



Curriculum Guide

Grades 6-8

2023-2024



Mission Statement

The Mission of Onsted Community Schools is to ensure individual growth and an excellent learning experience to foster active and creative minds, with compassion for others and courage to be leaders in a diverse global community.

District Vision Statement

Inspire – Challenge – Prepare

Every Person

Every Day

Scheduling

Academic Interventions

Advisory-All students at Onsted Middle School (Grades 6-8) will be scheduled into an Advisory class. Advisory is designed to allow students to be successful in all areas, allowing time for work completion, academic intervention and other opportunities within the educational setting.

Academic Lab/Resource Room- Onsted Middle School students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will be placed into Academic Lab or Resource Room determined by placement on the IEP. This will be a full year (2 semester) elective for students with an IEP only.

Schedule Change Requests

At the middle school level our philosophy is for students to be exposed to as many positive learning experiences as possible. One of the methods to achieve this is through the elective classes. Students in sixth-eighth grades will rotate through these electives classes each marking period (9 week rotations). Not all schedule changes are possible due to class sizes and teaching assignments as directed by administration. Students' at all three grades have the chance to enroll in a music class. If a student takes a music class then this will reduce one of the elective rotations during the day. Eighth grade students also have the opportunity to take French I/Spanish I (Per course offerings) for high school credit. It is possible in the eighth grade year if a student takes French I/Spanish I and a music class the student will not have another elective. Schedule changes will be granted only in extenuating circumstances, directed by an IEP, or by administration decision.

Students requesting a change should: 1. Fill out a schedule change form 2. Have a face-to-face conversation with the teachers involved 3. Have approval from the administration prior to the start of the next Semester or marking period. The exception will be the semester 1,

where the last day for changes will be the last day of the week of the first week of school. Decisions to grant changes will be granted based on class availability and circumstances surrounding the request. Administration will have final approval. *This can be changed per administration as different schedules can happen year-to-year

ONSTED MIDDLE SCHOOL

Curriculum Guide 6th Grade

English 6 (ELA)— Students will analyze different forms of Literature and compose narratives and formal essays according to the Michigan Common Core Standards.

Math 6 - Students will continue to strengthen their math foundation skills and explore concepts including fractions, decimals, integer and rational number operations, algebraic reasoning, ratios and proportional relationships, data analysis, graphing, geometry, graphing in the coordinate plane, and problem solving.

Science 6 - The following topics are areas of study for the sixth grade science: living and non-living things, ecosystems and biomes, rocks, minerals and weather.

History 6 – In this course, students will examine a variety of global issues that result from human activities such as population change, migration, urbanization, culture and cultural diffusion, resource use, increased networks of trade and economic interdependence, and the interactions among nations.

Curriculum Guide 6th Grade

ELECTIVES

Band 6- Sixth grade band is a performing class that meets daily. Students will learn the basics of rhythm, tone, and technique for their chosen instrument. By the end of the year, students should be able to play simple to moderately easy songs with a pleasing sound. Some evening performances will occur throughout the year and attendance at these events is a required part of the class. **[Band is a full year elective]**

21 Tech Things 6 - 21 Tech Things is a class designed to help students build information literacy and digital citizenship skills. It also helps students to be knowledgeable about Cyberbullying and being Safe Online. The students complete performance-based activities based on 21st century educational technology tools such as: Google Docs, spreadsheets and graphing, digital citizenship, copyright, presentation tools, etc.

Google Learning Lab 6 - Students will explore, create, and collaborate, using Google Apps (Email, Classroom, Docs, Sheets, Forms, Slides). They will also be introduced to other web based programs to support and enhance their learning across the curriculum.

Life Skills 6- Life Skills class will focus on a variety of topics and situations that arise in everyday life. Students will learn about topics including growth mindset, executive functioning, interpersonal skills, study and organization skills, conflict resolution, and effective communication skills. Students will learn through reflection, discussion, and the application of knowledge.

Physical Education 6 (PE) – Sixth grade students will be introduced to many team and individual sports depending on the time of year along with a basic conditioning program. Students will learn the basic skills and results of the sports they will be playing. The present curriculum includes flag football, soccer, tennis, softball, basketball, volleyball, floor hockey, team handball, lacrosse, tumbling, gymnastics and track. Physical conditioning includes agility, exercises, running and strength training.

