

# REQUIRED COURSES

## LANGUAGE ARTS 8

Full Year



The 8<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts curriculum is aligned to the Common Core Standards and builds from the continuum of literacy skills established in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, with an increased emphasis on higher level thinking skills. As in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, students are engaged in authentic reading and writing processes. Teachers utilize the MAISA (Michigan Association of Intermedicate School Administrators) Units of Study to support the comprehensive and sequenced development of skills and strategies needed for students to become college and career ready in both reading and writing. The units offer students an authentic and predictable structure that promotes the development of skills and strategies that students will apply with increasing independence. A variety of texts will be read and discussed in a reader's workshop approach, wherein teachers immerse students in close reading and talking about texts, thus helping students to analyze how these texts are written. A writer's workshop approach to teaching writing helps support students' development as writers. This approach provides students with continuous evaluation of their work and the work of other writers. \*

## ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS 8

Full Year

**Prerequisite: By invitation only**

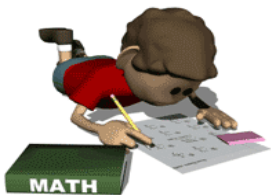
This Language Arts class is a continuation section of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade course for students who are enrolled in this two-year program. This course is by invitation only.



## INTRO TO ALGEBRA 8

Full Year

Our curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. The Common Core places equal emphasis on Mathematical Content and Mathematical Practices. The Mathematical Practices describe various skills mathematically proficient students should exhibit, such as problem solving, reasoning, communication, procedural fluency, and conceptual understanding, to name a few.



The 8<sup>th</sup> grade content standards focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. \*

**\* Students will be placed into Advanced Language Arts and Algebra 1 based on test scores, previous Grades, and teacher recommendations.**

## ALGEBRA 1 (accelerated)

Full Year

**Prerequisite:** By invitation only.

**80% or better on the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Pre-Algebra year-end exam, achieve an acceptable final course grade in Pre-Algebra, and/or approval by the Mathematics Department Chairperson.**

This accelerated Algebra 1 course differs from High School Algebra 1 in that it contains approximately half of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade content standards, in addition to all the High School Algebra 1 content standards. While coherence is retained because it logically builds on the 7<sup>th</sup> grade accelerated Pre-Algebra course, the additional content, when compared to the high school course, demands a faster pace for instruction and learning. This course provides for the study of the real number system and families of functions including linear, exponential, and quadratic. Students will also develop their knowledge of power functions and polynomial patterns of change. In addition, students will develop an understanding that algebraic thinking is a powerful tool as they model and solve real-world problems.



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*Students will earn one high school credit towards the completion of the Michigan Merit Curriculum needed to graduate upon successful completion of this class.*

## U.S. HISTORY

Full Year



The 8<sup>th</sup> grade American History course focuses on the time period from 1763 to 1880. Emphasis will be placed on political themes, major events and people who have contributed to shaping our nation into the country it is today. Students are required to use a variety of resources and means to acquire, process, and communicate information. This will include the analysis and application of documents, both primary and secondary, as evidence to answer and address claims related to the content. With these developing skills, students will emerge with an improved civic competency and the knowledge to improve our democratic way of life.

**SCIENCE 8****Full Year**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Earth Science course will focus on the interactions between Earth's four major systems, including the atmosphere, biosphere, geosphere and hydrosphere. Topics include: advanced rock cycle, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, geologic time, natural resources, freshwater and oceans, meteorology and astronomy. Students will be asked to make observations and ask questions about the natural world, as well as participate in laboratory exercises, small group activities, web-based investigations, class discussions, projects and research.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8****One Semester**

Physical education is a sequential, developmentally appropriate program that provides students with the knowledge, skills, fitness, and attitudes needed to live a healthy, productive life. The goal of the course is to develop students who participate in health-enhancing activities such as outdoor pursuit activities like golf; invasion based games such as soccer, team handball, touch football, floor hockey, and basketball; net/wall games such as tennis, badminton, and volleyball; striking/fielding games such as softball and kickball; and rhythmic activities such as jump rope, aerobics, and dance. Students will apply cognitive concepts in order to help them make wise lifestyle choices in addition to exhibiting appropriate personal and social character traits while participating in a physical activity.

