

Asa Clark Middle School

COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE 2019-2020



“HOME OF THE PIRATES”

**Asa Clark Middle School
472 Lake Street
Pewaukee, WI 53072
www.pewaukeeschools.org**

Asa Clark Middle School keeps students at the center of the educational experience. Through innovation, collaboration, and personalized learning, we inspire and empower students to excel both academically and socially while preparing them for their futures.

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MESSAGE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND STUDENTS

It is our desire that your child have the best opportunities possible to prepare them for high school and beyond. We feel that the middle school years should provide opportunities for exploration and for in-depth studies. Whatever the program is, it should be one that is well planned and thought out with the present and future in mind. We have put together a strong middle school curriculum that is exciting as well as challenging.

The Asa Clark Middle School staff has committed itself to providing each child an individualized learning plan within our personalized learning environment. By doing so, it is our hope to offer each child:

- A better setting for student learning to enhance future readiness;
- Increased quality instruction in the critical areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies;
- A variety of elective choices to explore;
- A better transition to, and preparation for the rigors of high school and beyond;
- A team centered approach to working holistically with each child.

We hope you share our excitement regarding our educational program and the opportunities it brings for improved student success and achievement. We at Asa Clark Middle School want to challenge your child to reach their full potential while providing the support they need along the way.

Anthony Pizzo
Principal

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL PROGRAMMING NEEDS:

The Special Education Program at Asa Clark Middle School is designed to support students with various disabilities including learning, speech and language, cognitive, emotional/behavior, visual and hearing impairment. Depending on each student's individual needs, an appropriate program is developed to accommodate his/her educational goals. The student's program is then implemented within the least restrictive environment.

Individual scheduling and program placement will take place at your child's Asa Clark Middle School transition meeting. Transition meetings typically take place during the winter; program case managers will contact families with more details.

STUDENT SERVICES/SCHOOL COUNSELOR:

Student services are available for every student in the school. Student services are integrated throughout the curriculum and also include individual assistance with educational planning, career information, and other school and personal concerns.

TALENTED AND GIFTED PROGRAM (TAG):

The TAG Program meets the needs of talented and gifted students through three levels of programming. Level 1 takes place in the regular classroom through differentiation. Level 2 programming continues in the regular classroom, but takes the form of acceleration, compacting, enrichment or an appropriate combination of these factors. In addition, students may participate in special events or activities either in or out of their classroom, such as the National Geography Bee. Level 3 students are supported through the development of an Individual Differentiation Plan.

RESOURCE – ACADEMIC, SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL GROWTH PLAN:

All students are assigned a Resource where a safe, supportive, and rigorous learning environment is provided. Resource has the following goals:

- Every student will develop positive self-esteem and confidence;
- Every student understands one's strengths and challenges, effectively sets goals and monitors progress, effectively manages time, and self-advocates in order for them to maximize their academic, social, and emotional growth.
- Every student understands the importance of communication and collaboration between home and school.

To accomplish the above goals, students participate in the following activities:

- Core Competencies learning;
 - ✓ Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Creativity and Innovation, Collaboration, Citizenship, Communication, Information Technology, and College and Career Readiness
- Academic and Career Planning (ACP);
- Academic work time;
- Math and Reading support (as needed; see Academic Support information below).

ACADEMIC SUPPORT:

In order to best assure that each learner is proficient in the core academic areas of mathematics and reading, your child may be provided the opportunity to receive additional academic support. Our Response to Intervention (RTI) System will use multiple data points to best identify those students in need of additional academic support. Within this system, learner progress will be monitored and communicated. **Academic support may be provided to your child in place of their resource or an elective class.**

THE SCHEDULING PROCESS

The scheduling process is the shared responsibility of students, parents, teachers, school administration and the school counselor. All of these people contribute ideas and information that result in effective educational programs for students. Since student educational programs have implications for post-high school education and eventual career choice, careful planning is required.

Parents assist students in the selection process by discussing alternatives with them and by helping them to analyze their individual interests, needs, and goals. Involvement of parents provides students with the support, encouragement, and knowledge that are needed for this important step in educational career planning.

Teachers are available to discuss the curriculum with students in an effort to provide understanding of the many options that are available. Students are encouraged to seek their teachers' recommendations before enrolling in some courses so that they are appropriately placed and meet the prerequisites.

The school counselor (Brianna Bartoszewski ~ bartbri@pewaukeeschools.org or 262-695-5047) is available to assist students and parents in developing a sound educational program. The school counselor has skills, experience, and accessibility to the information needed to help students in the selection process.

