



# Middle School

## Course Description Guide

### 2024-2025

**LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Linden, New Jersey**

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# LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

### MYLES J. MCMANUS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal.....	Michael Walters	486-7751
Vice Principal.....	Angela Paternostro	486-7751

### JOSEPH E. SOEHL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal.....	Gwendolyn Long	486-0550
Vice Principal.....	Edith Duckett	486-0550

## DISTRICT PERSONNEL

Altobelli, Michele	Special Education, Elementary Supervisor	587-3285
Andersen, Jason	Maintenance, Elementary Supervisor	862-0950
Cada, Berzelius	Chief Technology Officer	587-3263
Devaney, Ryan	Student Services, Supervisor	486-2800
Dougherty, Jennifer	Pre-Kindergarten Program, Supervisor	486-2800
Firestone, Michael	Health & Safety / Physical Education / Athletics, Director	486-7085
Frankonis, Nicole	Pre-Kindergarten, Supervisor	486-2800
Grasso, Gregory	Social Studies, Supervisor	486-2800
Kolibas, Christopher	Special Education, Secondary Supervisor	486-5432
Kondratowicz, Dariusz	Science, Data, and Assessment, Supervisor	486-2800
Lorenzetti, Matthew	Fine and Performing Arts / Gifted and Talented, Supervisor	486-2800
Migueluez, Tania	World Languages	486-2800
Molinaro, Richard	Mathematics, Director	486-2800
Monaco, Angelo	Before School/After School Programs, Supervisor	486-2800
Orelien, Danie	Multilingual Learners and World Languages, Director	486-2800
Ramirez, Rolando	Maintenance, Secondary Supervisor	862-0950
Scaldino, Joseph	Instructional Technology and Career and Technical Education, Supervisor	587-3263
Smith, Jennifer	Elementary Language Arts & Early Childhood, Director	486-2800
Stefanick, Marie, Ed.D	Special Education, Director	587-3285
Tartivita, Patricia, Ed.D	Secondary Language Arts, Supervisor	486-2800
TBD	Human Resources Manager	486-2800
Zahir, Kcyronne	Alternative School, Director	486-2800

MIDDLE SCHOOLS  
 COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDES  
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## **Linden Public Schools**

### **Vision Statement**

The Linden Public School District is committed to developing respect for diversity, excellence in education, and a commitment to service, in order to promote global citizenship and ensure personal success for all students

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Linden Public School District is to promote distinction through the infinite resource that is Linden's diversity, combined with our profound commitment to instructional excellence, so that each and every student achieves their maximum potential in an engaging, inspiring, and challenging learning environment.

### **Public Notice of Non-Discrimination**

If any student or staff member feels that they have experienced discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, gender, ancestry, national origin, social or economic status, sexual orientation or disability, contact:

Affirmative Action Officer

Mr. Kevin Thurston

Email: [kthurston@lindenps.org](mailto:kthurston@lindenps.org) or telephone at 908-486-5432 ext. 8307

504 Officer & District Anti-Bullying Coordinator

Mr. Ryan Devaney

Email: [rdevaney@lindenps.org](mailto:rdevaney@lindenps.org) or telephone at 908-486-2800 ext. 8025

Title IX Coordinator

Mr. Michael Firestone

Email: [mfirestone@lindenps.org](mailto:mfirestone@lindenps.org) or telephone: 908-486-7085.

Director of Special Education

Dr. Marie Stefanick

Email: [mstefanick@lindenps.org](mailto:mstefanick@lindenps.org) or telephone: 908-587-3285

## Genesis (Student Information System- SIS)

Linden Public Schools utilize a web-based student data system called Genesis, which makes student information accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Genesis can be used by parents to view student attendance, scheduling, conduct, student progress, and report cards. Parent access to Genesis is private and password protected. It can be obtained by submitting a completed Genesis Access Form with photo ID to the student's school office for approval. This is an excellent way for parents to access important information about a student's academic record and standing which will enable parents/guardians to stay well informed about student progress.

## Counseling Services

School Counselors and School Social Workers are available to assist students with navigating the exciting and challenging transitional years of middle school. It is the time when students begin to become interested in who they are and what the future holds for them. Middle school counselors have an impact on these years by implementing a comprehensive and data driven school counseling program that collaborates with school staff, parents, and the community to create a safe and respectful learning environment. Middle school counselors enhance the learning process and promote academic, career, and social/emotional development. The middle school counseling program is essential for students to acquire personal growth, learn positive social skills and values, discover, set future career goals, and start to understand their full academic potential. Counselors provide individual and group counseling in all aspects of students' lives and support each students' unique needs. Every student will maintain the same counselor for their three years of middle school.

## Student Assistance Counselor

This counselor provides a broad spectrum of services throughout the district, such as counseling, crisis intervention, and referrals related to substance abuse.

## School Counselors / School Social Workers / Student Assistance Counselor

McManus Middle School.....486-7751		Soehl Middle School.....486-0550	
Patricia Klingert, School Counselor	Ext. 8728	Laura Pellettiere, School Counselor	Ext. 8777
Terri Todd, School Counselor	Ext. 8727	Natalie Perez-Sudah, School Counselor	Ext. 8778
Kevin Findlay, Social Worker	Ext. 8770	Gwen Baran, Social Worker	Ext. 8769
Mary Petty, Social Worker	Ext. 8718	Kevin Findlay, Social Worker	Ext. 8770
Valencia Henry, Anti-Bullying Specialist	Ext. 8726	Jessica DeFelice, Anti-Bullying Specialist	Ext. 8768
TBD, Student Assistance Counselor	Ext. 8767	TBD, Student Assistance Counselor	Ext. 8767

## Scheduling Procedures

Any inquiries regarding scheduling should first be directed to the student's school counselor. Students' personalities and pursuits differ, and as such, programs must also differ. The counseling staff is available to discuss a student's program as often as necessary.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to call the school for conferences when assistance is needed. Parents/guardians are expected to assist in the development of a curriculum plan. Students' performance and progress should be positively monitored. School counselors are resources to both students and parents/guardians in the development and monitoring of educational programs and are available for consultation. Additionally, counselors conduct individual and group sessions to help students with the planning process as well as assisting in personal, social, and academic matters that may arise. Students with significant difficulty in reading, mathematics, and writing may receive additional services, upon the recommendation and/or the evaluation and approval of Special Services. Parents or students may initiate this service by contacting the appropriate school counselor or Child Study Team case manager. In addition, tutoring is also available for students.

Eighth grade students and parents will be given the opportunity to attend a large group informational session during the school day and evening. Sixth and seventh grade students will attend small group information sessions designed to outline course selection. Once the large group sessions have been conducted, school counselors open both the Student and Parent Genesis portals. All scheduling requests will be done using our Genesis Student Information System. Counselors will be available, as needed, to answer any questions

and assist with the online Genesis Portal for scheduling. To ensure sufficient time for the course selection process, it is imperative that students select their courses during their assigned open enrollment period. All students will be issued a copy of their next year course requests for parents to review, sign and return to the appropriate counselor. Student schedules will be made available in the Genesis Parent Module prior to the beginning of the school year.

Changing a student's schedule once classes have started is strongly discouraged, as it is disruptive to the learning and teaching process. Counselors and administrators will review requests for schedule changes on a case-by-case basis after the school year has begun.

## **Intervention and Referral Services**

The Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) committee is a multidisciplinary school-based committee. I&RS is a primary way to support teacher and student needs in the general education environment. The committee plans and delivers educational, social, health, emotional and behavioral interventions for students, which may result in referrals to additional school and community resources, such as counseling, tutoring, and/or a Child Study Team referral. The collaborative approach utilized during the I&RS process allows for an opportunity to maximize the chances for student success.