Health 6- This course will be a health class but will include multiple opportunities for physical activity. The health portion will be based on the Michigan Model of Health curriculum along with additional resources and materials to supplement. Using a classroom setting, topics covered may include: Social/Emotional Health, Personal Wellness, Personal Safety, Nutrition and Physical Activity.

The physical activity will be socially distanced and outside whenever possible.

History of Play 6- From ancient to modern, students will learn about how different cultures unwind, prepare for battle and teach through "play". Students will learn the history of how and why certain sports and games were created; they will study the evolution of games/sports into their modern form; they will complete the term by completing a project on their choice of topic,

or they can invent a game/sport/toy that must be playable in class. Units would be Sports, Board and Card Games, Toys and Dolls, Video and Internet Games.

Tech Ed 6 (PLTW)- Students in Tech Ed will be using Project Lead the Way curriculum which focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (S.T.E.M.) principles. A combination of drafting, designing, and C.A.D. skills will be used throughout the course.

For 6th and 7th grade -introductory skills we are taught focusing on problem solving, measurement, scientific method and principles of the design process. Students will complete several projects during the course which will take some outside of class work and materials. This is an entry level course that can be continued through high school and lead to courses at the Tech Center

Robotics 6-Students will learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students apply what they know to design and program traffic lights, robotic arms, and more.

Spanish 6 – Students will utilize the Syntalk method of Level 3 in Spanish 6. With the first Syntalk lesson, students will be able to speak confidently in complete sentences in Spanish. Students will master core vocabulary through the use of symbol cards, class activities and games that foster communicative proficiency.

International Culture 6- Preparing students to become better citizens in their communities by exposing them to different structures and systems that make up various cultures around the world. Understanding these similarities and differences help to create personal connections with individuals of other cultures and a deeper understanding of the events students see happening in their daily lives.

Art 6 – An exploratory class designed to help improve student's basic art skills; drawing, painting, and sculpting. Projects are engaging and include introductions to famous artists and the Elements and Principles of Design.

Art Around The World 6-Students will explore and create examples of arts and crafts from different cultures. Imagine African masks, Russian Felt Dolls, Japanese GyoTaku and others. Around the World class will include geography lessons as well as note taking, sketches and self reflection.

**Course offerings are subject to change due to master schedule*

ONSTED MIDDLE SCHOOL

Curriculum Guide 7th Grade

Math 7- This math class will provide students with an in-depth approach in learning math concepts such as the number system, ratios, proportional relationships, expressions, equations, geometric figures, circumference, area, volume, statistics and probability.

Math 7/8- Students will be placed into Math 7/8 based on their successful completion of Math 6/7 in 6th grade as determined by NWEA testing and/or teacher recommendation. This course moves at an accelerated pace and is designed for students who are self motivated. While in this course students will cover equations, inequalities, functions, linear functions, systems of equations and inequalities, exponents and polynomials, quadratic functions, exponential functions, and data analysis. Students who successfully complete Math 7/8 will take Algebra I the following year.

English Language Arts 7 (ELA)- Language Arts 7 covers reading, writing, speaking and listening skills and other creative forms of expression.

Literature - The Elements of Literature text incorporates short stories, novels, drama, non-fiction, poetry, myths, and legends. Additional novels are also implemented in the class.

Writing - Students continue to develop and improve writing skills integrating the steps of the writing process. The fundamentals of grammar, mechanics, and usage are also a continuation in language arts. Students will work on expanding their writing skills and ideas through a variety of projects. Articles of the Week will be assigned at the teacher's discretion to enhance student understanding of Informational Writing. Various activities throughout the year will integrate language arts skills with science, math and geography topics

Science 7-This is a general science course. Throughout the year a variety of topics will be discussed. These topics include cells, machines, motion, forces, plants, animals, body systems, thermal energy and heat, sound & light and waves. Students will complete labs and projects to supplement these topics.

Social Studies 7-Early World History-The seventh grade social studies curriculum focuses on early world history and geography with a deliberate focus on content literacy. Students begin their exploration into world history with a focus on historical thinking. By unpacking historical and geographic thinking, students learn how these disciplines are distinct in how they ask questions and frame problems to organize and drive inquiry.