Students are provided with information about all the subjects available to them. They must choose those subjects which give them knowledge and skills that are necessary as determined by their current educational and career plan.

ART

ART EXPLORATION

Grade: 7 & 8

Elective Semester - Alternating Days

Art Exploration is an introductory and exploratory course. Within a collaborative environment that encourages critical thinking and problem solving, students view and analyze artwork created during major art movements from the 1850's – 1950's. Students investigate how to use the elements and principles of design for visual communication. Students experiment with a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional media and begin to develop technical skills. Students use a sketchbook to brain-storm, plan, and develop ideas. Technology will be used to research artists/artwork/artistic techniques for document generation and creative self-expression.

2D ART

Grade: 7 & 8

Elective Semester – Alternating Days

Prerequisite: Art Exploration

Fee: \$10.00

2D Art focuses on two-dimensional art, creative thinking and self-expression. Collaboration with classmates will take place to problem solve, analyze and discuss two-dimensional artwork created by modern American artists. Students seek innovative solutions to two-dimensional design challenges to develop their technical skills, along with investigating ways to utilize the elements and principles of design, by working with a variety of two-dimensional media including drawing, painting, collage, and printmaking. Students will refine their own creative “voice” as they design, plan, and create an independent art project that is self-expressive.

A sketch- book will be used to brainstorm, plan, and develop ideas along with completing monthly sketch book assignments. Technology is used to research artists/artwork/artistic techniques for document generation, to photograph artwork for documentation, and for creative self-expression. Students evaluate their finished work and reflect on their creative process.

- A field trip will be taken to the Milwaukee Art Museum to experience, analyze, and interpret aspects of the visual world (field trip expenses will be incurred).

3D ART

Grade: 7 & 8

Elective Semester – Alternating Days

Prerequisite: Art Exploration

Fee: \$20.00

3D Art focuses on three-dimensional art, creative thinking, and self-expression. Students will collaborate with classmates to problem solve, analyze, and discuss three-dimensional artwork created by modern American artists. Students seek innovative solutions to design challenges to develop their technical skills, along with investigating ways to utilize the elements and principles of design. Work will be done in a variety of three-dimensional media including ceramics, paper mache, fibers, wire, and plaster. Students will refine their own creative “voice” as they design, plan, and create an independent art project that is self-expressive.

A sketchbook will be used to brainstorm, plan, and develop ideas along with completing monthly sketchbook assignments. Technology is used to research artists/artwork/artistic techniques for document generation, to photograph artwork for documentation, and for creative self-expression. Students evaluate their finished work and reflect on their creative process.

- A field trip will be taken to the Milwaukee Art Museum to experience, analyze, and interpret aspects of the visual world (field trip expenses will be incurred).

ART CONTINUED

ADVANCED ART

Grade: 8

Elective Semester – Alternating Days

Prerequisite: Art Exploration, and either 2D or 3D Art

Fee: \$20.00

Advanced Art focuses on creative thinking and problem solving with a student-directed and independent learning approach. Students will refine their technical skills focusing on their individual areas of strength and weakness. Students will express their creative “voice” by using a sketchbook as a personal tool for research, brainstorming, and idea development by designing their own units/projects based off of universal themes and by selecting appropriate two or three-dimensional materials to enhance the meaning of their artwork. Students will apply their technology skills to research and analyze the artwork of student chosen, relevant, contemporary artists, document generation including written artist statements, artwork analysis, and creative self-expressions. Students will utilize the critique process to evaluate in-progress and finished artwork.

- A field trip will be taken to the Chicago Institute of Art to experience, analyze, and interpret aspects of the visual world (field trip fees will be incurred);
- Exhibit artwork in a variety of community exhibitions;
- Independently select and prepare student’s artwork and an “artist statement” for an Advanced Art Course Exhibit;
- Finalize and present student portfolio for review by PHS Art Department for the opportunity to by-pass the Introduction to Art Course at PHS.

YEARBOOK PRODUCTION

Grade: 7 & 8

Elective Year – Alternating Days

In Yearbook Production, students explore theme development, journalistic writing, photography, graphic design and typography. This course provides students with in-depth, real world learning experiences. Ultimately, students will apply these skills to create a quality product for the entire school community to enjoy.

- Participation in a workshop training session (sponsored by Jostens) will be a part of the course.

BUSINESS

21ST CENTURY TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

Grade: 7 & 8

Required Semester – Alternating Days

Students may choose to complete this requirement in either 7th or 8th grade.