## **Special Education**

Classified students are placed in educational settings that are the least restrictive, while still accommodating their disability. Classified students may be placed in self-contained classes geared to their disability (e.g., learning/language disabled, emotional regulation impairment, multiple disability), in resource rooms, or in regular classes with teacher or paraprofessional support. Special education classes use the same curriculum as the regular education classes, but it is modified and adapted to the circumstances of each student.

The Child Study Team conducts educational assessments through a Social Worker, School Psychologist, and a Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant (LDTC) who evaluate and case manage students that qualify for special education and/or related services.

Special Education may consist of self-contained classes, resource center instruction, inclusion instruction and full mainstream instruction with monitoring. At times, students may require alternative Special Education placements outside of Linden in accordance with a student's Individualized Education Plan.

Any parent or staff member can make a direct referral recommendation on a student for special education services by sending a letter to the Director of Special Education.

## **Related Special Education Services**

- **Speech** - Speech and Language Specialist address a child's language delays or language disorders.
- **Occupational Therapy** - An occupational therapist is a specialist trained to facilitate development and correction of fine motor skills.
- **Adapted Physical Education** - Alternative instruction and skill requirements due to medical, physical or behavioral needs
- **Physical Therapy** - A physical therapist is a specialist trained to enhance the development and correction of gross motor skills.
- **Counseling** - Certified Social Workers provide counseling to special education classified students who are experiencing severe emotional problems which impede their learning process. Role playing, cognitive and behavioral interventions and play therapy are used as methods of addressing their needs.

## Title I Program

Students who score significantly below proficiency level on state tests will be identified for academic support services. This targeted assistance and extra support may include a wide range of services including assistance in their Language Arts and Mathematics classes and school tutoring. In addition, students needing extra assistance will have the opportunity to receive support during the school day via an additional support teacher pushing into the Language Arts A and Mathematics A classes three times per week for a minimum of 90 minutes.

Identification Process: In addition to teacher recommendation, the following criteria should also be considered when admitted students into the Language Arts and/or Mathematics support classes:

### Language Arts

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade students who:**

- obtain a final report card average score of 'D' or below on the Fifth Grade Language Arts component in the Third Trimester, **or**
- obtain a standardized Grade 5 assessment score below the 70th percentile, **or**
- are recommended by a teacher/principal, **or**
- score below grade level according to the Edmentum Assessment

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade students who:**

- have report card score below 69 in Language Arts 6, **or**
- obtain a standardized Grade 6 assessment score below the 70th percentile, **or**
- are recommended by a teacher/principal, **or**
- score below grade level according to the Edmentum Assessment

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade students who:**

- have report card score below 69 in Language Arts 7, **or**
- obtain a standardized Grade 7 assessment score below the 70th percentile, **or**
- are recommended by a teacher/principal, **or**
- score below grade level according to the Edmentum Assessment

### Mathematics

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade students who:**

- obtain a final report card average score of 'D' or below on the Mathematics components of the 5th Grade Report Card in the Third Trimester, **or**
- are recommended by a teacher/principal
- score below grade level according to the Edmentum Assessment

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade students who:**

- have report card score below 69 in Mathematics 6, **or**
- obtain a standardized Grade 6 assessment score below the 70th percentile, **or**
- are recommended by a teacher/principal
- score below grade level according to the Edmentum Assessment

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade students who:**

- have report card score below 69 in Mathematics 7, **or**
- obtain a standardized Grade 7 assessment score below the 70th percentile, **or**
- are recommended by a teacher/principal
- score below grade level according to the Edmentum Assessment

## **District Standardized Testing New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA)**

### **NJSLA-English Language Arts (ELA), NJSLA- MATH**

Students in grades 6-8 are required to take the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA). The NJSLA assesses English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy and Mathematics and include the following components.

**Performance Task in ELA/Literacy and Mathematics.** All students will take this summative test toward the end of the school year to demonstrate their knowledge.

- In ELA/Literacy, this will involve analyzing literature and a narrative writing task. Students will read texts and write several pieces to demonstrate they can read and understand sufficiently complex texts independently; write effectively when using and analyzing sources; and build and communicate knowledge by integrating, comparing, and synthesizing ideas.
- In Mathematics, students will be asked to solve problems involving the key knowledge and skills for their grade level (as identified by the NJSLS), express mathematical reasoning and construct a mathematical argument, and apply concepts to solve model real-world problems.

### **NJSLA-Science**

Students in Grade 8 are required to take **New Jersey Student Learning Assessment – Science (NJSLA-S)**. This assessment is a comprehensive science assessment aligned to the state’s new Science Standards. 2019 administration will be considered a baseline year. The administration will be computer-based through the PEARSON platform.

### **ACCESS Testing for English Language Learners**

Students who are Limited English Language Learners (ELLs) also take the ACCESS (Accessing Comprehension and Communication in English State to State for English Language Learners) test for ELLs.

## **Positive Behavior Support in Schools (PBSIS) / Live Schools**

Myles J. McManus and Joseph E. Soehl Middle Schools are excited to be part of an initiative that is a systems approach to creating a positive school climate that fosters pro-social student behavior. As part of the program, school wide expectations have been outlined, a school wide recognition system has been established and positive student behavior is encouraged and supported.

## **21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center**

The 21st Century Community Learning Center is an after-school program that supplements the education of Joseph E. Soehl Middle School students in grades six through eight. The program operates from 2:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. throughout the academic year. It offers an opportunity for students and their families to continue to learn new skills and discover their abilities after the regular school day has ended. Tutorial services and enrichment activities are designed to help students meet local and state academic standards.

In addition, the 21st Century program provides youth development activities such as character education, drug and violence prevention, technology education, service learning, art, music, and physical education enrichment. Family nights, field trips, assemblies, and parenting workshops are scheduled throughout the year.

The 21st Century Community Learning Center collaborates with a diverse group of community partners such as Linden Public Library, Linden Police Department, Linden Fire Department, Young Audiences, Liberty Science Center, and Mad Science. The after-school program has a positive impact on our children through an important transitional stage and ultimately helps them to become productive citizens.

## **Student Promotion/Retention**

The Board recognizes that personal, social, physical and educational growth of children will vary and that they should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their needs at the various stages of their growth.

At the beginning of each school year, parents/guardians and pupils shall be informed regarding promotion requirements and proficiencies for the academic year. Documentation of the notification shall be maintained. Parents/guardians and pupils shall be notified at appropriate times during the school year of progress in meeting promotion and remediation standards. Report cards will be issued four times during the school year. Parents/guardians of pupils who are in danger of failing for the marking period shall receive interim reports midway in the marking period.

Pupil placement for Grades 6 through 8 will be determined by evaluating pupil performance and achievement in relation to the district goals and the individual's physical, emotional, intellectual, and social maturity, as well as chronological age. Those pupils who have demonstrated an acceptable level of proficiency in basic skills and appropriate mastery of district goals are to be promoted to the next grade.

Listed on the next page is a table outlining the conditions by which students are retained or promoted. The table is followed by further details regarding procedures.

