

Lake Mills
Middle School
Course Description Book

2023-2024

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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR 6TH GRADE

Art 6 - 30 Day Rotation

Art 6 provides students with a broad overview of art topics that promote creativity and foundations in understanding the basics for creating art.

Coding 6 - 45 day rotation

Coding 6 gives students a basic understanding of foundational coding skills. The course uses a simple, block-based programming paradigm to introduce algorithmic operations. Numerous challenges are incorporated, allowing students to have fun and use creativity while writing individual programs. Coding 6 serves as an exploratory experience for students interested in high school Computer Science.

FACS Exploratory - 30 day rotation

Family and Consumer Science (FACS) gives students a basic understanding of practical life skills, including sewing and a little cooking exploration. Students will focus on learning to use a sewing machine to make a couple of projects over the course of the class including making a pillow. Students will have the opportunity to decorate cupcakes and make an easy snack they can make at home. These activities help the students gain exposure in the subject area which they may continue to pursue as high schoolers.

Hunter Safety - 12 day rotation class

Hunter Safety provides students instruction on a range of topics, including: conservation, survival skills, gun usage and safety, ethical behaviors, and laws, while hunting or enjoying nature. Students are challenged to understand how conservation, laws, and hunting all play a role in encouraging responsible and ethical behavior. This course meets opposite Reading Lab.

Keyboarding - 30 day rotation

Keyboarding 6 is a pass/fail course that is based on the premise that all students can and should become proficient in keying skills. Students will use an online platform to review, learn and practice essential skills.

Course Outcomes:

- Demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of three pages in a single setting. (Iowa Core W.6.6)
- Recognize the rights, responsibilities, and opportunities of living, learning, and working in an interconnected digital world, and they act and model in ways that are safe, legal, and ethical. (ISTE 2. Digital Citizen)

Music Essentials - 30 day rotation

Music Essentials is a 6th Grade Exploratory class that meets daily for 30 days. This course focuses on understanding the basics of singing and reading music in order to allow music to be a medium for the development of healthy contributors, effective communicators, responsible citizens, creative/critical thinkers, and lifelong learners.

Course Outcomes:

- Understand the basics of vocal production and demonstrate proper beginning singing technique
- Understand music as it relates to history and culture (with a focus on American Folk Songs)
- Understand the basic elements of music theory (Music Terms and Symbols, Pitch, Rhythm, Dynamics, Tempo)
- Explore classical music and musicals

- Experiment with music composition technology

Reading Laboratory - Rotation class

This is a 6 week long class which meets three days a week. This class is self-directed and supplements the core reading program by providing continued instruction in: phonics, decoding text, reading skills, and comprehension skills.

Communications

This year-long course reviews, builds upon, and utilizes the skills obtained and adds to the framework for developing essential communication skills. As 6th graders, students can expect to use the LMCS district wide rubrics for writing and oral presentations throughout the year, which are utilized to teach students to evaluate successful communication performances. A balance between writing, listening and speaking helps to ensure learning for all.

Course Outcomes:

- Access, evaluate, and integrate information to communicate with others.
- Apply an understanding of common writing conventions.
- Demonstrate understanding and application of the writing process.
- Demonstrate various methods of writing development.
- Work successfully in both cooperative and individual roles.
- Utilize problem solving strategies to meet the needs of audience and purpose.
- Utilize technology as an effective tool for communication.
- Analyze oral and visual presentations for increased achievement.

Math

6th grade math is a year long course. In this course students will learn numerical expressions, fractions and decimals, area of shapes, rates and ratios, solving equations and inequalities, and an introduction to statistics.

Course Outcomes:

1. Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems. (6.RP.A)
2. Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions (6.NS.A)
3. Apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers. (6.NS.C)
4. Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions. (6.EE.A)
5. Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities. (6.EE.B)
6. Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables. (6.EE.C)

Physical Education

A variety of programs will be offered throughout the year with an emphasis on recreational games, competitive games, aerobic fitness and team sports. This is a pass/fail course with an emphasis on class participation, and attendance.