Curriculum Guide 7th Grade

ELECTIVES

Band 7-Band 7, a performance group, is open to any student who has successfully completed Band 6 or the equivalent training on a musical instrument. Emphasis will be placed upon musical and technical development, advancing through the intermediate level. Performances will include fall, winter, and spring concerts and District Band and Orchestra Festival. Solo and Ensemble playing will also be included. Attendance at performances is required as part of the course work.

Students who have never played an instrument before may be allowed to join at the discretion of the band director. **[FULL YEAR COURSE]**

Art 7- An exploratory class which will help students continue to build their skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Theory, famous artists and techniques will be taught as well as the Elements and Principles of Design.

Career Pathways 7- An exploratory class that will encourage students to explore a variety of interests aligned with future careers. Students will explore different career pathways, resume building, job searching and college and career pathways of interest.

CSIM 7-(Computer Science for Innovators and Makers) - Students will learn about coding and debugging coding in this class with the use of a micro:bit microcontroller. Students will create a code for a blinking message including text, images, and animation. Then students will explore and create actual physical computing projects using sensors and actuators for inputs and outputs. This is a PLTW course.

Leadership 7-This course is designed to develop and improve the leadership skills in students. Areas from goal setting to team building to personal relations to problem solving will be covered. Learn what leadership is all about by learning about your leadership style, developing goal setting skills, communication skills, decision making skills, teamwork and much more.

Real Life Math 7-In this course students will study fundamental math concepts and how you can use them in real life. Students will learn basic math concepts through exploration of units on credit cards and bank accounts, recipes and health/leisure activities.

Hands on Local History 7-Local Lenawee County and Onsted Community data and history explorations. Hands on research of Onsted Schools history, Lenawee county history and the local underground railroad. Yearbook research, guest speakers, volunteerism and possible field trips highlight this Hands on Local History Class. The students will get practice at being historians by doing research, collection and recording of data. They will (if applicable) also visit historical sites or sites with historical connections.

Health 7- This course will be a health class but will include multiple opportunities for physical activity. The health portion will be based on the Michigan Model of Health curriculum along with additional resources and materials to supplement. Using a classroom setting, topics covered may include: Tobacco & Vaping, Social/Emotional Health & Bullying, Alcohol & other drugs. The physical activity will be socially distanced and outside whenever possible.

Fitness 7- This course will be a health class but will include multiple opportunities for physical activity. The health portion will be based on the Michigan Model of Health curriculum along with additional resources and materials to supplement. Using a classroom setting, topics covered may include: Healthy Eating, Physical Activity & Exercise Science Basics. The physical activity will be socially distanced and outside whenever possible.

Physical Education 7 (PE)-Students will be improving their skills and knowledge of many team and individual sports along with a basic condition program. The present curriculum includes flag football, soccer, tennis, softball, basketball, volleyball, team handball, lacrosse, gymnastics and track. Physical conditioning includes agility, exercises, running and strength training.

Spanish 7-Students will utilize the Syntalk method of Levels 4 in Spanish 7. With the first Syntalk lesson, students will be able to speak confidently in complete sentences in Spanish. Students will master core vocabulary through the use of symbol cards, class activities and games that foster communicative proficiency.

Makerspace 7-Do you like to build? Come unleash your engineering and creative talents in Makerspace! In our elective, we'll learn the principles of good design while completing challenges ranging from building towers, making models and constructing a powerless speaker system for your musical devices. There will be team and pair opportunities to construct the best projects! Later in the semester we'll work on open-ended projects led by student interest. Possibilities include basic woodworking, and/or elaborate Rube Goldberg contraptions. Throughout the semester the class will emphasize Design Thinking, experimentation, exhibition, safety, and fun!

Medical Detectives 7-Students play the role of real-life medical detectives in identifying, treating, and preventing injury and illness in their patients. Students examine patient medical histories and investigate how these guide medical detectives to the correct diagnosis and treatment of a particular illness. Students also investigate and collect vital signs such as heart rate, blood pressure, and temperature. Finally, students research pathogens involved in foodborne illness and act as medical detectives in diagnosing and proposing a treatment plan for a patient with a mystery illness.

