

8th Grade
Course Description Booklet
2021 ~ 2022

FULL YEAR ~ REQUIRED COURSES

LANGUAGE ARTS

This course incorporates all facets of language arts essential for high achievement in written and oral communication based on state standards. These skills include the writing process, textual analysis, research, and critical reading of short stories, novels, poetry, and drama.

HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS

The middle school honors program for language arts is designed for a student who is motivated to engage in a curriculum that is accelerated and advanced. The goal for this program is to prepare students for high school Honors, Pre-AP, and beyond. **Please refer to the Honors info page.**

The student is expected to:

- ✦ Assume greater responsibly
- ✦ Participate at a higher level of thought
- ✦ Complete complex involved projects
- ✦ Engage in independent research
- ✦ Collaborate in both small and large group activities and discussions

UNITED STATES HISTORY

This social studies requirement picks up the story of our nation's history just prior to the Revolutionary War and continues through the end of the Civil War. Major units of study are: Revolutionary War, U.S. Constitution, Industrial Revolution, Westward Movement, Slavery, the Civil War or Reconstruction.

8th GRADE SCIENCE

This class is part of a series of integrated science classes based on the Next Generation Science Standards. This course will give students an understanding of Earth, Life and Physical sciences.

HONORS 8th GRADE SCIENCE

Honors Science is an advanced course for students who are self-motivated and working above grade level in math, reading and writing. In this class, students will explore Physical, Life, Earth and Space sciences and Engineering with Technology at a deeper and faster pace in order to learn core concepts at a higher level. Through scientific inquiry, research and collaborative learning, students will develop essential skills for critical thinking and problem solving. The course includes extended learning activities that will require additional reading, writing and research outside of the classroom. **Please refer to the Honors info page.**

An honors science student is expected have the following attributes:

- ✦ High interest in science and curious about the natural world
- ✦ At or Above grade level math, reading and writing skills
- ✦ Intrinsically motivated with a strong work ethic, attention to detail, organizational skills
- ✦ Strong critical thinking skills
- ✦ Able to work collaboratively with others and able to solve problems independently
- ✦ Previous record of high achievement in school

MATHEMATICS

Students are placed into mathematics based on their achievement as measured by their grade in current class, teacher recommendation, STAR Test, SBA and District Placement test results (when applicable). Big Ideas Math, which is aligned to the Washington State Learning Standards, is the district-approved curriculum for all middle school level students. In all math classes, students will continue to evolve as mathematicians as they learn to use the Eight Mathematical Practices as outlined in the Washington State Learning Standards.

Math 8 - Students study linear equations, graphing, geometric transformations, probability and statistics, large numbers, measurement, the Pythagorean Theorem, and solving equations. SBA preparation is continued.

Algebra 1 - This course introduces fundamental operation of equations and formulas, studies of ratio, proportion, variation, indirect measurements, polynomial operations, factoring and operation with radical expressions. Students will solve equations (linear, quadratic and systems) and inequalities using graphing, substitution and/or addition. The student is also introduced to principles governing system and set theory. This course provides one high school math credit upon successful completion (see note on transcript policy*).

Geometry - (Prerequisite – Successful completion of Algebra 1) – This course will cover the core content as outlined by the math standards: Logical arguments and proofs, lines and angles, two-and three-dimensional figures, geometry in the coordinate plane, geometric transformations and additional key content. This course provides one high school math credit upon successful completion (see note on transcript policy*).

***Transcript policy for high-school-credit math courses taken during 7th & 8th grades.**

Regarding high-school-credit math courses (Algebra and Geometry) taken during 7th or 8th grade:

- Grades will be posted to the students' middle school transcript.
- Grades will be posted to the students' high school transcript.
- When posted to the high school transcript, the grades:
 - ✓ will accurately indicate when the class was taken
 - ✓ will be included in the student's high school graduation credits and GPA

SEMESTER ~ REQUIRED COURSES

HEALTH AND FITNESS

One Semester

This course is designed to improve the student's overall physical skills and knowledge by the presentation of both individual and team activities. Opportunities are provided to develop physical fitness, sportsmanship, recreational skills and appreciation for good health habits. Health curriculum is integrated into the weekly physical activities for students to identify what they can do to achieve their healthiest self.