Course Outcomes:

- Understand the importance of physical activity to a healthy lifestyle.
- Understand the importance of following rules.
- Understand the importance of good sportsmanship.
- Understand criteria for a quality performance in various sports.
- Demonstrate respect for all individuals as they work toward personal wellness goals.

Science 6

Sixth grade science is a year long course where the students learn through discovery. The curriculum is phenomena-based and centers around student-led questioning, investigating, and problem solving, with teachers supporting students as learning facilitators. The science materials are NGSS-aligned.

Course Outcomes:

- Light & Matter: Why do we sometimes see different things when looking at the same object?
- Thermal Energy: How can containers keep things from warming up or cooling down?
- Plate Tectonics & Rock Cycling: What causes the earth's surface to change?
- Cells & Living Things: How do living things heal?
- Chemical Reactions & Matter: How can we make something new that was not there before?
- Claim, Evidence, & Reasoning

Reading

6th Grade Reading is a year long course driven by authentic texts that anchor core instruction around the following - analyzing complex text; skill mastery; problem solving; and critical thinking.

Course Outcomes:

- **Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text**
- **Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.**
- **Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.**
- **Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone**
- **Read on-level text, both silently and orally, at an appropriate rate with accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.**

Social Studies

6th grade social studies is a year long course. It centers around world geography and world cultures. It focuses on spatial understanding of the world and the location of continents and countries. Students will analyze regional, environmental, and cultural characteristics of places, how these influence the people who live there, and how they have changed over time.

Course Outcomes:

- Students will utilize and construct geographic representations to explain and analyze regional, environmental, and cultural characteristics.
- Students will analyze and explain the cultural, physical and environmental characteristics of places and regions and how this affects the life of the people who live there.
- Students will identify what makes up a culture and examine how people acquire their cultural beliefs and value systems.
- Students will analyze connections among historical events and developments in various geographic contents.

Band

6th Grade Band is an elective open to any student who is interested in fostering their musical growth. 6th Grade Band meets every other day for one class period. The course enables a student to develop musical talents through participation in honor bands, solo/ensemble recital, band lessons, and a variety of concerts for the public. The mission of the Lake Mills Community School sixth grade band program is to provide a quality instrumental music education for our students while encouraging opportunities for self expression through music in group and individual settings. The sixth grade band program is dedicated to fostering aesthetic growth as an essential part of a child's total education and to develop the highest possible level of musical achievement through a comprehensive, standards-based curriculum, in keeping with each child's needs and abilities.

Course Outcomes:

- Perform on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- Read and notate music
- Listen to, analyze, and describe music
- Evaluate music and music performances
- Understand relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
- Understand music in relation to history and culture
- Execute musical directions of the director and make appropriate notation in the music score
- Demonstrate proper technique including breath support, articulation, and tone quality
- Exhibit poise in performing publicly as a member of an ensemble

Chorus

6th Grade Chorus is an elective class that meets on alternating days during school hours with three required performances throughout the year. The primary focus of 6th Grade Chorus is to instill in students the joy of participating in vocal music. 6th Grade Chorus provides opportunities for self-expression and is a medium for the development of healthy contributors, effective communicators, responsible citizens, creative/critical thinkers, and lifelong learners through personal accomplishments and accountability within a group setting. Students who participate in chorus are eligible to audition for and perform in festivals sponsored by the Iowa Choral Directors' Association.

Course Outcomes:

- Sing with musicality a wide variety of vocal music styles
- Understand music as it relates to history and culture
- Analyze and evaluate music and music performances
- Learn choral music through listening and reading music (two-part singing)
- Increase an understanding of musical elements (rhythm, melody, harmony, form, expressive elements, and style) through vocal music
- Execute musical directions of the chorus director and make appropriate notation in the music score
- Demonstrate proper vocal technique including breath support, articulation, and tone quality
- Demonstrate choral singing techniques including blend, balance, phrasing, and intonation
- Exhibit poise in performing publicly as a member of a choral ensemble

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR 7TH GRADE

Reading 7 - 30 Day Rotation Class

Reading 7 is a 30 day rotation class taught once per school year. Students are expected to read grade appropriate texts emphasizing skills and practices to help become a successful reader.