Pop Culture 7- Students will create, participate, and engage in many different classroom discussions, projects, and other mediums pertaining to the study of national "Teenage" Culture. Students will examine the genre rules related to Pop-Culture Mediums (platforms, software,

digital media) used in the modern world, as well as use movies, television, and music. across the last half century to help gain generational appreciation for American culture.

Forensic Science 7-In this course students will use their critical thinking skills to think like forensic scientists. Students will learn about types of evidence that can be left at a crime scene including physical, impression, and DNA evidence. Inferencing skills will be utilized to hypothesize what has happened at a crime scene. This course is fun and interactive and will keep students intrigued about the forensic side of science.

Lit Lab 7-This course is designed for students to grow as readers and writers. In reading workshop, students will engage with high interest short stories, podcasts, and novels to encourage their love for reading and deepen their understanding of the texts through analysis and discussion. In writing workshop, students will have the opportunity to write personal narratives while being guided through the writing process by their teacher. Throughout the process, students will develop their writing skills as well as learn to give constructive feedback to their peers.

Tech Ed 7 (PLTW)-Students in Tech Ed will be using Project Lead the Way curriculum which focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (S.T.E.M.) principles. A combination of drafting, designing, and C.A.D. skills will be used throughout the course.

Electronics 7- Students in Electronics will examine the behavior and parts of atoms as well as the impact of electricity on the world around them. They learn skills in basic circuitry design and use what they know to propose designs.

For 6th and 7th grade introductory skills we are taught focusing on problem solving, measurement, scientific method and principles of the design process. Students will complete several projects during the course which will take some outside of class work and materials. This is an entry level course that can be continued through high school and lead to courses at the Tech Center.

**Course offerings are subject to change due to master schedule*

ONSTED MIDDLE SCHOOL

Curriculum Guide 8th Grade

Algebra I- Students will be placed in Algebra I based on their successful completion of Pre-Algebra in 7th grade as determined by NWEA testing and/or teacher recommendation. While in this course students will cover equations, inequalities, functions, linear functions, systems of equations and inequalities, exponents and polynomials, quadratic functions, exponential functions, and data analysis. Students who successfully complete Algebra I will receive high school credit and take Geometry as a freshman.

English Language Arts 8 (ELA)-The literature text incorporates traditional and contemporary literature with extensions through writing and art. These selections include short stories, drama, non-fiction, poetry, myths, legends and folktales, and novels. Students will integrate the stages of the writing process with the fundamentals of grammar. Related skills such as speaking and researching will be incorporated.

Honors ELA 8 -Learning focuses on the process of writing and the study of literature in the form of short stories, essays, poetry, novels and drama. Students who successfully complete English Explorations 9 will receive a high school credit.

History 8- American History-This course introduces students to the history of the United States from the Declaration of Independence to the end of the 19th century and the start of the industrial revolution. Using primary and secondary sources, students will explore time and place during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in the United States of America. Beginning with the political and intellectual transformations that preceded the Declaration of Independence, students review the ideas and principles that form the basis of our constitutional republic. Students further their understanding of American government from an in-depth study of the United States Constitution and the evolution of the government created during its first century.

Science 8-This is an Earth Science course. Throughout the year a variety of topics will be studied. These topics include astronomy, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, oceans, geologic time, and scientific inquiry. Students will complete labs and projects to supplement these topics. The curriculum lines up with the science standards set by the state.

Curriculum Guide 8th Grade

ELECTIVES

Band 8-Band 8, a performance group, is open to any student who has successfully completed Band 6 and Band 7 or the equivalent training on a musical instrument. Emphasis will be placed upon musical and technical development advancing through the intermediate level. Performances will include fall, winter, and spring appearances and District Band and Orchestra Festival. Solo and Ensemble playing will also be included. Attendance at performances is required as part of the course work

Students who have never played an instrument before may be allowed to join at the discretion of the band director. **[FULL YEAR COURSE]**

Spanish I- Based on the established requirements, students who successfully pass each semester and a comprehensive exam will earn high school credit for taking this course. Emphasis will be on the acquisition of four skills in the Spanish language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Objectives for the course include giving students the ability to carry on a simple conversation and providing them with instruction that teaches an understanding of Spanish culture, vocabulary, and grammatical concepts. Successful students will have the added advantage of placing into Spanish II as freshmen and advancing to Spanish V as seniors. **[FULL YEAR COURSE]**

Communications 8 - As an exploratory class, Communications will focus on evaluating how information is presented in our world through various media outlets. This class will involve cooperative learning groups, development of interpersonal skills, and presentation of authentic technology-based projects.