Language Arts	Math	Science	Social Studies	*Non-Core	End of School Result	End of Summer Results	School
Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail		Retention – no summer school option		
Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass		Retention – no summer school option		
Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail		Retention – no summer school option		
Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail		Retention – no summer school option		
Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail		Retention – no summer school option		
Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail	Principal’s decision retention or summer school		
Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass		Summer School (for credit) Lang Arts & Math	If fail both, retention, if fail one, principal’s decision	
Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass		Summer School (for credit) Lang Arts	If fail, principal’s decision	
Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass		Summer School (for credit) Math	If fail, principal’s decision	
Fail	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Principal’s decision retention or summer school		
Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Principal’s decision retention or summer school		
Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	Principal’s decision retention or summer school		
Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Principal’s decision retention or summer school		
Fail	Pass	Fail	Pass		Summer School (for credit)	If fail, principal’s decision	
Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail		Summer School (for credit)	If fail, principal’s decision	
Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail		Summer School (for credit)	If fail, principal’s decision	
Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass		Summer School (for credit)	If fail, principal’s decision	
Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Principal’s decision retention or summer school	If fail, principal’s decision	

\*Non Core Subjects – World Language, Health, Physical Education, and Electives

Students who fail three core subjects (Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies) will not be eligible to attend summer school and will be retained. Students who fail Language Arts and/or Math will be required to pass a Linden Board of Education-endorsed Summer School Program for credit (**if offered**) in order to be promoted to the next grade. Students who fail Language Arts or Math and Social Studies or Science will be required to attend a Linden Board of Education endorsed Summer School Program (**if offered**) for credit in Math or Language Arts. Students failing Science and/or Social Studies will be required to attend a Linden Board of Education endorsed summer school program (**if offered**) for credit. Students failing any two core subjects (Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies) along with non-core subjects (Foreign Language, Health, Physical Education, Rotation Course) will result in the Principal’s decision for retention or summer school. Students will not be permitted to make up more than two courses in summer school. Students who fail summer school or subsequently choose not to attend summer school for any reason will, in nearly all cases, be retained subject to a final review by the building Principal. (See Matrix)

At the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period, the principal or designated guidance counselor shall ascertain those pupils who may be in danger of being retained. The parents/guardians shall be invited to a meeting with the principal and/or other appropriate staff members designated to seek parental opinion concerning any action to bolster pupil progress and to provide substantial consideration of the pupil.

Parents shall be notified in writing of the student’s retention and their rights of appeal concerning the school’s decision to retain the pupil. The appeal process follows the standard procedure. One can appeal to the principal, then the superintendent, and finally the Linden Board of Education. Requests for appeal shall be in writing, and the principal shall assist the parents in developing this request, if necessary. Eighth-grade students who fail any core academic subjects, or Health, Physical Education or a Foreign Language will not be permitted to participate in graduation exercises.

## Specialized Programs

### Honors Program

McManus and Soehl Middle Schools offer Honors courses in Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages. Criteria for placement in Honors courses are based and identified in this guide under the prerequisites for each course.

The content of an Honors course is organized to include more elaborate, complex, in-depth study of major ideas, problems and themes that integrate knowledge within a given academic subject. Emphasis is placed on higher-level thinking skills, creativity, and excellence of performance. To maintain enrollment in honors courses, students must maintain a marking period average of 'C' or above. In the event a marking period average falls under a 'C', a review process consisting of the student's counselor seeking input from the teacher regarding the placement of the student will take place. If removal from the honors course is recommended, a parent conference with the student's counselor and teacher will be conducted.

## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

Business Education teaches for and about business. Students learn to make wise personal economic and career choices while developing knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to succeed in the workforce or to succeed in advanced educational programs at business or technical schools, two-year colleges and four-year colleges and universities. Business Education means instruction about various roles that all learners will play as economically literate citizens. The Business Education Program offers instruction in the following occupational areas: accounting technician, office systems, and marketing.

Technology and Computers are essential components of the overall educational process. These programs provide unique and important ways of understanding how to succeed in the world. Skills acquired through computers and technology education have unlimited applications in other fields of study and include the areas of critical thinking and workplace readiness. These courses are intended to encourage skill development and technical mastery in specific practical areas.

### Shaping Your Future...MS1130

Credits: 2.5                      Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course introduces students to the business world as workers, consumers, and citizens. Topics covered include the economic system, business, labor, government, careers, consumers in our economy, living and working with technology, financial institutions and banking services, credit, and planning savings and investments. Simulated business situations representing realistic business activities are integrated into the course. **All middle school students are required to take this class.** This requirement can be fulfilled in either the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

### App Development / Coding...MS6530

Credits: 2.5                      Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: None

Description: Students will learn to create, design, and deploy both mobile and desktop applications using *Swift*, the powerful and intuitive programming language for Mac OS and iOS. Every website, smartphone app and computer program rely on code to operate. Our students will learn to become the architects and builders of the digital age.

### Digital Media / Advanced Computing...MS6630

Credits: 2.5                      Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: None

Description: Students will explore applications such as iMovie, iPhoto, Garage Band, Final Cut Pro, and the MS Office Suite, to learn and create with video, photo, data, social media, branding, multimedia, and design.

### Gateway to Technology: Design and Modeling...MS6810

Credits: 2.5                      Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: None

Description: Students learn and apply the graphic design functions to real life usage. They master the basic 2D and 3D functions (***Autodesk Inventor Professional Design Software***), and graduate to more complex design assemblies that include integration of mathematics knowledge (data collection, use of calipers, general dimension measurements). The students master ***POLYGONS/geometry, Light Spectrum/coloring (ROYGBIV)***. The students keep design folders under their ID Documents as portfolios. They design 2D and 3D wooden toy parts, and then assemble it on assembly pages.

### Gateway to Technology: Automation and Robotics...MS6820

Credits: 2.5                      Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: None

Description: Students learn and master: ***mechanical systems, 6 simple machines, energy transfer, machine automation, drive trains, and gear ratio***. They use the **VEX IQ** platform to design, build, and program real world machinery, such as: *drive trains, robotic arms, robotic claws, conveyor belts, and elevators*. They master the topics through cooperative learning teams of 3 to 4 students and enhance learning through competition.

### **Gateway to Technology: Science of Technology... MS6830**

Credits: 2.5                      Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: None

Description: Students show mastery of technology history by researching past, present, and future innovations, and advancements (6<sup>th</sup> Grade iMovie trailers on select topics, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Rube Goldberg Competition Models). Students learn the history of graphic design, architecture/blueprints, and cartoon animation (*Disney/Pixar and Steve Jobs lessons*). Students learn current technological innovations (*Nano technology, electronics, fuel systems, and drones etc.*).

### **Seminar/Digital Citizenship...MS6710**

Credits: 2.5                      Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: None

Description: Students taking this elective will be introduced to various computer skills from basic to advanced. They will learn how to use and understand computer related terms, identify basic computer hardware components and peripheral devices. Students will also be introduced to basic word-processing skills that will include correct use of the keyboard and will have the opportunity to practice daily. Students will be introduced to spreadsheet skills and will create simple multi-media presentations. They will understand the legal, social, and ethical issues related to the use of computers in our daily life. Students will create their own web page, which will showcase their computing proficiencies. Emphasis on desktop publishing will provide additional opportunities for students to demonstrate application of skills learned. Students will be provided with basic S.T.E.M. lessons in orthographic and floor plan drawings, financial readiness lessons using the project method and spreadsheets to develop entrepreneurial and career readiness skills. After completion of the computers course, students will be technologically prepared for success both personally and professionally.

## FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM

The Fine and Performing Arts are a critical component of the overall educational process. The arts provide unique and vitally important ways of understanding and communicating in the world. Skills acquired have unlimited applications in other fields of study and include the areas of critical thinking and workplace readiness. The middle schools offer a wide range of courses in art and music achieve three purposes: 1) to encourage skill development, technical mastery and performance excellence, 2) to provide cultural enrichment, aesthetic awareness, and the ability to critically evaluate works of art as producers and consumers, and 3) to fully develop intelligences that are valuable and necessary to success in the secondary education level.