Course Outcomes:

- Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. (RL.7.1 & RI.7.1)
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text. (RL.7.2 & RI.7.2)

FACS Exploratory - 30 Day Rotation Class

Family and Consumer Science (FACS) gives students a basic understanding of practical life skills, including cooking exploration and nutrition basics. Students will focus on using safe kitchen skills to prepare foods over the course of the class. Students will prepare Julius, biscuit pizzas, homemade pretzels, chocolate chip cookies, sugar cookies plus decorating with frosting, and pie including pie crust pinwheels and homemade Oreo fluff in a pie shell. Students will be learning about nutrition including why fruits and vegetables are so important to the body and creating a slide presentation about a specific fruit or vegetable.

Agricultural Education 7 - 30 Day Rotation Class

This course is a six week rotational class where students will learn about leadership, personal growth, career success, working in an organization and opportunities within FFA. Animal science, horticulture and agriculture careers are also covered in this class. Students will participate in class activities and discussions to enhance their understanding of these concepts.

Course Outcomes:

- Define leadership and recognize characteristics of being a leader
- Describe ways to facilitate personal growth
- Identify strategies for successful careers
- Compare three philosophies of leadership
- Recognize how FFA has changed and recognize opportunities for being involved in FFA
- Describe the importance of beliefs and values in an organization such as the FFA
- Identify careers in animal science
- Explain why it is important to handle livestock responsibly
- Identify careers in horticulture

Art 7 - 30 Day Rotation Class

Art 7 is based on the premise that all students can and should become actively involved with experiences in the visual arts that include creating, presenting, responding to, and connecting to art. Students will experience several different art styles, use several different art media, and learn art terms and techniques throughout this course.

Course Outcomes:

- Generate and develop artistic ideas to refine and complete artwork.
- Select artistic works for presentation.
- Perceive and evaluate the intent of artistic works.

- Relate to art through personal experiences and cultural understandings.

Financial Literacy 7 - 30 Day Rotation Class

Financial Literacy 7 is an exploratory class in the Business program. Students will understand the importance of giving, saving, and spending wisely. A hands-on investing simulation gives students the opportunity to explore and learn about real-world forms of investing. Two main outcomes determine the layout of the class: students will learn to count back change accurately, and essential financial concepts will be assessed using an online program titled EverFi Financial Literacy.

Industrial Technology - 30 Day Rotation Class

This course is an exploratory class in the Industrial Technology Program. Students will learn and develop basic skills in mechanical drafting including measuring. Students will also experience designing, building and racing their own CO2-powered dragster. This hands-on project requires problem-solving skills and tool safety.

Course Outcomes:

- Understand the importance of planning.
- Understand the importance of safety.
- Understand the operation of basic tools and machinery in making a project.

Unit Titles with Outcomes:

- Draw and measure objects on paper.
- Design a project.
- Practice safe use of tools and machines.

Project Citizen - Rotation Class

Project Citizen is a rotation class that meets 15 days at a time, and meets once per quarter. where students work in teams to plan and implement solutions to real world problems specifically impacting our school and community.

Health 7 - Rotation Class

Health 7 is a rotation course that will guide students through the many dimensions of wellness. Students will develop skills needed in confronting difficult situations; understand health prevention and promotion techniques that will establish a solid personal health education; and become health literate in making positive and healthy decisions.

Technology 7 - Rotation Class

Technology 7 is a rotation course that meets for appx. 45 days (one quarter). This course focuses on Digital Citizenship as well as provides a chance for students to learn how to design, develop, create, and/or test digital technology products. They will work both individually and collaboratively to create media-rich products and display, publish, or perform them for a variety of audiences. Some of the programs utilized include: Google Docs, Google Drawing, WeVideo.com, Google Slides, etc..

Communications

This year-long course reviews, builds upon, and utilizes the skills obtained to develop essential communication skills. The Iowa Core standards of reading and writing are the framework for the

expansion of personal vocabulary and further development of effective analysis of literature. Various forms of fiction/ nonfiction expose students to real world and classical text, in-turn helping students achieve identified outcomes in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing.

Course Outcomes/Essential Standards:

- Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.
- Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.

Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra is a year-long course. This course focuses on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing integers and rational numbers, comparing ratios, proportions, and percents, finding the area, surface area, and volume of shapes, and an introduction to probability and statistics. In addition the course focuses on transformations, angles, writing equations, the Pythagorean Theorem, and exponents.