SEMESTER ~ ELECTIVES

All elective courses are subject to change

BOOT CAMP

One Semester

This elective is designed to motivate and inspire students to set and accomplish their own fitness goals. The exercises will mostly involve bodyweight exercise, with an emphasis on pushups, sit-ups or crunches. 400m dash, speed/agility, T-drill, mile run and various aerobic workouts. Students who take this course will see amazing personal fitness progress. **Students may only take one semester of fitness electives.**

COMPUTER AIDED DRAFTING and DESIGN (CADD) (*Algebra or higher math Recommended*) One Semester

This 18-week advanced class starts out by exploring how to use the computer-aided drafting program Rhino. This class spends about 70% of the time in the CADD and manufacturing computer lab and about 30% in the main STEM lab area. Students will be using Rhino to design 3D models of their projects they will be constructing in the shop. Once 3D models have been made on Rhino students will use a 3D printer, laser cutter, vinyl cutter or CNC router to make their projects. Advanced use of tools and equipment are used in project construction. Lecture and demonstrations will increase the student knowledge and skills while working on their projects. **Students who take this class and receive a "A" grade can waive "CADD Fundamentals prerequisite" in 9th grade and go directly into year-long "Advanced CADD/CAM." *It is okay to enroll in both EXPLORING ENGINEERING II and CADD**

DIGITAL PRODUCTION

One Semester

In this class you will learn to produce content in a digital space. You will have choice over what you learn in this class and be able to pursue your passions as they relate to creating creative content in digital space. You can learn to create games, virtual reality spaces and games, beats and songs, websites and blogs, the basics of photography and photo editing, how to make animations, how to create digital art, coding and much more. This course will be done through Canvas, which will allow you to learn at a pace that is right for you. You will also have as much choice as possible when it comes to the topics you use as the basis for the work you do. Examples of some of the content previous students have produced in this class can be found at <http://snocode.weebly.com> on the [Virtual Travel](#), [Advocacy Sites](#), [Student Websites](#) and [Virtual Reality](#) pages. **This class is a mix of 7th and 8th grade students and may have a lunch opposite of 8th grade two days per week.**

DRAMA

One Semester

Welcome to the world of theatre! Over the course of this semester, we will look at various aspects of performance including characterization, movement, voice, articulation, scene work, monologues, and play production. This is a great class for students who already have a love of drama as well as those who want to feel more comfortable speaking in front of people. The culminating project is a full play production with an evening performance. Memorization and participation are required.

This class is a mix of 7th/ 8th grade students and may have a lunch opposite of 8th grade two days per week.

DRAWING and PAINTING

One Semester

This class focuses on creating and understanding 2D art. For the student who enjoys drawing and wants to take their skills to the next level, this class focuses on classical drawing and painting techniques. Working mostly with paper, students will explore mediums such as pencil, charcoal, oil pastel, water color, tempera paint, and collage. We will look at famous artists and explore modern painting to help us create meaningful works of art. We also take a field trip to the Seattle Art Museum to view the current exhibition and the permanent collection of famous artworks.

FORENSICS

One Semester

Forensics is a perfect fit for students who like science and/or true crime. Students will apply science skills to learn how to collect, analyze and evaluate evidence found at crime scenes. Topics include: fingerprinting, DNA analysis, Forensic anthropology (bones), chromatography, Impression evidence (tire tracks/shoe prints/tool marks), Arson investigation and chemical analysis and proper crime scene investigation. We will also explore true cases and how forensic evidence solved these cases. This class has a focus of hands-on learning and experimentation. **This class is a mix of 7th and 8th grade students and may have a lunch opposite of 8th grade two days per week. Students cannot repeat Forensics if the class was taken in 7th grade.**

KITCHEN ACADEMY

One Semester

This is a fun, hands-on class where students will learn a variety of skills and techniques for preparing food. We will study the My-Plate and cook our way through the My-Plate learning to prepare foods from each of the food groups- Fruits, Vegetables, Breads, Dairy and Proteins. Students will learn about kitchen safety and sanitation, food preparation, meal planning, and food presentation and plating. The emphasis is on being creative, trying new things and becoming more confident in the kitchen!

LEADERSHIP

One Semester

This class is open to all students interested in developing leadership skills and creating a positive school culture. The class emphasis is the importance of communications, character development, personal growth and building strong relationship. Leadership is designed to empower and give students the opportunity to become successful leaders and contributors in the school and community. Through servant leadership, students will acquire knowledge, skills and experience towards demonstrating their leadership potential.

SCULPTURE

One Semester

This class focuses on creating and understanding 3D art called sculpture. For the student who enjoys working with their hands, this class offers a wide variety of ways to create. Focusing mostly on the art of ceramics, we learn the basics of hand building with clay. We create at least 3 ceramic sculptures within the semester (more if time allows). We will be taking a look at the ancient art of ceramics as well as modern sculpture methods and techniques. As part of this exploration, we take a field trip to the Seattle Art Museum to view the current exhibition and the permanent collection of sculptures and ceramic objects.

EXPLORING ENGINEERING 2 (Formerly Industrial Arts/Shop)

One Semester

This 18-week exploratory S.T.E.M. course incorporates project-based learning with a focus on the engineering cycle. Students will apply problem solving, visual communication, and industrial skills to design and build challenging and exciting projects. Units of study include power tool safety & operation, manufacturing, electricity/electronics, applied physics, computer aided drafting & design (CADD), and structures. Projects include monster trucks, hovercrafts, stick frame construction, trebuchets, and more.
***Exploring Engineering 1 is not a pre-requisite for this course.**

TEAM SPORTS

One Semester

This course will include various sports with an emphasis on skills, strategy, and game play. Activities may include but are not limited to: Flag football, softball, volleyball, badminton, soccer, and basketball.
Students may only take one semester of fitness electives.