### Foundations of Art ...MS2110

Credits: 2.5                      Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course is designed as an introduction to the technical skills necessary for personal expression in drawing, painting, illustration, and design using a variety of media in "two-" and "three-dimensional" applications. Computer graphics will be introduced. Students will have the opportunity to explore techniques of the great masters as well as contemporary artists and maintain a portfolio of original work.

### Art Techniques ... MS2120

Credits: 2.5                      Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: None

Description: A more in-depth focus of different art techniques and applications of different art materials and supplies. During 7<sup>th</sup> grade, art students will focus on developing techniques to use with different materials. Students will be introduced to a variety of materials, such as oil and/or chalk pastels, watercolor and/ or tempera paint, color pencils, markers, etc. Students will be taught how to properly use these materials and experiment with the way the materials work. Some of the different techniques that will be taught include blending, shading, and layering. The techniques taught will also relate to creating colors, texture, value, and lines, which can all be connected to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum based on the principles and elements of art.

### Art Movements ...MS2130

Credits: 2.5                      Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: None

Description: The study of the historical art movements through time, focusing on influential artists who impacted these movements. During 8<sup>th</sup> grade art, students will be introduced to art history through the study of historical art movements and influential artists of the times. Students will see how art has evolved through time into different styles and genres. They will travel through the history of art, from the earliest cave paintings to modern, present-day times, like modern masterpieces from Pablo Picasso to Andy Warhol. Students will have a hands-on learning approach as they draw inspiration from these artists and art movements, applying classic techniques to their own works of art.

### Foundations of Music ...MS2210

Credits: 2.5                      Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course provides a series of music appreciation electives that focus on music and the uses of music through the ages. Included in the course is the study of different music from around the world, styles of music from various historic periods, the roots of rock 'n' roll and the influences of music on theater, movies and in society today. In addition, basic principles of music are taught and reinforced through use of the electric music keyboard. Students work at their own pace on individual keyboards with headphone sets.

### Music Technology...MS2220

Credits: 2.5                      Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course is designed for students who have an interest in writing and recording music. Students will have the opportunity to work at their own ability level through hands on application using different apps and software. Basic music theory will also be introduced to help students have a better understanding of composition. Students will learn how to create and record music tracks as well as compose background tracks for iMovies.

### **American Pop Music...MS2230**

Credits: 2.5                      Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course is designed to take students on a pop music journey over the past 100 years. Students will review historic eras in modern US history and the music that went along with it. They will understand how music helped show the emotions of people during these times starting in the 1920s and ending with events and music of today.

### **Theater Arts...2310 (Grade 6)                      2320 (Grade 7)                      2330 (Grade 8)**

Credits: 2.5                      Grade Level: 6, 7, and 8

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course is designed to introduce basic acting and theater techniques. Through skill development in movement, use of voice and character portrayal, students will explore the performance medium of the actor. Aspects of technical theater including sound and lighting, as well as stage direction will also be introduced. Students will also be given an introductory experience to all aspects of a musical theater production. Students will also study, singing, dancing, musical theater history, direction and technical theater including costuming, set design, lighting and sound.

### **Concert Band...MS2510 (Grade 6)                      MS2520 (Grade 7)                      MS2530 (Grade 8)**

Credits: 2.5                      Grade Level: 6, 7, 8

Prerequisite: Previous Band Experience or Band Teacher Recommendation

Description: Band is a course that is a planned progression from the elementary school bands. The course includes the study and performance of varied repertoire of standard concert band literature. Sound rehearsal techniques and procedures are continually stressed, and individual improvement of each student's performance is encouraged. Emphasis is placed on good tone production, balance, intonation, technical flexibility, and musicianship. Participation in the winter and spring concert programs is part of the required curriculum. Band class meets every other day per the A/B elective schedule.

### **Orchestra...                      MS2410 (Grade 6)                      MS2420 (Grade 7)                      MS2430 (Grade 8)**

Credits: 2.5                      Grade Level: 6, 7, and 8

Prerequisite: Previous Orchestra Experience or Orchestra Teacher Recommendation

Description: Orchestra is a course that is a planned progression from the elementary school orchestras. A varied repertoire of standard and new orchestral literature is studied and performed. Sound rehearsal techniques and procedures are continually stressed, and individual improvements of each student's performance are encouraged. Emphasis is placed on good tone production, balance, intonation, technical flexibility, correct style, and musicianship. Participation in the winter and spring concert programs is part of the required curriculum. Orchestra class meets every other day per the A/B elective schedule.

### **Choir...                      MS2610 (Grade 6)                      MS2620 (Grade 7)                      MS2630 (Grade 8)**

Credits: 2.5                      Grade Level: 6, 7 and 8

Prerequisite: Previous Choir Experience or Choir Teacher Recommendation

Description: This ensemble undertakes the study and performance of standard and popular choral literature. Sound rehearsal techniques and procedures are continually stressed, and individual improvement of each student's performance is encouraged. Emphasis is placed on good tone production, balance, intonation, technical flexibility, and musicianship. Participation in the winter and spring concert programs is part of the required curriculum. An audition is required for the purpose of voice placement. Choir class meets every other day per the A/B elective schedule.

## LANGUAGE ARTS PROGRAM

Language Arts are the abilities that enable one to think and express ideas logically and creatively; understand and participate meaningfully in spoken, written, and non-verbal communication; formulate and answer questions; and search for, organize, evaluate, and apply information. The program is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Language Arts Literacy. The Language Arts program provides inclusion teachers in some classes to help students academically. Honors classes are offered in sixth, seventh and eighth grades as part of the Gifted & Talented Program at the middle school level. Students will be required to complete a research paper and outside reading. There is also a required summer reading program.

### Language Arts 6...MS3110

Credits: 10                      Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: none

Description: Sixth Grade Language Arts is a full year course that introduces basic literary forms-the short story, the novel, informational text, poetry, and drama. Specific attention is given to the improvement of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and presenting, while honing discussion skills in connection with required reading. Students will integrate technology and 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills to complete our literacy program. Students will also be required to complete a capstone project that integrates research and writing.

### Language Arts 6 Honors...MS3112

Credits: 10                      Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: Grade 4 NJSLA score level of "Exceeds Expectations" or a 90% or better score on end of year Grade 5 diagnostic test.

Description: The Honors Language Arts 6 class will engage in rigorous discussions about literature. Students will analyze and synthesize information through critical thinking and shared inquiry. Writing assignments are enhanced and enriched. At the Honors level, the number and difficulty of the readings and the frequency and length of the writing assignments are enhanced. The student will be required to complete a research paper, Capstone Project, and outside reading. Students must maintain a grade of 'C' or above to remain in the class.

### Language Arts 7...MS3120

Credits: 10                      Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: A final average of 'D' or above in Language Arts 6

Description: Seventh Grade Language Arts is a full year course that builds on previous introduction to basic literary forms-the short story, the novel, informational text, poetry, and drama. Specific attention is given to the improvement of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and presenting, while honing discussion skills in connection with required reading. Students will integrate technology and 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills to complete the district literacy program. Students will also be required to complete a Capstone Project that integrates research and writing.

### Language Arts 7 Honors...MS3122

Credits: 10                      Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 6<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts Honors or teacher/principal recommendation.

Description: The Honors Language Arts 7 class will engage in rigorous discussions about literature. Students will analyze and synthesize information through critical thinking and shared inquiry. At the Honors level, the number and difficulty of the readings and the frequency and length of the writing assignments are enhanced. The student will be required to complete a research paper, Capstone Project, and outside reading. Students must maintain a grade of 'C' or above to remain in the class.