Course Outcomes:

1. Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems. (7.RP.A)
2. Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers. (7.NS.A)
3. Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions. (7.EE.A)
4. Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations. (7.EE.B)
5. Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations. (8.EE.B)
6. Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations. (8.EE.C)
7. Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software. (8.G.A)
8. Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem. (8.G.B)

Core Math 7

Core Math 7 is a year-long course. This course focuses on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing integers and rational numbers, comparing ratios, proportions, and percents, finding the area, surface area, and volume of shapes, and an introduction to probability and statistics.

Course Outcomes:

- Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems

- Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers
- Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations
- Use random sampling to draw inferences about a population
- Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability

Extended Core Math 7

Extended Core Math 7 is a year-long course. This course focuses on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing integers and rational numbers, comparing ratios, proportions, and percents, and constructing drawings of angles and shapes.

Course Outcomes:

1. Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems (7.RP.1-3)
2. Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers (7.NS.1-3)
3. Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions (7.EE.1-2)
4. Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations (7.EE.3-4)

Physical Education

A variety of programs will be offered throughout the year with an emphasis on recreational games, competitive games, aerobic fitness and team sports. This is a pass/fail course with an emphasis on class participation, and attendance.

Course Outcomes:

- Understand the importance of physical activity to a healthy lifestyle.
- Understand the importance of following rules.
- Understand the importance of good sportsmanship.
- Understand criteria for a quality performance in various sports.
- Demonstrate respect for all individuals as they work toward personal wellness goals.

Science 7

Seventh grade science is a year long course where the students learn through discovery. The curriculum is phenomena-based and centers around student-led questioning, investigating, and problem solving, with teachers supporting students as learning facilitators. The science materials are NGSS-aligned.

Course Outcomes:

- Metabolic Reactions: How do things inside our bodies work together to make us feel the way we do?
- Matter Cycling & Photosynthesis: Where does food come from and where does it go to next?
- Ecosystem Dynamics: How does changing an ecosystem affect what lives there?
- Earth in Space: How are we connected to the patterns we see in the sky and space?
- Genetics: Why are living things different from one another?

Contemporary Global Issues - Social Studies 7

Seventh grade provides a global perspective on contemporary issues and worldwide interdependence, and is designed to create young, educated, citizen-leaders prepared to face 21st century global issues. Students will examine challenges facing the world community, including hunger, population, conflict, global environmental challenges, human rights, poverty, energy scarcity, global health, education, immigration, globalization, and other political, economic, social, and ecological concerns. The content builds students' understanding of the world and their place within it. Additionally, this will equip students with the necessary skills to take informed action in resolving global dilemmas. The interconnected world we live in today requires that Iowa students be well-educated about worldwide issues to cultivate diplomacy, effective citizenship, and global competitiveness.

Course Outcomes:

- Identify social, political and economic factors that can influence our thoughts and behavior.
- Examine what causes inequalities and how they exist within a society.
- Examine the origins, purposes, and impact of laws, treaties, and international agreements.
- Explain and evaluate how economic decisions affect the wellbeing of individuals, businesses, and society.
- Analyze connections among historical events and developments in contemporary global issues.
- Explain multiple causes and effects of various contemporary global events and developments.

7/8 Band

Middle School Band is an elective class open to all students interested in furthering their instrumental music abilities. MS Band is a one credit class that meets regularly during the school day with quarterly performance requirements. The purpose of the organization is to broaden the student's perspective of music through a wide variety of musical literature and instrumental music experiences. Students are able to develop their musical talents through experiences in Concert Band, Winter Guard, Drumline, Honor Bands, Jazz Band, and individual/group lessons. Middle School Band provides opportunities for self-expression and is a medium for the development of healthy contributors, effective communicators, responsible citizens, creative/critical thinkers, and lifelong learners through personal accomplishments and accountability within a group setting.