CSIM 8- (Computer Science for Innovators and Makers) - Students will learn about coding and debugging coding in this class with the use of a micro:bit microcontroller. Students will create a code for a blinking message including text, images, and animation. Then students will explore and create actual physical computing projects using sensors and actuators for inputs and outputs. This is a PLTW course.

Flight & Space 8-The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through the Flight and Space unit. Students become engineers as they design, prototype, and test models to learn about the science of flight and what it takes to travel and live in space. They solve real-world aviation and space challenges and plan a mission to Mars.

Robotics 8-Students will learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control

systems. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students apply what they know to design and program traffic lights, robotic arms, and more.

Leadership 8- Students will learn to communicate without an electronic device while learning more about themselves and gaining confidence through preparing and delivering speeches. We will also study the U.S. economic system and its relationship to personal finance, spending and investing. Finally, the class will develop an understanding of our political system at all levels of government, its workings and the role citizens have in our democracy.

Health 8-This course will be a health class but will include multiple opportunities for physical activity. The health portion will be based on the Michigan Model of Health curriculum along with additional resources and materials to supplement. Using a classroom setting, topics covered may include: Tobacco & Vaping, Social/Emotional Health & Bullying, Alcohol & other drugs. The physical activity will be socially distanced and outside whenever possible.

Fitness 8- This course will be a health class but will include multiple opportunities for physical activity. The health portion will be based on the Michigan Model of Health curriculum along with additional resources and materials to supplement. Using a classroom setting, topics covered may include: Healthy Eating, Physical Activity & Exercise Science Basics. The physical activity will be socially distanced and outside whenever possible.

Physical Education 8 (PE)- Students will be improving their skills and knowledge of many team and individual sports along with a basic conditioning program. The present curriculum includes flag football, soccer, tennis, softball, basketball, volleyball, team handball, lacrosse, gymnastics and track. Physical conditioning includes agility, exercises, running and strength training.

Tech Ed 8 (PLTW)-Students in Tech Ed will be using Project Lead the Way curriculum which focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (S.T.E.M.) principles. A combination of drafting, designing, and C.A.D. skills will be used throughout the course to introduce students to aeronautical, mechanical, civil, electrical and robotics engineering concepts. Students will complete multiple hands-on projects during the course which will take some outside of class work and materials. This is an entry level course that can be continued through high school and lead to courses at the LISD Tech Center.

Art 8- An exploratory class which will improve student's art skills; drawing, painting, sculpting and designing using a variety of media and techniques. This class will develop student's creativity and self expression.

Drawing 8- A class which will provide the 8th grade student with the knowledge of drawing and designing as applied through the use of the Elements and Principles of Design. Two and three dimensional activities will be created in a variety of mediums such as pencil, charcoal, pen

and marker and more. Subjects will range from drawing from observation to drawing with imagination.

Publications 8-This course focuses on the many aspects of producing a great yearbook. Students will work with advertisers to sell and create ads. The yearbook staff will take photos using a digital camera. They will create a variety of yearbook page layouts using E-Design (an online yearbook program). Students will also deal with selling, bookkeeping, and distribution of yearbooks to the students of Onsted Middle School. Students will also create quarterly publications to the student body.

Yearbook 8-This course focuses on the many aspects of producing a great yearbook. Students will work with advertisers to sell and create ads. The yearbook staff will take photos using a digital camera. They will create a variety of yearbook page layouts using E-Design (an online yearbook program). Students will also deal with selling, bookkeeping, and distribution of yearbooks to the students of Onsted Middle School.