### Language Arts 8...MS3130

Credits: 10                      Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: A final average of 'D' or above in Language Arts 7

Description: Eighth Grade Language Arts is a full year course that delves into detailed skills and strategies using literary forms-the short story, the novel, informational text, poetry, and drama. Specific attention is given to the improvement of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and presenting, while honing discussion skills in connection with required reading. Students will integrate technology and 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills to complete the district literacy program and

prepare students for the rigors of high school. Students will also be required to complete a Capstone Project that integrates research and writing.

### **Language Arts 8 Honors...MS3132**

Credits: 10                      Grade Level      8

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts Honors or teacher/principal recommendation.

Description: Eighth-grade Honors Language Arts is a full year course that strengthens and further develops language arts skills taught in grades six and seven. Students will analyze and synthesize information through critical thinking and shared inquiry. Specific attention is given to skills and strategies needed to successfully master the grade level benchmarks. In the honors level, the number and difficulty of the readings and the frequency and length of the writing assignments are enhanced. The student will be required to complete outside reading, a Capstone Project, and research. Students must maintain a grade of 'C' or above to remain in the class.

## MATHEMATICS PROGRAM

Each student will complete three years of mathematics study at the middle school level. This will provide the student with the background to either enroll in High School Algebra I or High School Geometry, depending on the sequence followed. The Middle School Mathematics program is aligned with the NJSL (New Jersey Student Learning Standards) for Mathematics and paired with the eight Standards for Mathematical Practice.

	<u>Grade 6</u>	<u>Grade 7</u>	<u>Grade 8</u>	<u>Grade 9</u>
<b>Sequence I</b>	Math 6	Math 7	Math 8	Algebra I
<b>Sequence II</b>	Math 6 Honors	Math 7 Honors	Algebra 8 Honors	Geometry Honors

### Mathematics 6...MS4111

Credits: 10                      Grade Level: 6  
Prerequisite: Successful completion of 5<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics.  
Description: Mathematics 6 is designed to focus on the critical areas of connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and to solve problems. Students will complete their understanding of division of fractions. The notion rational numbers, negative numbers, writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations and developing understanding of statistical thinking. A solid foundational base will gear students to enter the Algebraic world.

### Mathematics 6 Honors...MS4112

Credits: 10                      Grade Level: 6  
Prerequisite: A NJSLA score level of "Exceeds Expectations" or a 90% or better score on end of year Grade 5 diagnostic test.  
Description: Mathematics 6 Honors is designed to focus on the critical areas of connecting the ideas of ratio and rate, fractions, rational numbers, negative numbers, writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations and developing an understanding of statistical thinking. An emphasis will be placed on developing an understanding of algebraic concepts and modeling of real-world situations- all within the context of problem-based situations. Students must maintain a grade of 'C' or above to remain in the class.

### Mathematics 7...MS4121

Credits: 10                      Grade level: 7  
Prerequisite: Successful completion of 6<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics.  
Descriptions: Math 7 is a one-year course designed to as a formal introduction to Pre-Algebra. The course assumes mastery of the fundamental operations of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and percent. Students apply these skills to algebraic concepts in a problem-solving based atmosphere. Successful completion of the course provides the student with the basic tools to succeed in Math 8. A portion of the curriculum focuses on developing the skills necessary to succeed on state standardized assessments.

### Mathematics 7 Honors...MS4122

Credits: 10                      Grade Level: 7  
Prerequisite: Successful completion of 6<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics Honors or teacher/principal recommendation.  
Descriptions: Student has an exceptional mathematics background to enroll in Algebra 8 as an eighth grader. The course assumes mastery of the fundamental operations of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and percent. Students apply these skills to algebraic concepts in a problem-solving based atmosphere. Successful completion of the course provides the student with the basic tools to succeed in Algebra 8 in the eighth grade. Students must maintain a grade of 'C' or above to remain in the class.

### Mathematics 8...MS4131

Credits: 10                      Grade Level: 8  
Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics  
Description: Math 8 is a one-year course designed to continue the student's development in understanding the structure of the real number system and Pre-Algebra. The course develops mastery of the fundamental operations of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and percent. Students apply these skills to algebraic concepts in a problem-solving based atmosphere. Successful completion of the course provides the student with the basic tools to unlock Algebra I when entering High School.

## **Algebra 8 Honors...MS4132**

Credits: 10                      Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics Honors or teacher/principal recommendation.

Description: Algebra 8 Honors is a one-year course designed to develop an understanding of the structure of the real number system. Students will be able to solve equations and inequalities that lead to the solution of a quadratic equation in one variable and use this knowledge for practical applications. Solving systems of linear equations will also be covered. Algebra 8 Honors is a more rigorous course than Algebra 8 and is equivalent to Algebra I Honors taught at the high school level. Students must maintain a grade of 'C' or above to remain in the class.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ HEALTH PROGRAM

Physical Education and Health courses are available in each quarter. Students will be placed in three quarters of physical education and one quarter of health per year. Physical Education and Health courses are available for special needs students. Adapted Physical Education is a program of developmental activities, games, sports, and rhythms suited to the capabilities and limitations of students with disabilities who may not safely or successfully be able to participate in the activities of the general Physical Education program.

### Physical Education 6...MS5110

Credits: 3.75                      Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: None

Description: Grade 6 Physical Education is a structured program designed to promote fitness, strength, agility, and basic skills. All sixth graders will participate in the following activities: Fitness Testing, Soccer, Aerobics, Volleyball, Basketball, Dance and Softball.

### Physical Education 7...MS5120

Credits: 3.75                      Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: Physical Education 6

Description: The Physical Education program for grade seven is designed to offer students opportunities to develop interest and skill in a variety of individual and team activities. Individual activities aim to develop basic skills, coordination and agility and stimulate an interest in leisure-time activities. Individual activities will include Badminton, Jogging, Dance, Tennis, Conditioning, Recreational games and Track and Field. Team activities aim to develop fundamental team skills and techniques, alertness, endurance, safety, knowledge of rules and sportsmanship. Team activities include Football, Soccer, Basketball, Floor Hockey, Volleyball, and Softball.

### Physical Education 8...MS5130

Credits: 3.75                      Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: Physical Education 7

Description: The Physical Education program for grade eight is designed to offer students opportunities to develop interest and skill in a variety of individual and team activities. Individual activities aim to develop basic skills, coordination, agility, and knowledge of rules and stimulate an interest in leisure-time activities. Individual activities will include Badminton, Jogging, Dance, Tennis, Conditioning, Recreational Games and Track and Field. Team activities aim to develop fundamental team skills and techniques, alertness, endurance, safety, knowledge of rules and sportsmanship. Team activities will include Football, Soccer, Basketball, Floor Hockey, Volleyball, and Softball.

### Health 6...MS5210

Credits: 1.25                      Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: None

Description: The program for Grade 6 Health is designed to help students develop life skills for responsible decision making and acquiring basic good health habits. Students will also learn about different resources available to find information about health.

### Health 7...MS5220

Credits: 1.25                      Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: Health 6

Description: The program for Grade 7 Health focuses on the life skills each student should practice to achieve optimal health. Students are also introduced to techniques that will help them develop healthful relationships and friendships.

### Health 8...MS5230

Credits: 1.25                      Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: Health 7

Description: The program for Grade 8 Health prepares students for their transition into high school. Topics that are examined include Stress Management, Family and Social Health, Growth and Development, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs, Communicable and Chronic Diseases and Consumer and Community Health.