21st Century Technology Skills is a required, semester-long course. Based on the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards, students will develop skills and gain knowledge needed to effectively learn technology and live productively in an increasingly global and digital world. Students will work individually and collaboratively to create a digital portfolio demonstrating their achievements in understanding processes of the media used and creative techniques for future application in school, business and personal use.

The following units of study will be taught:

Keyboarding, Word Processing Operations & Concepts, Spreadsheet Operations & Concepts, Presentation Operations & Concepts, and Desktop Publishing Operations & Concepts.

INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS

Grade: 7 & 8

Elective Semester - Alternating Days

Introduction to Business is an elective, semester-long course designed to give middle school students an opportunity to gain basic knowledge on topics that make-up the business world in which they live in. The course is built to equip students with not only a foundation in business skills, but also a perspective to start gathering information on career choices. Along with paving a path towards a career, students will receive techniques in business management that includes using: economic systems, business ownerships, job portfolios, and a concept of business and marketing management for their future. Successful completion of this course may allow a student to test out of Business Foundations upon entering high school.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade: 7 & 8

Required Year – Daily

The Language Arts Program is built on the Common Core State Standards for Literacy, encompassing four key areas; reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.

Students read self-selected novels independently or through book groups throughout the year. Along with 30 minutes of silent reading within the classroom, all students are expected to read for a minimum of 30 uninterrupted minutes daily at home. After skill-based instruction in reading comprehension and analytical skills, students create assessment products to showcase their knowledge.

Throughout the year, students write for a variety of purposes and digitally publish on their individual blogs or Google sites where their work is assessed by their teacher. Skill-based instruction occurs as well for writing, and the writing process is emphasized as students draft, revise, and edit both independently and collaboratively.

Instruction in language includes the conventions of correctly written English along with the use of language, including sentence structures, vocabulary, and figurative language. Formal and informal listening and speaking skills are taught and assessed as students actively engage in class discussion and present information to their peers.

All students will have an opportunity to experience an advanced level curriculum based on interest, motivation, and readiness. Technology is used to encourage research, editing, and sharing quality student writings.

FORENSICS

Grade: 7 & 8

Elective Semester – Alternating Days

Are you nervous giving presentations in front of the class? Forensics, the art of formal public speaking and presentation, will encourage and develop student's ability to communicate effectively while gaining knowledge of a wide range of public speaking and presentation skills. This class will build a student's self-confidence and provide opportunities for them to enhance their public speaking skills.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER EDUCATION

INDEPENDENT LIVING

Grade: 7 & 8

Elective Semester – Alternating Days

Fee: \$5.00

Independent Living is an elective, semester-long course. In this course, students will learn the skills they need to feel comfortable being alone at home. Topics will include personal health and nutrition, basic food production, budgeting/personal finance, resource management skills, and stress management skills.

INTRODUCTION TO CULINARY ARTS

Grade: 7 & 8

Elective Semester – Alternating Days

Fee: \$20.00

Introduction to Culinary Arts is an elective, semester-long course. This course will focus on the function of ingredients as they apply to the recipes students will create, in addition to cooking tools, knife skills, safety and sanitation. Introduction to Culinary Arts aligns with the Culinary Arts I course offered in the high school; students will have the opportunity to test out of Culinary Arts I upon entering high school and move on to other Culinary courses.

INTRODUCTION TO DESIGN & FASHION

Grade: 7 & 8

Elective Semester – Alternating Days

Fee: \$15.00

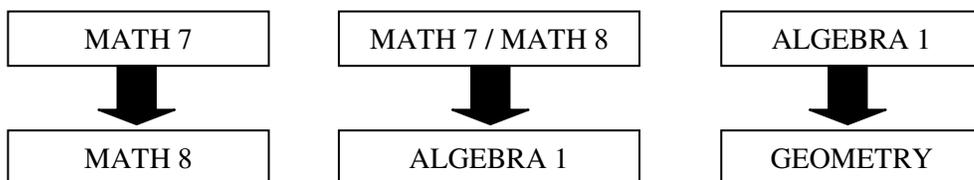
Introduction to Design & Fashion is an elective, semester-long course. In this course, students will integrate knowledge and skills needed to produce, alter or repair apparel and textile products as well as evaluate textile products and materials. Students will also integrate knowledge, skills and practices as they apply to housing, interiors and furnishings.