**Course offerings are subject to change due to master schedule*

Online learning is educational content and instruction that is delivered via the Internet. Content and instruction are delivered through a variety of methods including text, audio, video, simulations and other interactive tools. Students and instructors most often interact asynchronously (interactions separated by time), through email, discussion forums and announcements. Some courses require synchronous communication (no time lapse), such as through video conferencing tools depending on the provider. Students must be able to use the keyboard and mouse for basic navigation and to interact with the quizzes, tests and media in an online course. Basic familiarity with browsers, email, and word processing programs may be required to successfully complete an online course. The ability to access the internet is also REQUIRED. At school you may or may not have these options: class time, after school labs, and/or possible laptop with internet capability. Students that fail an online class will be recommended to take a full schedule of regular classes the following semester

OCS Virtual Courses with description for Middle School

Math

Math 6 A/B-This semester-long middle school course will provide students with a deep understanding and mastery of the objectives that will prepare them for algebra. It is aligned to Common Core State Standards, and is based on best practices in the teaching of mathematics and the disciplines of STEM learning. Students will develop 21st century skills as they master ratios and proportional relationships; the number system; and number visualization. The course is highly engaging while being easy for teachers to customize and manage.

Math 7 A/B-Math 7 builds on material learned in earlier grades, including fractions, decimals, and percentages and introduces students to concepts they will continue to use throughout their study of mathematics. Among these are surface area, volume, and probability. Real-world applications facilitate understanding, and students are provided multiple opportunities to master these skills through practice problems within lessons, homework drills, and graded assignments.

Math 8 A/B-This course is designed to enable all students at the middle school level to develop a deep understanding of math objectives and leaves students ready for algebra. The first semester covers objectives in transformations, linear equations, systems of equations, and functions. The second semester focuses on scientific notation, roots, the Pythagorean Theorem and volume, and statistics and probability. The course is based on the Common Core State Standards Initiative and on a modern understanding of student learning in mathematics.

Algebra I A/B- Algebra I v7.0 is a completely re-designed course that offers 100% alignment to the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. The specific standard alignment for each lesson is visible to both educators and students. In addition to the emphasis on alignment, the lessons in the new course are designed to be shorter in length than lessons of previous versions, offering focused exploration of topics to make concepts more digestible for students. Practice questions are included with each lesson, including technology-enhanced items and explanations to assist students in their understanding of the concepts. New features to support student mastery include worksheets for practice and guided notes to help students record key takeaways as they move through the tutorial. The course is also built around student engagement, with more interactive lessons and videos that work through examples and model

problem-solving skills. This fresh new look and feel for the course was inspired by educator feedback. Educators were also involved in the course at the design-level, as many unit activities, worksheets, and video scripts were written by current algebra classroom teachers. Algebra 1 v7.0 reflects our commitment to standards alignment and putting the needs of educators and students first in all aspects of course design.

Social Studies

Middle School U.S. History A/B-In Middle School U.S. History, learners will explore historical American events with the help of innovative videos, timelines, and interactive maps and images. The course covers colonial America through the Reconstruction period. Learners will develop historical thinking and geography skills, which they will use throughout the course to heighten their understanding of the material. Specific topics of study include the U.S. Constitution, the administrations of George Washington and John Adams, the War of 1812, and the Civil War.

Middle School World History A/B-In Middle School World History, learners will study major historical world events from early human societies through to the present day. Multimedia tools including custom videos as well as videos from the BBC, custom maps, and interactive timelines will help engage learners as they complete this year-long course. They will explore the development of early humans and early civilizations. They will be introduced to the origins of major world religions, such as Hinduism and Buddhism. Also, learners will study the medieval period. Historical thinking and geography skills will be taught and utilized throughout the course.

Michigan World History and Geography A/B-Michigan high school students taking this course will get a true survey of world history. Beginning with the study of early human societies and the invention of agriculture, this course takes the students on a journey through time, from ancient societies up through the modern era. This course employs many interactive features like maps and images with clickable hotspots that students can explore to get more information about things such as regions, cities, and geographical features on a map and artistic techniques and features in famous works of art. Best of all, this course is aligned to the Michigan state standards of learning and to the English Language Arts (ELA) Standards for History and Social Studies.

World Geography A/B-In an increasingly interconnected world, equipping students to develop a better understanding of our global neighbors is critical to ensuring that they are college and career ready. These semester-long courses empower students to increase their knowledge of the world in which they live and how its diverse geographies shape the international community. Semester A units begin with an overview of the physical world and the tools necessary to explore it effectively. Subsequent units survey each continent and its physical characteristics and engage students and encourage them to develop a global perspective.