Course Outcomes:

- Perform on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
- Read and Notate Music
- Listen to, analyze, and describe musical performances.
- Evaluate music and music performances.
- Understand relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
- Understand music in relation to history and culture
- Demonstrate proper instrumental technique (tone, intonation, posture, musicality)

7/8 Chorus

7/8 Chorus is an elective class that meets on alternating days during school hours with three required performances throughout the year. This course is open to all students, regardless of prior experience. The primary focus of this ensemble is to instill in students the joy of participating in vocal music while navigating the changing voice. 7/8 Chorus provides opportunities for self-expression and is a medium for the development of healthy contributors, effective communicators, responsible citizens, creative/critical thinkers, and lifelong learners through personal accomplishments and accountability

within a group setting. Students who participate in chorus are eligible to audition for and perform in festivals sponsored by the Iowa Choral Directors' Association and the American Choral Directors' Association.

Course Outcomes:

- Sing with musicality a wide variety of vocal music styles
- Understand music as it relates to history and culture
- Analyze and evaluate music and music performances
- Learn choral music through listening and reading music (three-part singing)
- Increase an understanding of musical elements (rhythm, melody, harmony, form, expressive elements, and style) through vocal music
- Execute musical directions of the chorus director and make appropriate notation in the music score
- Demonstrate proper vocal technique including breath support, articulation, and tone quality
- Demonstrate choral singing techniques including blend, balance, phrasing, and intonation
- Exhibit poise in performing publicly as a member of a choral ensemble

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR 8TH GRADE

Music 8 - Rotation Class

This pass/fail course meets every other day for a six week rotation. The semi-self paced class covers music theory and piano basics. This is a perfect introduction to piano and music for those who have little to no experience or need a review of the very basics. Students will learn to play basic rhythms, how to read music, find notes on the piano and other essentials so students can prepare a solo to play by the end of the rotation.

Agricultural Education 8 - Rotation Class

This course is a six week rotational class where students will be introduced to the first six weeks of the Introduction to Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources curriculum. Students will use mathematics, science, writing and reading in learning about how agriculture has changed over the years. Students will become familiar with Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects and why they are important. They will also be introduced to the opportunities of FFA and things they can participate in as a middle school and high school member if they choose to do so.

Course Outcomes:

- Determine our basic needs as humans
- Research top commodities produced in the U.S.
- Explore education and personal growth opportunities through FFA
- Complete components of Career Development Events (CDEs)
- Investigate career opportunities available in agriculture
- Develop a SAE implementation plan
- Work collaboratively to complete team building challenges
- Use proper parliamentary procedures to voice an opinion
- Demonstrate how to make a main motion and amendment

Technology 8 - Rotation Class

This course is approximately 22 days in length and meets every other day during one quarter. We will discuss what it means to be a digital citizen and making positive choices when utilizing technology. The remainder of the days are spent learning about spreadsheets and budgets.

STEM 8/Robotics - Rotation Class

Students will participate in a rotation class approximately 30 days long (over the course of one quarter) learning about 3D printing and robotics. Students will create a project to be 3D printed as well as receive an introduction to the VEX IQ robotics curriculum. Students will build a few different robots as well as learn how to code them to complete various challenges.

Weight Training 8-12 - Rotation Class

This is a first hour rotation course that lasts for 30 days and is a highly individualized course, only students that are interested in improving strength and conditioning should enroll in this course. Enrollment will be limited to twenty students.

Course Outcomes: :

- Explore components for a personal fitness plan.
- Explore components for a personal weight training program.
- Design and implement a personal fitness plan.

- Design and implement a personal weight training program

Industrial Technology - Rotation Class

This course is an exploratory class in the Industrial Technology Program. Students will learn and develop basic skills in mechanical drafting including measuring. Also, students will experience a hands-on woods project that requires problem-solving skills and tool safety.

Course Outcomes:

- Understand the importance of planning (measure twice, cut once).
- Understand the importance of safety.
- Understand the operation of basic machinery in making a project.

Unit Titles with Outcomes:

- Technology in Action
- Identify pictorial drawings.
- Design a project.
- Figure material costs.
- Practice safety.
- Use of tools and machines.

Spanish 8 - Rotation Class

This is a pass/fail 6 week rotation class that meets once in the second semester. The course is designed to introduce students to learning another language. We focus on the seven most used verbs in any language in questions and responses. These are enforced with online programs that students can work at their own pace as well as whole group instruction and practice.