MATHEMATICS

Student math placements are made based on a variety of criteria including:

- Progress made on standards in the current school year;
- Historical data regarding individual math performance on standard tests, District assessments, and in previously completed math courses;
- On the student's consistent task commitment to daily work, perseverance, motivation, and readiness;
- Student's ability to apply previous knowledge to current subject matter or real world situations.

It is recommended that students in Math 7 or Math 8 use either a model TI-30XIIS or TI30XA scientific calculator and students in Algebra or Geometry use either a model TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator.



MATH 7 *Year - Daily*

While working through the 7th grade standards, students will acquire a variety of problem solving strategies while investigating real-world mathematical applications. Emphasis is placed on developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships, developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations, solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two/ three dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area and volume, and drawing inferences about populations based on samples. Students who successfully show proficiency will be prepared to work on the 8th Grade Math Standards.

MATH 7/MATH 8 *Year - Daily*

Students enrolled in this course will be working to complete Math 7, Math 8, and Algebra I in two years. While working through the 7th grade standards and some of the 8th grade standards, students will acquire a variety of problem solving strategies while investigating real world mathematical applications. Emphasis is placed on developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships, developing an understanding of operations with rational numbers, working with expressions and advanced multi-step linear equations, formulating reasoning about expressions and equations, introducing properties of exponents, understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem, solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two/three dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area and volume, and understanding and applying transformations. Students who successfully show proficiency on the Math 7 and Math 8 standards, will be prepared to take Algebra I in 8th grade.

MATHEMATICS CONTINUED

MATH 8

Year - Daily

While working through the 8th grade standards, students will acquire a variety of problem solving strategies while investigating real world mathematical applications. Emphasis is placed on formulating reasoning about expressions and equations, solving linear equations and systems of linear equations, grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships, and analyzing two/three dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Students who successfully show proficiency will be prepared to take Algebra I.

ALGEBRA I

Year – Daily

While working through the Algebra standards, students develop higher level mathematical problem solving skills. Emphasis is placed on grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships, solving and graphing linear equations and building linear models to solve problems, solving systems of linear equations graphically and algebraically, solving and graphing quadratic equations and building quadratic models to solve problems, extending the properties of exponents, and performing arithmetic operations on polynomials through a variety of problem solving activities. Students who show proficiency will be prepared to take Geometry.

GEOMETRY

Year - Daily

While working through the Geometry standards, students are provided experiences that link the informal exploration of spatial understanding to drawing logical deductions and inferences from geometric problem situations. Emphasis is placed on gaining an in depth understanding of congruence, similarity, right triangles, trigonometry, circles, polygons, geometric measurement, and geometric dimension through transformation. Students develop an ability to formulate and analyze challenging problems requiring higher level thinking and the application of complex mathematical strategies and processes. Students who show proficiency will be prepared to take Algebra II or Algebra II Honors.

PERFORMING ARTS

BAND 7

Grade: 7

Elective Year - Alternating Days

Fee: \$50.00 (rental of approved school instrument in addition to all percussion students)

Students in 7th grade band will build upon their musical skills learned in 6th grade band using the “Essential Elements 2000 Book 2” technique book. Students will perform challenging middle school level repertoire from a variety of genres. Students in 7th grade band will perform in several concerts each year including a fall and winter concert, and a spring “POPS” concert. This group performs every other year at a National Concert Band Festival. All students have the opportunity to participate in the Wisconsin School Music Association Solo and Ensemble Contest which could include flute choir, saxophone choir, percussion ensemble, clarinet choir, brass choir, and woodwind quintet in addition to any solo music the student would like to study and perform. Beginners are welcome and should contact the instructor prior to the start of the school year.

BAND 8

Grade: 8

Elective Year - Alternating Days

Fee: \$50.00 (rental of approved school instrument in addition to all percussion students)

Students in 8th grade band will build upon their musical skills learned in 7th grade band using the “Essential Elements 2000 Book 2” technique book. Students will perform challenging middle school and early high school level repertoire from a variety of genres. Students in 8th grade band will perform in several concerts each year including a fall and winter concert, a spring “POPS” concert, and possibly an end-of-the-year event. This band also performs with the PHS Pep Band at a PHS home basketball game. This group performs every other year at a National Concert Band Festival. All students have the opportunity to participate in the Wisconsin School Music Association Solo and Ensemble Contest which could include flute choir, saxophone choir, percussion ensemble, clarinet choir, brass choir, and woodwind quintet in addition to performing a solo with their instrument. Beginners are welcome and should contact the instructor prior to the start of the school year.