# aELECTIVE COURSES

## FRENCH I, GERMAN I, SPANISH I

Full Year

8<sup>th</sup> grade students who choose to take a World Language in middle school will earn one high school credit towards the completion of the Michigan Merit curriculum.

Students may select **French 1, German 1 or Spanish 1**. The emphasis in our world language classes is to help students communicate using the new language. You can expect to do online activities with the language, create and present power points on interesting cultural topics, and play various games to practice your grammar skills. You will learn vocabulary relating to family, friends, school, sports, and food.

Writing and acting out skits that mirror real-life situations and other mini-conversations in class are typical activities that assist students in writing the language, practicing their pronunciation, and speaking the language in a variety of situations. Student participation is strongly emphasized.

This course is equivalent to the first-year language courses offered at the high schools. Successfully completing a language course in middle school would count as one of the required credits for graduation.



## WORLD LANGUAGE ADVENTURES

One Semester

Fasten your seat belts, adventurers! Take the role of a world explorer as you journey through four different languages and cultures: French, German, Japanese and Spanish. Earn your passports as you learn basic words and phrases while engaging in games and projects. Interact with your classmates in other languages while having the time of your life!

This course will introduce you to the four world language options while providing the essential building blocks for success to meet the world language graduation requirement. Please be aware that this class will not earn a credit towards the requirement. Discover the traveler in you in this exciting exploration of world languages and cultures!

## CONCERT BAND

Full Year

Comprised of both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, Concert Band is the starter band for students who are new to middle school or even new to music entirely! Learn new skills on your instrument and play a variety of music, including rock, themes from movies and shows, marches and more! We perform at regular Holmes concerts, *Bandorama* and *Collage*. Solo and small ensemble performance opportunities are available and encouraged.



## SYMPHONIC BAND

Full Year

This is the most advanced band at Holmes. We play a lot of fun, familiar music as well, but also cover some challenging band literature that will brighten up your school day! We march at a home game with the Stevenson High School marching band, are introduced to the cool world of jazz, and perform at the incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade open house! We also perform at regular Holmes concerts, *Bandorama*, *Collage*, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Honors Night. Solo and small ensemble performance opportunities are available and encouraged. Students are placed in Symphonic Band through audition or teacher recommendation.



## CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Full Year



Orchestra is a mixed 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade ensemble, which gives everyone the chance to learn from each other and become a close knit group. Advanced orchestra students will also form a chamber ensemble that performs at festival. Think orchestra is just about playing fourteenth century dance music? Think again! In the Holmes orchestra, we play everything from Bach to rock! We perform at regular Holmes concerts, *String Fling* and *Collage*. Solo and small ensemble performance opportunities are available and encouraged.



## CONCERT CHOIR

One or Two Semesters

Concert Choir is a large ensemble that will perform at school and community events as well as one or more concerts each semester. Students will learn what a quality choral sound is and be taught the techniques necessary to produce it. Emphasis will be on performance, but students will also be introduced to basic music theory, sight singing and music history. The choir will be exposed to different types of choral literature from the renaissance to the modern era. Attendance is required at all after school rehearsals and performances.



**Students who wish to take Concert Choir all year should select Concert Choir for both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.**

## SHOP: TOOLS & MATERIALS PROCESSING

One Semester

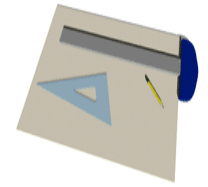


This NEW activity-based “hands-on” shop class is open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. It will give students knowledge of various hand and power tools with an overview into working with woods, plastics, and metals that are commonly used in industry today. Students will apply what they learn into building various hands-on class projects, such as making aluminum rings, jigsaw puzzle, wood airplane, metal candle holder, belt buckle or paper weight, hockey board, etc. (projects are subject to change). Emphasis is placed on safety, organization, time management and responsibility. This is an excellent LIFE-SKILLS class for ALL students and will give insight towards related technologies and skilled-trade careers. This intro class can be continued into various high school programs.