## SCIENCE PROGRAM

Science at the middle school is a three-year program with all students assigned to five periods each week. The curriculum for each of the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades are composed of an intense unit of study in each of the three strands of science: Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth Science. All units use inquiry-based investigations and stress an understanding of science, technology, and the engineering design process.

The Science Department strives to provide **all students** with an engaging program that:

- captures the imagination and curiosity, producing scientifically literate, life-long learners.
- develops critical thinking skills, positive science attitudes, and problem-solving skills through collaborative, inquiry centered investigation.
- provides context and connections to deepen their proficiency in literacy, mathematics, and use of technology.
- continuously improves through professional learning experiences which ensure equity and excellence in on-going, research-based educator development.

### Science 6...MS7110

Credits: 5                      Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: None

Description: The **Weather and Water** module focuses on Earth's atmosphere, weather, and water. Students learn about the relationship of physics and chemistry in weather. They use content knowledge, data, and evidence to construct explanations for the movement and changes in the air and water of our planet that result in its weather. Scientific concepts about atoms, molecules, and change of state are used to develop students' understanding of the transfer of heat. The **Waves** module allows students to manipulate springs and lasers to determine properties that eventually will be used to explain how their cell phones work. They will create waves to explore wavelength, frequency, and amplitude. Students explore properties of light waves and learn how information can be encoded to transfer information using fiber-optics. In the **Diversity of Life** module students learn about single celled and multicellular organisms that exist in a wide range of habitats. The module emphasizes the use of content knowledge and evidence to construct explanations for the functions of living organisms. Topics covered include microscopic life, biological levels of organization, structures and behaviors of multi-cellular organisms, reproduction in plants, and development of skill in using a microscope.

### Science 6 Honors...MS7111

Credits: 5                      Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prerequisites for Grade 6 Mathematics Honors.

Description: This full-year course extends the concepts and investigations in the three science strands past the classroom experience. Students engage in extensive work with the development of problem-solving skills and research skills using the Internet.

The **Weather and Water** module focuses on Earth's atmosphere, weather, and water. Students learn about the relationship of physics and chemistry in weather. They use content knowledge, data, and evidence to construct explanations for the movement and changes in the air and water of our planet that result in its weather. Scientific concepts about atoms, molecules, and change of state are used to develop students' understanding of the transfer of heat. The **Waves** module allows students to manipulate springs and lasers to determine properties that eventually will be used to explain how their cell phones work. They will create waves to explore wavelength, frequency, and amplitude. Students explore properties of light waves and learn how information can be encoded to transfer information using fiber-optics. In the **Diversity of Life** module students learn about single celled and multicellular organisms that exist in a wide range of habitats. The module emphasizes the use of content knowledge and evidence to construct explanations for the functions of living organisms. Topics covered include microscopic life, biological levels of organization, structures and behaviors of multi-cellular organisms, reproduction in plants, and development of skill in using a microscope.

## Science 7...MS7120

Credits: 5                      Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: Science 6

Description: The **Planetary Science** module explores astronomy, the study of everything we can observe and imagine beyond Earth- the Moon, Sun, and solar system with all its planets and lesser objects, Milky Way, and the vastness of the cosmos. Students examine the celestial relationship between the Sun, Moon, and Earth. They investigate the motions of the celestial bodies which account for year, month, day, moon phases, and eclipses. Students use a variety of resources and inquiry methods to construct explanations for the structures and behaviors of objects in the solar system. In the **Gravity and Kinetic Energy Module** students test motion at various speeds to explore acceleration and to learn about gravity. They use digital video analysis to calculate the acceleration of gravity. They observe patterns of collisions to discern how the variables of mass and speed affect energy. They develop a model of force and energy transfer within systems based on Newton’s three laws of motion. Students will apply what they’ve learned to solve an engineering challenge to reduce the force transferred in a collision. In the **Electromagnetic Force Module** students manipulate equipment to collect data about magnetic fields and electricity. They construct explanations based on observable patterns and develop models that define the cause-and-effect relationships of the forces and interactions they are measuring. The culmination of the kit leads students to consider accessible energy sources and the reliance of modern lifestyles on access to this energy, as well as the consequences of such energy use. In **Populations and Ecosystems** students learn that an ecosystem is an organizational unit of life on Earth, defined by a physical environment and the organisms that live there. They explore how organisms interact with their environment and with each other. Students create environments for living organisms and study the behavior and traits of these organisms in the classroom. This course of study enables the students to develop an understanding of reproduction and heredity and how populations change over time.

## Science 7 Honors...MS7121

Credits: 5                      Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: To be considered for this level, students must have an “A” average in Science 6 or an “A/B” average in Science 6 Honors, or a teacher/principal recommendation.

Description: This full-year course extends the concepts and investigations in the three science strands past the classroom experience. Students engage in extensive work with the development of problem-solving skills and research skills using the Internet.

The **Planetary Science** module explores astronomy, the study of everything we can observe and imagine beyond Earth-the Moon, Sun, and solar system with all its planets and lesser objects, Milky Way, and the vastness of the cosmos. Students examine the celestial relationship between the Sun, Moon, and Earth. They investigate the motions of the celestial bodies which account for year, month, day, moon phases, and eclipses. Students use a variety of resources and inquiry methods to construct explanations for the structures and behaviors of objects in the solar system. In the **Gravity and Kinetic Energy Module** students test motion at various speeds to explore acceleration and to learn about gravity. They use digital video analysis to calculate the acceleration of gravity. They observe patterns of collisions to discern how the variables of mass and speed affect energy. They develop a model of force and energy transfer within systems based on Newton’s three laws of motion. Students will apply what they’ve learned to solve an engineering challenge to reduce the force transferred in a collision. In the **Electromagnetic Force Module** students manipulate equipment to collect data about magnetic fields and electricity. They construct explanations based on observable patterns and develop models that define the cause-and-effect relationships of the forces and interactions they are measuring. The culmination of the kit leads students to consider accessible energy sources and the reliance of modern lifestyles on access to this energy, as well as the consequences of such energy use. In **Populations and Ecosystems** students learn that an ecosystem is an organizational unit of life on Earth, defined by a physical environment and the organisms that live there. They explore how organisms interact with their environment and with each other. Students create environments for living organisms and study the behavior and traits of these organisms in the classroom. This course of study enables the students to develop an understanding of reproduction and heredity and how populations change over time.

## Science 8...MS7130

Credits: 5                      Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: Science 7

Description: The **Earth History** module emphasizes the use of knowledge and evidence about Earth's history that has operated over geological time. Humans have used Earth's resources since prehistoric times. Students will study the Earth's processes and systems, make observations, and do investigations that involve constructing and using conceptual models. **Human Systems Interactions** is a five-week course during which students learn about the cell as the basis of the human body. Students learn that associations of cells work together to form tissues, which form organs. Organs work together to perform specific functions in organ systems. Finally, organ systems make up the human body. Students will explore how organ systems interact to support each cell in the body. **Heredity and Adaptation** is another five-week course in which students will explore fossils, similarities between past and present organisms, genetic principles of inheritance, and how natural selection produces adaptations that lead to change in species and eventually the creation of new species. The focus of the **Chemical Interactions** module is the physical and chemical properties that characterize matter. Students examine several characteristic properties such as appearance, density, melting and boiling points, and chemical behavior and then participate in investigations about how these properties relate to pure substances (elements and compounds) and mixtures. They engage in a series of inquiry-based investigations designed to develop their understanding of the properties of matter.

## Science 8 Honors...MS7131

Credits: 5                      Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: To be considered for this level, students must have an "A" average in Science 7 or an "A/B" average in Science 7 Honors, or teacher/principal recommendation.