MUSIC APPRECIATION & PERFORMANCE

Grade: 7 & 8

Elective Year - Alternating Days

Students in this vocal performance general music class will build upon their musical skills through challenging middle school level and early high school level repertoire from a variety of genres and contest music. Students will perform in many school sponsored events including assemblies, winter concert, spring concert, a “POPS” concert, and a final performance at the end-of-the-year. This musical group will also perform with the PHS Varsity Ensembles at various concerts as well as performing every other year at a National Music Festival. Students will have the opportunity to participate in the Wisconsin School Music Association Solo and Ensemble Contest which could include solos, duets, trios, and quartets. Beginners are welcome.

MUSICAL PRODUCTION

Grade: 7 & 8

Elective Semester – Alternating Days

Fee: See Information Below

Students taking this course will be introduced to the basic elements of a musical production and performance by focusing on large ensemble numbers, acting, and stage performance. Artistic technical skills will be introduced through staging, lighting, props, and costuming; in addition, students will be immersed in many aspects of the theatrical world. Students will be given various opportunities (on and off the stage) to participate in assembling the Asa Clark musical production. Some after-school and evening/weekend time commitments will be required for rehearsals and performances. In addition to Asa Clark’s musical production, students will explore the current theater of today. Some after school and evening/weekend time commitments will be required for rehearsals and performances. Let your creativity flow in this introductory Musical Production class.

Fees and costs associated with each musical production **MAY** include the following:

- Costume
 - Rental fee (approximately \$25)
 - Personally provide own
- Black pants, black shirt and black shoes
- Makeup

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

FITNESS & HEALTH

Grade: 7 & 8

Year - Alternating Days

Fee: \$10.00 (Rental of roller skates)

Fitness and Health is a two year course that meets every other day. Over the course of each student's two years at Asa Clark, Fitness and Health provides students the opportunity to participate in team sports, individual sports, weight training, outdoor education/non-traditional activities, and health classes.

In order to provide students with the best possible experience, students are given a choice of "paths" they can take within the class in hopes of maximizing each student's level of interest and involvement in the class. Each quarter, students select between traditional Physical Education and an alternative of weight training or outdoor education/non-traditional activities.

Students selecting traditional Physical Education participate in popular, culturally relevant activities such as basketball, football, and softball. Students selecting weight training learn the proper form used in fundamental lifts, as well as the functions of the major muscle groups. Students selecting outdoor education/non-traditional activities participate in lifetime activities designed to develop an appreciation for the outdoors and recreation.

Regardless of the path students select, all students participate in yearly fitness testing and health related lessons dealing with topics such as stress management, alcohol and other drugs, human growth and development, and nutrition.

SCIENCE

Science inquiry is defined in middle school as the process of asking questions and discovering the “why” in regards to science topics. Students do not learn science concepts exclusively based on teacher instruction. Instead, students will construct their own knowledge with teacher guidance. When inquiry-based labs are used, teachers will facilitate and provide guidance when students demonstrate a need, but students will be responsible to come up with their own processes of how to solve an experiment. Students will use the CER (Claims, Evidence & Reasoning) format to record and analyze classroom lab results. Measurements and graphing of data are a part of this process as students collect, analyze and display their information.

SCIENCE – Theme Two

Grade: 7 & 8

Year – 2019-20 Alternating Days

Theme two focuses on life science with a connection to chemistry. Since cells, genetics, ecosystems, and chemistry are so closely related, the theme discovers the connectedness between the sciences.

Within ecosystems, the students explore the flow of energy and how matter is constantly being recycled. Changes create a ripple effect that impacts other components of the ecosystem. At the cellular level, students will explore the various functions of the cell and connect cells to tissues, organs, and systems within our body and in our world. Through genetics, students explore how the DNA is the building block of all forms of life and the processes in which your DNA is created and replicated. In addition, innate and learned behaviors are explored and how these behaviors impact how a species may evolve. Through these life science topics, chemistry topics like atoms, the periodic table, chemical formulas, and balancing equations are explored.

SCIENCE – Theme One

Grade: 7 & 8

Year – 2020-21 Alternating Days

This year’s science theme focuses on earth and space science with an emphasis on physics and energy. Since astronomy, weather and climate, physics, and electromagnetic energy are so closely related, the theme discovers the connectedness between the sciences.