TEACHER ASSISTANT (TA)

One Semester

TA's will be assigned to a teacher, the library or the office to provide support to staff by working on such tasks as making copies, organizing materials, putting up bulletin boards, etc. TA's may also provide assistance to students in the teacher's class who are struggling with their work.

****Students will need to complete an application that requires the recommendation of two staff members before selecting this for an elective. Teacher assistants will not select the teacher they work with.**

YOGA

One Semester

In this class you will learn breathing techniques, specific yoga exercises including Hatha, Power, Sculpt, and PiYo. All varieties are designed to build strength and increase flexibility. You will develop an understanding of how to use yoga to maximize your flexibility and strength, while protecting your body throughout life. **Students may only take one semester of fitness electives.**

FULL YEAR ~ ELECTIVE CHOIR or BAND

CHOIR (Grades 7 and 8)

Choir is for 7th and 8th grade students who love to sing and perform. Choir members learn to sing in three-part harmony, with some singing baritone parts and others divided into sopranos and altos. Students will also learn to read a music score and to sight sing. This group takes field trips, including one to an adjudicated Choral festival in May. There are required evening concerts and occasional assembly performances. Solo opportunities may be available for students who are interested.

This class is a mix of 7th and 8th grade students and may have a lunch opposite of 8th grade.

CONCERT BAND (Grade 8)

Concert Band is for students with at least two years of experience playing a band instrument. At a typical rehearsal we do warm-ups, sight reading, technique exercises and work on concert music. This group performs in three evening school concerts, several school assemblies and takes at least 3 field trips to perform in band festivals and at our local elementary schools. In April we attend a band festival in British Columbia, Canada.

***Note for New Band Students:** This includes students with no experience, students with some band experience or those who wish to learn a new instrument. If you are a new player or used to play an instrument but haven't for a while you can still join Concert Band by taking Cadet Band first semester. Instruction is offered on flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, sax, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone horn or tuba. Percussion is offered if there are openings in the Cadet or Concert Band, and percussionists are expected to practice and learn bells as well as snare drum. Students are required to provide their own instrument for this class, although some larger school-owned instruments like French horns, baritone horns and tubas may be available for checkout. Contact Mr. Evans at 360-563-4554 or owen.evans@sno.wednet.edu for more information, or if you need help selecting or acquiring an instrument.

JAZZ BAND (Grades 7 and 8)

- ZERO HOUR CLASS (6:30-7:25 am) ****AUDITION REQUIRED**
- PREREQUISITE: ENROLLMENT IN BEGINNING, CADET, CONCERT BAND OR CHOIR

Instruction focuses on jazz concepts such as improvisation, big band swing, jazz, rock, Latin styles and funk. This is a performance-oriented group that takes three field trips to regional jazz festivals, plus required evening school concerts and one Saturday festival. **Auditions are held in early fall**, and private music instruction is highly recommended for interested students. For information about auditions, Contact Mr. Evans at 360-563-4554 or owen.evans@sno.wednet.edu. **Students must arrange their own transportation to this class.**



Middle School Honors Courses Process for Appropriate Placement for Student Success

GOAL: Student access to and success in honors courses

Interest, Motivation, and Perseverance Indicators

Students who are successful in honors courses:

- Demonstrate a high level of interest, academic engagement, and an innate curiosity to learn in specific courses of interest (Language Arts, Social Studies, and/or Science)
- Are highly self-motivated, take responsibility for their own learning, attend class regularly, complete quality assignments on time, and recognize that effort is important for success
- Maintain a high standard in academic integrity
- Successfully complete complex tasks that require extra time, thought, and perseverance
- Examine and learn from errors, demonstrate a willingness to try different approaches, problem solve, make revisions to work throughout the learning process, seek help, and access available resources
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher led)

Academic Indicators

Students who are successful in honors courses:

English Language Arts: Have demonstrated the indicators for academic success as indicated below.

- Has a history of curiosity around language, reading, and writing
- Reads two or more years above grade level
- Demonstrates advanced reading and communication skills
- Reads and writes beyond required assignments. Has a history of creating own reading and writing projects
- Consistently shows interest in the details of language (word origins, grammar, sentence structure, etc.)

Science: Have demonstrated the indicators for academic success as indicated below.

- High interest in science and curious about the natural world
- Above grade level math, reading and writing skills
- Able to work collaboratively with others

Middle School data teams will review data (SBA, Star, teacher input, grades) and above-mentioned indicators to confirm appropriate placement. Any changes necessary will be communicated.