeting communication standards.

BEGINNING ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Grade 6-8

Length- 1-3 trimesters

Prerequisite: Qualify for ELD Program

Repeatable: Yes

Students are placed after taking the Woodcock-Munoz Language Survey with a score of negligible (1), or the ELPA21 with a score of emerging (1). The focuses of English Language Development are Listening/Speaking, Reading, Writing, and Grammar. This course focuses more closely on letter and word recognition, phonics, and pronunciation. The class focuses on forming complete sentences in speaking and writing, as well as building the vocabulary to read, write, and speak.

INTERMEDIATE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Grade 6-8

Length- 1-3 trimesters

Prerequisite: Qualify for ELD Program

Repeatable: Yes

Students are placed after taking the Woodcock-Munoz Language Survey with a score of very limited (2), or the ELPA21 with a score of progressing (2). The focuses of English Language Development are Listening/Speaking, Reading, Writing, and Grammar. This course focuses more closely on students engaging in longer conversations and discussions, reading comprehension, and how to write a paragraph.

ADVANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Grade 6-8

Length- 1-3 trimesters

Prerequisite: Qualify for ELD Program

Repeatable: Yes

Students are placed after taking the Woodcock-Munoz Language Survey with a score of limited (3), or the ELPA21 with a score of progressing (2). The focuses of English Language Development are Listening/Speaking, Reading, Writing, and Grammar. This course focuses on developing a more in-depth reading skills, such as story analysis and higher order reasoning skills. It also focuses on more complex writing, with varying sentence structures, and writing different types of short essays.

GENERAL ELECTIVES

INTRODUCTION TO FOODS

Grade 8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: No

Students are introduced to the basics of food. They learn the food groups and how to construct a healthy diet. They explore US crops to see what is grown in each state. They also learn table manners and etiquette, along with safety procedures, and some basic knife skills. Students investigate herbs and spices, and how to transform basic foods into an appetizing dish.

LEADERSHIP

Grade 7-8

Length- 3 trimesters

Prerequisite: Application Required

Repeatable: Yes

The class will consist of planning for school and community events, group and individual goals/projects/activities, and practicing and learning skills/qualities to become a strong leader. **Students who hold an office are required to be in the class for the full year.**

STUDY LIKE A PRO

Grade 6-8

Length- 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Repeatable: Yes, however only one trimester per year

This enrichment is meant for students who need extra time or support in completing their assignments, as well as learning valuable study skills, with an emphasis on note taking through CNN10. Maybe you are heavily booked with sports or after school activities the second trimester and need more time to complete your assignments, or perhaps you are needing some time to get organized and work on your study skills. Students will have the opportunity to get to work in a quiet, supportive setting. Students may only take this class one time per year (so please think about your extracurricular activities before choosing a trimester!).

SCHOOL SUPPORTS

CHECK AND CONNECT

Grade 8

Length- No Class, Mentoring Program

Prerequisite: Application Required

Repeatable: NA

Check and Connect is a college and career readiness program that serves 8th grade students who are determined to be successful in school and in life. Check and Connect is a research-based program that has proven to be effective in helping students become more connected to school, increase academic performance, and reach their full potential. Entrance into the program is competitive and space is limited.

Students who are accepted to the program will be paired with an adult mentor within the school. The mentor is a dedicated staff member who develops a mentee/mentor relationship with your child. The mentor will meet with your child on a weekly basis throughout the year to discuss performance in school and help resolve any issues. The mentor also advocates for their mentee, coordinates services when needed, provides ongoing feedback and encouragement, and emphasizes the importance of doing well in school. The mentor will also remain in close contact with parents in regards to their child's performance at school and will look to develop a deep, meaningful relationship with the family. Events will be scheduled during the year for both the mentees in the program as well as their families, as we try to build deep meaningful relationships. To help with their academics, each student in the program will be issued their own chromebook for the year for use in and out of school and be part of a cohort of students in a designated homeroom. The Check and Connect homeroom is designed for students to maximize their available time at school to support each other in academics and personal growth.