## DRAFTING: INTRO TO ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE

One Semester

This NEW drafting course is open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students interested in exploring various areas of Engineering or Architecture. The class will have a hands-on content working with basic drafting tools and materials. Students will apply what they learn into creating 3D sketches, multi-view drawings, computer 3D drawings, designing and building a CO2 car, learning about interior and exterior home design, and creating a house floor plan (projects subject to change). Emphasis will be placed on learning terminology, basic drawing skills, graphic lettering, measurement and scale sizing, and experience traditional and computer drafting. This entry level class will give insight towards related career pathways and can be continued into several related high-school or career center programs.



## DIGITECH (Digital Creation and Exploration)

One Semester

The world has gone DIGITAL! Are students today ready? **DigiTech** is designed for ALL students who want a technology course, in addition to the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer Tech requirement. With an emphasis on SAFETY, students will utilize the internet, computers, and other digital devices to create, gather, display, and share information. It will also explore the ever growing world of digital and social media. The course will employ Google's 80/20 principle where students will be given 20% of the time to research/design/create a project based on his/her technological interest (approved, monitored, and assessed by teacher). You are creating a digital footprint every day.....learn how to make it the RIGHT one!



## CREATIVE EXPRESSION

One Semester

7<sup>TH</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in this course will experiment with different genres in writing. Students will explore the reading – writing connection as it applies to the creative writing process. Students will be given many opportunities to create a variety of writing products based on student interest and need. Various writing styles and genres will be explored, along with imaginative ways for the writers to display their final written pieces. Examples may include video productions, school newscasts, and digital storytelling.



## VISUAL ART

One Semester

Unleash the artist within!

Come and discover new ways to showcase your creativity and express who you are. This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to work with a wide variety of media and produce quality two and three-dimensional works of art.



Drawing, painting, and sculpture will be explored with emphasis on the principles and elements of art. Media may include pencil, colored pencil, scratchboard, paint, clay and paper mache.

Remember....art fosters creativity and problem solving techniques that are beneficial in other classes and essential in life.

## ART AND DESIGN

One Semester



Did you realize that art is all around us? Behind the images and objects in our everyday world is an artist who had an idea and turned it into reality. You can be that artist!

In this imaginative course, students will use drawing, painting, sculpture, and other techniques to create art with a purpose. Projects may include designing, building and/or advertising new products. In addition, illustrating book covers, designing t-shirts, cartooning, and photography may be explored.

An emphasis will be placed on the principles and elements of design, which will guide you to create eye catching and well-crafted works of art!

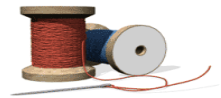
## FOODS AND FABRICS

One Semester

Want to have an opportunity to experience creative satisfaction? Learn new skills in the areas of food preparation and sewing in this divided 20-week course.

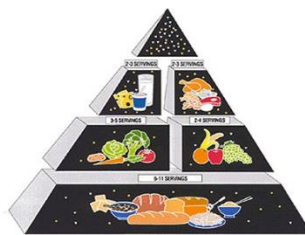
The 10-week sewing portion of this class will focus on basic sewing skills. The students will work on various projects such as a gym bag, pillowcase, boxers or pants and a novelty pillow. There is a materials fee for these projects.

The food portion of the class will focus on food/kitchen safety and sanitation, proper measuring, correct use of kitchen tools, basic cooking procedures, team work and consumer skills. Various cooking units will be covered, such as breads, soups, eggs, pastries and creative food days with a nutritional focus throughout.



## EXPLORING FOODS

One Semester



Are you a foodie? Are you looking to make more than a bowl of cereal for a snack? This course may be something you will enjoy. The emphasis in this class will be on food/kitchen safety and sanitation, proper measuring, correct use of kitchen tools, basic cooking procedures, teamwork and consumer skills. Various cooking units will be covered, such as breads, soups, eggs, cakes, fruits and vegetables, along with creative food days with a nutritional focus throughout.

Students will use technology to explore the relationship between good nutrition and a healthy lifestyle.