English

English 06 A/B-This course provides a strong foundation in grammar and the writing process. It emphasizes simple but useful composition and language mechanics strategies with multiple opportunities for modeling practical, real-world writing situations that will enable students to improve their written communication skills quickly. Through a variety of grade-appropriate reading selections, students develop a clear understanding of key literary genres and their distinguishing characteristics.

English 07 A/B- English 7 Integrates the study of writing and literature through the examination of a variety of genres. Students identify the elements of composition in the reading selections to understand their function and effect on the reader. Practice is provided in narrative and expository writing. Topics include comparison and contrast, persuasion, and cause and effect essays, as well as descriptive and figurative language. Lessons are supplemented with vocabulary development, grammar, and syntax exercises, along with an introduction to verbal phrases and research tools.

English 08 A/B-Extends the skills developed in English 7 through detailed study of parts of sentences and paragraphs to understand their importance to good writing. Students also acquire study skills such as time management and improved test-taking strategies. Other topics include punctuation, word choice, syntax, varying sentence structure, subordination and coordination, detail and elaboration, effective use of reference materials, and proofreading.

Science

Life Science A/B-This inquiry- and lab-based course is designed to support modern science curriculum and teaching practices. It robustly meets NGSS learning standards associated with middle school life science. Content topics include cells and human body systems, structure and functions of living organisms, genes and adaptations, evolution, energy flow in ecosystems, and interdependence of ecosystems.

Each lesson includes one or more inquiry-based activities that can be performed online within the context of the lesson. In addition, the course includes a significant number of hands-on lab activities. Approximately 40% of student time in this course is devoted to true lab experiences, as defined by the National Research Council (2006, p. 3).

Physical Science A/B-This inquiry- and lab-based course is designed to support modern science curriculum and teaching practices. It robustly meets NGSS learning standards associated with middle school physical science. Content topics include structure and properties of matter, chemical reactions, forces and motion, force fields, energy, and waves.

Each lesson includes one or more inquiry-based activities that can be performed online within the context of the lesson. In addition, the course includes a significant number of hands-on lab

activities. Approximately 40% of student time in this course is devoted to true lab experiences, as defined by the National Research Council (2006, p. 3).

Earth and Space Science A/B-This inquiry- and lab-based course is designed to support modern science curriculum and teaching practices. It robustly meets NGSS learning standards associated with middle school Earth and space science. Content topics include Earth and space systems and interactions, the history of the Earth, the Earth's systems, weather and climate, climate change, and human impacts on the Earth.

Each lesson includes one or more inquiry-based activities that can be performed online within the context of the lesson. In addition, the course includes a significant number of hands-on lab activities. Approximately 40% of student time in this course is devoted to true lab experiences, as defined by the National Research Council (2006, p. 3).

Electives

Academic Success- As in other areas of life, success in academics results from learning and practicing positive habits. This one-semester elective provides practical, hands-on guidance on developing and improving study habits and skills, regardless of a student's level of accomplishment. Academic Success includes five lessons and two course activities in a flexible structure that is adaptable to the needs and circumstances of individual students. The course can also be used for college-level developmental education.

Career Explorations- The 21 lessons and additional activities in this one-semester course are fundamental to ensuring career readiness on the part of your students. Covering such essentials as developing and practicing a strong work ethic, time management, communication, teamwork, and the fundamentals of workplace organizations, Career Explorations develops not just essential skills, but the confidence in themselves and their abilities to present themselves that your students need as they prepare to embark on their chosen careers.

Digital Art and Design- There are so many different types of art in this world—fine art, classical art, visual art—but the impact of digital art and design is all around us, often in ways that you probably aren't even aware of! After taking Digital Art and Design, you'll enjoy a deeper understanding and appreciation for all things digital as you explore this special genre of art found in everything from advertising to animation to photography and beyond. In this course, you'll learn about the evolution of art, the basic principles of art and design, and the role of art in politics and society. Additionally, you will actually create your own digital art and make it come alive. Give your creative side a boost with this Digital Art and Design course!

Essential Career Skills -This course helps students understand and practice critical life and workplace readiness skills identified by employers, state boards of education, and Advance CTE. These skills include personal characteristics, such as positive work ethic, integrity, self-representation, and resourcefulness, as well as key people skills, communication skills, and broadly-applicable professional and technical skills. These skills are universally valuable but

sometimes assumed or glossed over in more career-specific courses. For that reason, this provides students with a solid foundation in their career studies.