In astronomy, the focus is on understanding the processes and role of forces in the motion of earth, moon, sun, solar system, and galaxies. The students will use astronomy as the tool to understand and apply the concepts of physics such as Newton’s Three Laws of Motion, waves, energy and various forces. In studying the earth, students will create a weather forecast applying their knowledge of weather formations and their causes, and will take a close look at the non visible components of earth, which include magnetism and electromagnetic energy.

SOCIAL STUDIES

SOCIAL STUDIES CULTURAL WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Grade: 7

Year - Alternating Days

The study of World Geography is designed to introduce students to the many cultural aspects found throughout the world and how they relate to the spaces and places where they originate. Students will compare cultural, political, economic, and religious characteristics through the analysis of primary and secondary (i.e., maps, pictures and documents). While studying humans around the world, students will compare development, standards of living, systems of government, and economic factors. In addition, students will gain a rich understanding of global cultures and the historical factors that have shaped the world around them.

This course has a literacy focus and will include an emphasis on cross-curricular learning with students' Language Arts classes. Students will learn to evaluate and reference non-fiction texts, use appropriate research skills, and communicate ideas effectively through speaking. Through standards-based grading, each student will be assessed for understanding of the curriculum as it applies to the standards for class.

SOCIAL STUDIES U.S. HISTORY 1600-1865

Grade: 8

Year - Alternating Days

The study of U.S. History 1600-1865 examines the major turning points in American history beginning with the events leading up to the American Revolution, the origins of our constitution, reform movements, Manifest Destiny, and ending with the Civil War. Using primary and secondary documents and current events, students learn about the various political, social, religious, and economic developments that have shaped and continue to shape the United States. Critical thinking is emphasized as an integral way of understanding how the past relates to the present and future. Units include Colonial Settlement, Revolutionary War, Articles of Confederation and Constitution, Early Years of the Republic, Westward Expansion and the Civil War.

This course has a literacy focus and will include an emphasis on cross-curricular learning with students' Language Arts classes. Students will learn to evaluate and reference non-fiction texts, use appropriate research skills, and communicate ideas effectively through speaking. Through standards-based grading, each student will be assessed for understanding of the curriculum as it applies to the standards for class.

TECHNICAL & ENGINEERING EDUCATION

APPLIED TECHNOLOGY

Grade 7 & 8

Elective Semester – Alternating Days

Prerequisite: Gateway to Engineering

Fee: \$25.00

Applied Technology is an elective, semester-long course. It is a hands-on activity course in which students continue to apply safe and proper use of hand tools and machines to change raw materials into a complete fabricated project. Examples of these materials are, but not limited to, woods, metals, and plastics. Increasing emphasis on accuracy and precision will be implemented in tool use and measurement techniques. This course will also explore the many careers associated with the manufacturing processes.

APPLIED ENGINEERING

Grade: 7 & 8

Elective Semester – Alternating Days

Applied Engineering is an elective, semester-long course using various modules of the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) curriculum. With a focus on the engineering design process, students will select a pathway that supports their learning goals. Within this course, students will select one of the following options:

1. Students will explore the Automation and Robotics module. Through this strand, students will experience how a robot receives information through various sources and will determine the purpose of various mechanisms while demonstrating an understanding of speed, torque and gear ratios. Students then apply this mechanical knowledge to build, model, and test solutions to automated problems.

2. Students will explore Green Architecture. Through this strand, students gain exposure to proper measurements including scaling using an architectural scale. They will learn architectural design principles using Autodesk Revit as the software platform and construction principles while constructing a model shed. As a culminating activity, students will design and build (both digitally and physically) a scale model of a Tiny Home.

3. Students will explore both architecture and automation. In this hybrid approach, students will gain basic knowledge of both pathways.

DIGITAL CREATORS

Grade: 7 & 8

Elective Semester - Alternating Days

Digital Creators is an elective, semester-long course. This course introduces students to the basics of App Design, Game Design, and Video Design. Students will work independently and collaboratively to create products for various purposes and audiences. Students will utilize specific software and tablets in order to think like an app developer, a game designer, and a video producer.

GATEWAY TO ENGINEERING

Grade: 7 & 8

Elective Semester – Alternating Days

Fee: \$25.00

Gateway to Engineering is an elective, semester-long course. As an introduction to the technical and engineering strand, students will work through the engineering problem solving process. Students will work through the design process, which is included within the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) curriculum. Using engineering software as the basis for research and iterative testing, students will research the science of flight structures. This research will help students engineer optimal designs through simulated tests, and eventually each student will fabricate their designs using the specifications given from the engineering software. Through multiple projects, students will be assessed on their application of the design process, the use of the engineering software to perform iterative tests and an optimal design, and the physical fabrication of their product.