Description: This full year course extends the concepts and investigations in the three science strands past the classroom experience. Students engage in extensive work with the development of problem-solving skills and research skills using the Internet.

The **Earth History** module emphasizes the use of knowledge and evidence about Earth's history that has operated over geological time. Humans have used Earth's resources since prehistoric times. Students will study the Earth's processes and systems, make observations, and do investigations that involve constructing and using conceptual models. **Human Systems Interactions** is a five-week course during which students learn about the cell as the basis of the human body. Students learn that associations of cells work together to form tissues, which form organs. Organs work together to perform specific functions in organ systems. Finally, organ systems make up the human body. Students will explore how organ systems interact to support each cell in the body. **Heredity and Adaptation** is another five-week course in which students will explore fossils, similarities between past and present organisms, genetic principles of inheritance, and how natural selection produces adaptations that lead to change in species and eventually the creation of new species. The focus of the **Chemical Interactions** module is the physical and chemical properties that characterize matter. Students examine several characteristic properties such as appearance, density, melting and boiling points, and chemical behavior and then participate in investigations about how these properties relate to pure substances (elements and compounds) and mixtures. They engage in a series of inquiry-based investigations designed to develop their understanding of the properties of matter.

## SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAM

The Social Studies Program on the middle school level includes World History, Geography and American History. The program provides students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to be active, informed, responsible citizens, and contributing members of the community. The Social Studies Program is divided into four specific disciplines: history (American, New Jersey and World), geography, civics, and economics. In addition, specific skills will be taught so students will be able to understand, analyze, compare, and write in a historical format. As required by law, students will receive instruction on Holocaust and Genocide issues and African-American studies as integrated throughout the curriculum of program.

### **Civics and World Geography...MS8151**

Credits: 5                      Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: None

Description: The sixth-grade curriculum will be divided into 2 parts- Civics and World Geography. The first half of the year will focus on Civic education and will examine the origins of our government, the U.S. Constitution, civil rights and civil liberties, what citizenship means, and how changes happen in politics. The second part of the curriculum will examine world geography using the 5 themes of geography (location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region).

### **Civics and World Geography Honors...MS8152**

Credits: 5                      Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prerequisites for Language Arts Honors.

Description: The sixth-grade curriculum will be divided into 2 parts- Civics and World Geography. The first half of the year will focus on Civic education and will examine the origins of our government, the U.S. Constitution, civil rights and civil liberties, what citizenship means, and how changes happen in politics. The second part of the curriculum will examine world geography using the 5 themes of geography (location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region).

### **Civics and World Geography- Sheltered Instruction ...MS8153**

Credits: 5                      Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: Successful completion of prerequisites for Language Arts Honors.

Description: The sixth-grade curriculum will be divided into 2 parts- Civics and World Geography. The first half of the year will focus on Civic education and will examine the origins of our government, the U.S. Constitution, civil rights and civil liberties, what citizenship means, and how changes happen in politics. The second part of the curriculum will examine world geography using the 5 themes of geography (location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region).

### **United States History...MS8121**

Credits: 5                      Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: United States History 6

Description: The seventh-grade curriculum focuses on topics spanning the eras of the American Revolution to the Reconstruction Era

### **United States History Honors...MS8122**

Credits: 5                      Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: To be considered for this level, students must have an "A" average in United States History 6 or an "A/B" average in United States History 6 Honors, or a teacher/principal recommendation.

Description: The seventh-grade curriculum focuses on topics spanning the eras of the American Revolution to the Reconstruction Era

### **United States History- Sheltered Instruction...MS8123**

Credits: 5                      Grade Level: 7  
Prerequisite: United States History 6  
Description: The seventh-grade curriculum focuses on topics spanning the eras of the American Revolution to the Reconstruction Era. A sheltered instruction version of this class is offered for English Languages Learners. The standard U.S. History class is delivered by content area teachers who are specially trained to deliver classroom instruction in a manner that is content rigorous, culturally relevant, and comprehensible for English Language Learners.

### **World History... MS8131**

Credits: 5                      Grade Level: 8  
Prerequisite: None  
Description: The eighth-grade curriculum focuses on World History, covering topics spanning the beginnings of human society to the age of global encounters.

### **World History Honors... MS8132**

Credits: 5                      Grade Level: 8  
Prerequisite: To be considered for this level, students must have an "A" average in United States History 7, or an "A/B" average in United States History 7 Honors, or a teacher/principal recommendation.  
Description: The eighth-grade curriculum focuses on World History, covering topics spanning the beginnings of human society to the age of global encounters.

### **World History- Sheltered Instruction... MS8133**

Credits: 5                      Grade Level: 8  
Prerequisite: To be considered for this level, students must have an "A" average in United States History 7, or an "A/B" average in United States History 7 Honors, or a teacher/principal recommendation.  
Description: The eighth-grade curriculum focuses on World History, covering topics spanning the beginnings of human society to the age of global encounters. A sheltered instruction version of this class is offered for English Languages Learners. The standard U.S. History class is delivered by content area teachers who are specially trained to deliver classroom instruction in a manner that is content rigorous, culturally relevant, and comprehensible for English Language Learners.

## WORLD LANGUAGES PROGRAM

The World Languages courses offered at the middle school level are intended to educate all students to communicate in languages other than English. Our approach incorporates the five C's of the National and New Jersey Standards. They are: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons and Communities. Our students use the language as a tool for communication and to build their capacity to participate as global citizens in an increasingly interconnected world.

Our content-based curriculum is aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for World Languages and emphasizes the development of communication skills. Students acquire the target language through repeated exposure to the target language which is made comprehensible by teachers employing strategies to ensure students' understanding. In each class, students will be engaged in listening, speaking, reading and writing activities, for real purposes in culturally authentic contexts. Instruction in a proficiency content-based classroom focuses on what students can actually do with a language. Teachers design lessons to engage students using the language in activities that are embedded in authentic, real-life contexts. For each grade level, assessments will be performance-based, which require students to use language to perform a variety of functions within specified contexts.

Students at the middle school level will choose to study a world language from among the following options: Chinese, French, Italian, and Spanish. Students in grades 6-8 will receive World Language instruction during a 40-minute period delivered every other day on an A/B schedule. Students in an Honors World Language class will receive 40 minutes of instruction, five days per week.

Below are profiles of Novice-Mid and Novice-High speakers:

Novice-Mid speakers communicate minimally and with difficulty using a number of isolated words and memorized phrases limited by the particular context in which the language has been learned. When they respond to direct questions, they may utter only two or three words or an occasional stock (memorized/formulaic) answer. They are able to list. They pause frequently as they search for simple vocabulary or attempt to recycle their own and their speaking partner's words. Because of hesitations, lack of vocabulary, inaccuracy, or failure to respond appropriately, Novice-Mid speakers will be understood with great difficulty even by sympathetic listeners accustomed to dealing with non-natives.

The goal of the program is to help the middle school language learner move from novice low through the novice-mid proficiency level. Students following this trajectory move from the ability to communicate at the word level, progressing to the phrase and sentence level. Students will use a combination of memorized language from familiar contexts with the emerging ability to invent novel messages as fluency develops.

## Novice Learner Range

**French 6** ...MS9110

**Italian 6** ...MS9310

**Spanish 6** ...MS9510

**Chinese 6** ...MS9710

Credits: 2.5 Grade Level: 6, 7, 8

Prerequisite: None

Description: This World Languages course introduces students to their selected World Language at the secondary level. Students will study their 6th grade language selection through the 8th grade. Students are encouraged to continue with the same language in the high school so that they will have enough time to achieve a high level of proficiency in the target language. The target proficiency for students completing the grade 6-8 rotation cycle is within the Novice-Mid range. These outcomes are contingent on individual aptitude and the amount of time the student has studied the target language.