Course Outcomes:

- Identify the seven most common verbs.
- Use these verbs to ask and answer common questions
- Increase conversational skills.
- Work at own pace on Duolingo to gain vocabulary
- Practice asking and answering unscripted questions.

Reading 8 - Rotation Class

Reading 8 is a six week rotation class, with Character and Leadership Development and QUEST, taught during both 1st and 2nd semester. As a pass/fail course, students are expected to read grade appropriate texts emphasizing skills and practices to help become a successful reader.

8th Grade Character and Leadership Development

Character and Leadership Development is a six week course in rotation with QUEST and Reading 8. The purpose of this course is for you to better understand the importance of your own character, to work on developing that character and leadership traits. We will explore such traits as attitude, perseverance, responsibility, and integrity.

Course Outcomes:

- Identify and discuss effective leadership qualities
- Examine one's own ideas and feelings in relation to those of others.

- Summarize the roles and responsibilities citizens have in different communities within the school, locality, state, and nation
- Recognize the ongoing benefits of self-analysis
- Evaluate one's own decisions and actions in terms of short- and long-term consequences
- Analyze and understand the dynamic relationship between the leader and the follower

QUEST - Rotation class

QUEST is a two six week course in rotation with Character and Leadership Development and Reading 8. Quest focuses on career and course alignment with post secondary goals, life skills and resiliency development.

Units of Study:

- My Academic Plan - 4 Year planning
- Post-Secondary options and planning
- Life skills and resiliency development

US History/Civics

This class is integrated with the 8th Grade Communications class. The first three quarters we will be working on answering the following questions: - What is civics, politics and government? - What are the foundations of the American political system? - How does the government established by the Constitution embody the purpose, values and principles of American democracy? - What are the roles of the citizens in America? Students will analyze the powers and civic responsibilities of citizens and examine the origins, functions, and structure of the U.S. government. Content will include multiple historical eras and the changing perspectives in America's past, as well as connections between historical events. This content builds student skills in historical thinking, understanding change, and recognizing patterns in our past as a foundation for active citizenship. As a result of this course, students will gain an understanding of historical events and perspectives and analyze individual rights, democratic principles, and government institutions.

Course Outcomes:

- Demonstrate an understanding of civic life, politics and government.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the foundations of the American political system.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how government, established by the Constitution, embodies the purposes, values, and principles of American democracy.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship the US has with other nations and its involvement in world affairs.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the roles of the citizen of American democracy.

Algebra 1

Algebra I is arithmetic which uses symbols such as x and y . Using symbols in this way makes it easier to study number patterns and solve problems. Algebra I builds on skills which have already been learned, helps develop new skills, and places an emphasis on problem solving. The three main elements of Algebra I are equations, graphing, and translating words into symbols.

Course Outcomes:

- Interpret the structure of expressions
- Perform arithmetic operations on polynomials
- Create equations that describe numbers or relationships

- Understand solving equations as a process of reasoning and explain the reasoning
- Solve equations and inequalities in one variable
- Represent and solve equations and inequalities graphically
- Understand the concept of a function and use function notation
- Interpret functions that arise in applications in terms of the context
- Interpret linear models

Core Math 8

Core Math 8 is the course that needs to be taken before Algebra I. The course is essentially a pre-algebra course and covers several topics including simple equations, transformations, area, volume, and graphing. Core Math 8 typically follows Core Math 7.

Course Outcomes:

- Work with radicals and integer exponents
- Understand the connections between proportion relationships, lines, and linear equations
- Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations
- Define, evaluate, and compare functions
- Use functions to model relationships between quantities
- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem

Extended Core Math 8

Extended Core Math 8 is the course that needs to be taken before Extended Algebra. The course is essentially a pre-algebra course and covers several topics including simple equations, transformations, area, volume, and graphing. Extended Core Math 8 typically follows Extended Core Math 7.

Course Outcomes:

- Work with radicals and integer exponents
- Understand the connections between proportion relationships, lines, and linear equations
- Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations
- Define, evaluate, and compare functions
- Use functions to model relationships between quantities
- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem

Communications

This 8th grade course balances reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing to prepare students for both the culminating DC trip and their entry into high school. The Iowa Core standards of reading and writing are the framework for the expansion of personal vocabulary and further development of effective analysis of literature.