WORLD LANGUAGE

In the 21st century society, the study of a second language is absolutely essential to the core academic curriculum, college and career readiness, global citizenship, and economic prosperity of the United States. Students must be linguistically, socially, and culturally equipped to communicate successfully and demonstrate understanding, tolerance, and respect in our multilingual, multicultural world.

The world language program is built on the five national standards of *communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities*, (5 C's) which are outlined by The American Council for Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Communication is at the heart of second language study, whether the *communication* takes place face-to-face, in writing, or across centuries through the reading of literature. Through the study of other languages, students gain a knowledge and understanding of the *cultures* that use that language and, in fact, cannot truly master the language until they have also mastered the cultural contexts in which the language occurs. Learning languages provides *connections* to additional disciplines that may be unavailable to the monolingual English speaker. Through *comparisons* and contrasts with the language being studied, students develop insight into the nature of language and the concept of culture and realize that there are multiple ways of viewing the world. Together, these elements enable the student of languages to participate in multilingual *communities* at home and around the world in a variety of contexts and in culturally appropriate ways.

Learner-centered activities are designed to incorporate all 5 C's with real-life applications. Students communicate in three modes: interpersonal (conversation), presentational (speaking and writing), and interpretive (listening and reading) and advance through proficiency levels (novice and intermediate) at their own pace. Common themes spiral throughout a student's proficiency-based journey.

Please note that a minimum of one year of world language study (Mandarin Chinese, French, or Spanish) is required in middle school. Students may choose to complete this requirement in either 7th or 8th grade. Successful completion of both A and B in either Mandarin Chinese, French, or Spanish will prepare students to take Level 2 in 9th grade.

FRENCH A

Grade: 7 & 8

Year - Alternating Days

French A is an introduction to the basic foundations of French language and culture. Students will investigate the culture and language by developing strategies and skills necessary to hold simple conversations in French, interpret authentic discourse, and express ideas in intercultural situations where French is used. Students will explore French culture through different thematic units, while studying the language through topics and the function of the language within these topics. By the end of the year, students will be able to express themselves and initiate simple conversation. This course is equivalent to the first semester of high school French Level 1 and prepares students for French B. Students need to successfully complete both French A and B to have the opportunity to enroll in French Level 2 in 9th grade.

FRENCH B

Grade: 8

Year - Alternating Days

Prerequisite: French A

French B is a continuation of French A. In this year long course, students will continue their study of the French language. They will review and expand their knowledge of French in six modes of communication (listening, speaking, reading, presentational speaking, writing, and conversation). Students will develop strategies and language skills to talk about themselves and communicate with others on familiar topics in intercultural situations where French is used. Students will also learn to understand the various cultures in different areas of France and compare them with their own cultures, and thus to appreciate the diversity of languages and cultures around the world. This course is equivalent to the second semester of high school French Level 1 and prepares students for French Level 2. Students need to successfully complete both French A and B to have the opportunity to enroll in French Level 2 in 9th grade.

WORLD LANGUAGE CONTINUED

MANDARIN CHINESE A

Grade: 7 & 8

Year – Alternating Days

Mandarin Chinese A is an introduction to the basic foundations of the Mandarin Chinese language and culture. Students will investigate the culture and language by developing strategies and skills necessary to hold simple conversations in Mandarin Chinese, interpret authentic discourse, and express ideas in intercultural situations where Mandarin Chinese is used. Students will explore Chinese culture through different thematic units, while studying the language through topics and the function of the language within these topics. By the end of the year, students will be able to express themselves and initiate simple conversation. This course is equivalent to the first semester of high school Mandarin Chinese Level 1 and prepares students for Mandarin Chinese B. Students need to successfully complete both Mandarin Chinese A and B to have the opportunity to enroll in Mandarin Chinese Level 2 in 9th grade.

MANDARIN CHINESE B

Grade: 8

Year - Alternating Days

Prerequisite: Mandarin Chinese A

Mandarin Chinese B is a continuation to Mandarin Chinese A. In this year long course, students will continue their study of the Chinese language. Students will review and expand their knowledge of Mandarin Chinese in three modes of communication (interpretive, presentational and interpersonal). They will develop strategies and language skills to talk about themselves and communicate with others on familiar topics in intercultural situations where Mandarin is used. Students will also learn to understand the various cultures in different areas of China and compare them with their own cultures, and thus to appreciate the diversity of languages and cultures around the world. This course is equivalent to the second semester of high school Mandarin Chinese Level 1 and prepares students for Mandarin Chinese Level 2. Students need to successfully complete both Mandarin Chinese A and B to have the opportunity to enroll in Mandarin Chinese Level 2 in 9th grade.