**Spanish 6 Heritage** ...MS9512

Credits: 2.5 Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

Description: This version of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish class is differentiated to meet the individualized needs on Heritage Learners – i.e., students who already have some proficiency in Spanish through increased exposure to Spanish as a Home or Primary Language.

**French 7** ...MS9120

**Italian 7** ...MS9320

**Spanish 7** ...MS9520

**Chinese 7** ...MS9720

Credits: 2.5 Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: This course follows successful completion of the target world language at the 6th grade level.

Description: This World Language taken in 7th grade is a continuation of the language studied in the previous year. Students will be able to speak the language in short sentences. They will understand the language when spoken at a normal tempo, and will be able to read short paragraphs based on familiar vocabulary and topics. Students will write short stories, simple sentences, and describe action in the present and the near future. The target proficiency for students completing the grade 6-8 rotation cycle is within the Novice-Mid range. These outcomes are contingent on individual aptitude and the amount of time the student has studied the target language.

**Spanish 7 Heritage** ...MS9522

Credits: 2.5 Grade Level: 7

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

Description: This version of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish class is differentiated to meet the individualized needs on Heritage Learners – i.e., students who already have some proficiency in Spanish through increased exposure to Spanish as a Home or Primary Language.

**French 8** ...MS9130  
**Italian 8** ...MS9330  
**Spanish 8** ...MS9530  
**Chinese 8** ...MS9730

Credits: 2.5 Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: This course follows successful completion of appropriate world language at the 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

Description: This World Language taken for the third time continues the study of the target language. At this level, students will be able to create language including strings of sentences. They will be able to manage successfully concrete exchanges on survival topics, and be able to answer direct questions or requests for information. Conversation is restricted to a few of the predictable topics necessary for survival in the target language culture. The target proficiency for students completing the grade 6-8 sequence is within the Novice-Mid range. These outcomes are contingent on individual aptitude and the amount of time the student has studied the target language.

**French 8 Honors** ...MS9131  
**Italian 8 Honors** ...MS9331  
**Spanish 8 Honors** ...MS9531  
**Chinese 8 Honors** ...MS9731

Credits: 5 Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: This course follows successful completion of appropriate world language at the 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

Description: Based on successful performance in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade World Language, students may be recommended to participate in an accelerated, honors version of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade course. The class meets five times per week, and is focused on delivering comprehensible input that will help students acquire proficiency so as to permit them to read, write and speak as they develop mastery in the core vocabulary of the target language.

At this level students will be able to create communicative language using 200-300 of the most frequently used vocabulary words of the target language. Through the year, students will acquire sufficiency proficiency so as to permit them to read and comprehend short stories and novellas written at the novice high level. Additionally, students will speak and write at a level of complexity at or beyond the novice high level. These outcomes are contingent on individual aptitude and the amount of time the student has studied the target language.

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**Spanish 8 Heritage** ...MS9532

Credits: 5 Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

Description: This course follows successful completion of appropriate world language at the 2<sup>nd</sup> level. It is differentiated to meet the individualized needs of Heritage Learners – i.e., students' who have increased exposure to Spanish as a home or primary language.

Based on successful performance in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade World Language, Heritage students may be identified and recommended to participate in an accelerated, Heritage version of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade course. The class meets five times per week, and is focused on delivering comprehensible input that will help students acquire proficiency so as to permit them to read, write and speak as they develop mastery in the core vocabulary of the target language.

At this level students will be able to create communicative language using 200-300 of the most frequently used vocabulary words of the target language. Through the year, students will acquire sufficient proficiency so as to permit them to read and comprehend short stories and novellas written at the novice high level. Additionally, students will speak and write at a level of complexity at or approaching the novice high level.

These outcomes are contingent on individual aptitude and the amount of time the student has studied the target language.

## BILINGUAL/ESL PROGRAM

Bilingual programs are not currently offered at the middle school level. The middle schools offer ESL programs designed to promote English language acquisition and introduce English Language Learners (ELLs) to the American culture. This ESL Program is provided to students who are English Language Learners (ELLs). A student is placed in one of five (5) levels of ELL, depending upon the score achieved on the WIDA SCREENER, a New Jersey State-approved test used to assess English proficiency. Students placed in ESL courses remain in the program until they can demonstrate the prerequisite level of English language proficiency and meet the district's established multiple exit criteria. The ESL course is taken in lieu of the Language Arts course. The ESL courses are taught entirely in English during a daily 60-minute class period. This highly-concentrated program ensures that academic language and communication skills will develop quickly, enabling ELLs to acquire the language proficiencies required for success across the curriculum.

### **English as a Second Language-Beginner Level...MS9500**

Credits: 10                      Grade Level: 6, 7, 8

Prerequisite: Language Proficiency Test and Teacher Recommendation

Description: This course meets the needs of new entrant ELLs with the introduction of the English language and American culture. At this level, instruction is focused on teaching survival vocabulary and skills, developing all language skills (reading, listening, writing, and speaking) with the emphasis on comprehension and social communicative competence. Students are taught the basic grammar skills to aid in the acquisition and learning of the English language. Students enrolled in this class may have studied English in their country of origin; however, they come to our school district unable to speak English. They are considered non-communicative and are unable to function in the school environment without assistance.

### **English as a Second Language -Intermediate Level (Lower)...MS9510**

Credits: 10                      Grade Level: 6, 7, 8

Prerequisite: Language Proficiency Test and Teacher Recommendation

Description: This course meets the needs of students at a minimal level of competency in English. At this level there is still great emphasis on the development of all skills, but academic language skills, as well as content curriculum, should be introduced and taught at a basic level. It addresses the needs of students who have basic, but very limited knowledge of English. They have some social communicative skills, but their academic English skills are very poor or non-existent. The students may be newly arrived immigrants, or those who have been in the in an English-speaking country for some time.

### **English as a Second Language -Intermediate Level (Upper)...MS9520**

Credits: 10                      Grade Level: 6, 7, 8

Prerequisite: Language Proficiency Test and Teacher Recommendation

Description: This course meets the needs of students at a higher level of competency in English. Emerging reading and writing skills complement and reinforce listening and speaking skills at an intermediate level. Students enrolled in this course must demonstrate conversational English proficiency. Classroom instruction is organized around relevant themes in American culture, history and literature.

### **English as a Second Language -Advanced...MS9530**

Credits: 10                      Grade Level: 6, 7, 8

Prerequisite: Language Proficiency Test and Teacher Recommendation

Description: This course meets the needs of students who are at or near an advanced level of competency in English. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills at a more sophisticated level are acquired. The expectation at this level is that he/she can function well socially and academically in a second language. An increased level of proficiency is achieved through interdisciplinary, authentic activities such as journals, picture portfolios and multimedia presentations relating to American culture and traditions. Current events and literature by famous authors are also analyzed and discussed. Students at this level must build their confidence and desire to use the English language.

## **English as a Second Language - Full English Proficient...MS9540**

Credits: 10                      Grade Level: 6, 7, 8

Prerequisite: Language Proficiency Test and Teacher recommendation

Description: This course meets the needs of students who have mastered basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills of the ELL Program. Students read, investigate and complete brief research projects on the Internet. Students learn to communicate in varied social and cultural situations. They learn to negotiate solutions to problems through individual, paired or small group activities. Workplace and interdisciplinary reading connections are encouraged through the study of selected excerpts from American literature. These students are acquiring the necessary level of proficiency to function in a monolingual, academic English class.