Exploring Business- Are you interested in business, leading people, or making decisions to help a business be successful? While there are many different career choices in the field of business, in this course, you'll discover options such as management, human resources, business operations, information management, and accounting. Explore the skills you'll need, common tasks, the technology used, and characteristics of various business careers.

Exploring Music- What comes to mind when you hear the word 'music'? Do you think about your favorite band or artist? Do you think about instruments and scales and chords? The word 'music' means something different to everyone. This is why in Exploring Music there is a little bit of something for everyone! You will learn about how we hear music and how music affects our lives. You will explore important elements of music like rhythm, pitch, and harmony, as well as different musical genres. You will discover more about your singing voice and musical instruments and composition while taking in the history and culture of music over the years. Tune up your understanding and appreciation for all things music by signing up for this course!

Exploring Health Science- Where do healthcare workers spend their days? What do they really do? From cruise ships to sports arenas, you can find healthcare workers in many places that you might not expect. Explore this field, including what it would be like to work in a medical lab. Learn what it takes to keep you and your patients safe, and begin to learn about the human body and basic first-aid.

Fitness-Are you physically fit? What does being fit mean to you? Physical fitness is a lot more than just a number on a scale, and that's exactly what you'll learn in this course! Middle School Fitness helps you understand the basics of being physically fit and allows for a deeper understanding of your body's functions. You will learn about the complex science behind exercise and determine how you can test your current level of fitness. Explore what it means to be mindful and discover what inspires you. Improving your physical fitness is a smart choice to make at any age, and by signing up for this course, you will be taking the first step on your exciting journey to understanding and improving your physical fitness.

Game Design 1a: Introduction- We love to play video games, but have you ever wanted to build your own? If you are interested in a career in technology but also want a creative outlet, Game Design might be the field for you. Learn how to build a game from the ground up in this interactive and hands-on course that will teach you all the ins and outs of making your own game.

Introduction to Forensic Science- This course is designed to introduce students to the importance and limitations of forensic science and explore different career options in this field. They also learn to process a crime scene, collect and preserve evidence, and analyze biological evidence such as fingerprints, blood spatter, and DNA samples. Moreover, they learn to determine the time and cause of death in homicides and analyze ballistic evidence and human remains in a crime scene. Finally, they learn about forensic investigative methods related to arson, computer crimes, financial crimes, frauds, and forgeries.

Journalism - Are you someone who likes to get the story straight? Do you always want to know more? Who? What? When? Where? How? These are the details that make for a great story. Knowing how to find these key facts and then write them up in a way that makes it easy for others to read about it is the skill of a true journalist. In *Middle School Journalism: Tell Your Story*, you'll learn how to ask the right questions, look for the details, and find the story in any situation. You'll learn how to gather information effectively, organize ideas, format stories for media production, and edit your articles. Get ready to break that news!

Music Appreciation- In a time of an increasing emphasis on STEM courses and skills, it remains essential to provide your students with opportunities to explore the arts from both an informational and career-oriented perspective. In *Music Appreciation*, students will explore the history and evolution of music, learn the elements of music and musical notations, and the contributions of popular music artists and composers. A variety of lessons, activities, and discussions will help to develop an awareness and appreciation of music that will develop not only critical thinking skills, but life enriching skills as well.

Spanish 1 A/B- Spanish is the most spoken non-English language in U.S. homes, even among non-Hispanics, according to the Pew Research Center. There are overwhelming cultural, economic, and demographic reasons for students to achieve mastery of Spanish. Spanish 1A and B engage students and use a variety of activities to ensure student engagement and to promote personalized learning. These courses can be delivered completely online, or implemented as blended courses, according to the unique needs of the teacher and the students.

Physical Education -This course's three units include Getting Active, Improving Performance, and Lifestyle. Unit activities elevate students' self-awareness of their health and well-being while examining topics such as diet and mental health and exploring websites and other resources. In addition to being effective as a stand-alone course, the components can be easily integrated into other health and wellness courses.

Introduction to Astronomy-Introduction to Astronomy is a one-semester course with 17 lessons that cover a wide range of topics, such as the solar system, planets, stars, asteroids, comets, galaxies, space exploration, and theories of cosmology. The target audience for this course is high school students.