SPANISH A

Grade: 7 & 8

Year - Alternating Days

Spanish A is an introduction to the basic foundations of Spanish. Students will investigate the culture and language of Spanish speaking countries by developing strategies and Spanish skills necessary to hold simple conversations, interpret authentic discourse, and express ideas in intercultural situations where Spanish is used. Students will explore Hispanic cultures through different thematic units, while studying the language through topics and the function of the language within these topics. By the end of the year, students will be able to express themselves and initiate simple conversation. This course is equivalent to the first semester of high school Spanish Level 1 and prepares students for Spanish B. Students need to successfully complete both Spanish A and B to have the opportunity to enroll in Spanish Level 2 in 9th grade.

SPANISH B

Grade: 8

Year - Alternating Days

Prerequisite: Spanish A

Spanish B is a continuation of Spanish A with an emphasis on speaking as well as increasing vocabulary and developing grammar skills. Students will continue their journey through the ACTFL proficiency standards by engaging in discussions, expressing opinions, and interpreting authentic discourse while continuing to expand their understanding of our global community. Students will continue their exploration of and participation in Hispanic cultures through additional thematic units. While engaging in activities and projects, students will strengthen their knowledge of other disciplines and explore how Spanish can be useful in their future personal and professional goals. This course is equivalent to the second semester of high school Spanish Level 1 and prepares students for Spanish Level 2. Students need to successfully complete both Spanish A and B to have the opportunity to enroll in Spanish Level 2 in 9th grade.

CAREER & TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION (CTE) CAPSTONE

7TH GRADE STUDENTS FOR 2019-20 – PLEASE READ: Any 7th grade student considering enrolling in a Capstone course during their 8th grade year, should plan on taking (as many as possible) the required prerequisite courses (noted below) during their 7th grade year. In addition, students should rank these prerequisite courses as their top choices (i.e., #1, #2 or #3) on their 7th Grade Course Selection Sheet.

8TH GRADE STUDENTS FOR 2019-20 – PLEASE READ: Career & Technological Education (CTE) Capstone courses (for 8th grade students only and meets alternating days during 2nd semester) are designed to allow students to expand their knowledge and interest in one of three specific CTE strands. Each student will work with multiple teachers in their respected areas of expertise to delve deeper into a specific area of interest. With guidance and support from teachers, students will incorporate job shadowing experiences to enhance an entrepreneurial understanding of the connectedness between business and engineering skills. With this course emphasizing student-driven learning, successful enrollment in this course will require teacher(s) approval based on proficient work skills, successful development in previous course standards, and the completion of an online application. **ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS:** Students wanting to enroll in a Capstone course during their 8th grade year must complete an online application into this program between January 7-13, 2019 (**LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**). Please go the following link (copy and paste) and complete the online application between January 7-13, 2019.....bit.ly/ACMS_Capstone

DESIGN & FASHION STRAND

Fee: \$25.00

Prerequisite: Introduction to Design & Fashion and Introduction to Business

Students will come into this strand with background work in using the tools and equipment in clothing construction. Using this knowledge, students will design a working prototype and a finished product that is marketable to a specific audience. Then, students will develop a plan to either actively sell or simulate the process of selling their products.

CULINARY STRAND

Fee: \$25.00

Prerequisite: Introduction to Culinary Arts and Introduction to Business

Students will come into this strand with background work in using the tools and equipment in the kitchens. Using this knowledge, students will create and develop a recipe and then execute that recipe. They will then develop a plan to actively sell their product to a specific audience.

ENGINEERING STRAND

Fee: \$25.00

Prerequisite: Introduction to Business and either Applied Engineering OR Digital Creators

Students may come into this strand with background work in automation and robotics, architecture and construction, app creation, game design or video design. With their background knowledge, students will develop a plan to utilize their specific knowledge and experience to explore potential business and entrepreneurial avenues.

TECHNICAL STRAND

Fee: \$25.00

Prerequisite: Introduction to Business and Applied Technology

Students will come into this strand with background work in using the tools in our shop. Using this knowledge, students will design a working prototype and a finished product that is marketable to a specific audience. Then, students will develop a plan to either actively sell or simulate the process of selling their products.