Course Outcomes/Essential Standards:

- Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.
- Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.

Physical Education

A variety of programs will be offered throughout the year with an emphasis on recreational games, competitive games, aerobic fitness and team sports. This is a pass/fail course with an emphasis on class participation, and attendance.

Course Outcomes:

- Understand the importance of physical activity to a healthy lifestyle.
- Understand the importance of following rules.
- Understand the importance of good sportsmanship.
- Understand criteria for a quality performance in various sports.
- Demonstrate respect for all individuals as they work toward personal wellness goals.

7/8 Band

Middle School Band is an elective class open to all students interested in furthering their instrumental music abilities. MS Band is a one credit class that meets regularly during the school day with quarterly performance requirements. The purpose of the organization is to broaden the student's perspective of music through a wide variety of musical literature and instrumental music experiences. Students are able to develop their musical talents through experiences in Concert Band, Winter Guard, Drumline, Honor Bands, and individual/group lessons. Middle School Band provides opportunities for self-expression and is a medium for the development of healthy contributors, effective communicators, responsible citizens, creative/critical thinkers, and lifelong learners through personal accomplishments and accountability within a group setting.

Course Outcomes:

- Perform on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
- Read and Notate Music
- Listen to, analyze, and describe musical performances.
- Evaluate music and music performances.
- Understand relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
- Understand music in relation to history and culture
- Demonstrate proper instrumental technique (tone, intonation, posture, musicality)

7/8 Chorus

7/8 Chorus is an elective class that meets on alternating days during school hours with three required performances throughout the year. This course is open to all students, regardless of prior experience. The primary focus of this ensemble is to instill in students the joy of participating in vocal music while navigating the changing voice. 7/8 Chorus provides opportunities for self-expression and is a medium for the development of healthy contributors, effective communicators, responsible citizens, creative/critical thinkers, and lifelong learners through personal accomplishments and accountability within a group setting. Students who participate in chorus are eligible to audition for and perform in festivals sponsored by the Iowa Choral Directors' Association and the American Choral Directors' Association.

Course Outcomes:

- Sing with musicality a wide variety of vocal music styles
- Understand music as it relates to history and culture
- Analyze and evaluate music and music performances
- Learn choral music through listening and reading music (three-part singing)
- Increase an understanding of musical elements (rhythm, melody, harmony, form, expressive elements, and style) through vocal music
- Execute musical directions of the chorus director and make appropriate notation in the music score
- Demonstrate proper vocal technique including breath support, articulation, and tone quality
- Demonstrate choral singing techniques including blend, balance, phrasing, and intonation
- Exhibit poise in performing publicly as a member of a choral ensemble

Art 8-Visual Experience (one semester)

8th grade students may take Visual Experience their 8th grade year if there are openings. Visual Experience is an introductory art class that explores multiple types of art and art mediums including drawing, painting, sculpture, and art history. This course is for those with a broad interest in art or wanting to explore many types of art. A sketchbook is required.

Course Outcomes:

- Students will create artistic investigations to shape and continually develop their artistic endeavors.
- Students will present an exhibition by analyzing and selecting artifacts and works of art.
- Students will respond to art and understand the influences of visual imagery.
- Students will connect and develop personal responses to their art and gain knowledge of art history.

Science 8

Eighth grade science is a year long course that looks at the world. From the microscopic atoms and elements up to looking at the world as a whole. Emphasis is continuously put on how the Earth is changing, what is changing it, why it is changing, and how students themselves can prevent the harmful changes and magnify the positive changes.

Course Outcomes:

- Forces and Interactions - Students will describe how forces cause changes in motion for objects.
- Energy - Students will understand the ways that different types of energies are transferred from one object to another.
- Waves - Students will explain the relationship between wave properties and amount of energy.
- Biological Evolution - Students will understand that species change overtime to fit their environment.
- Earth's Systems - Students will explain the impact of different amounts of water in the atmosphere.
- Earth and Human Activity - Students will explain ways humans change their environment.