Eastern Middle School

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/easternms
300 University Boulevard East
Silver Spring, MD 20901
(301) 650-6650

Program of Studies and Course Offerings
2020-2021

Eastern Middle School Mission

Eastern Middle School is committed to building a foundation for the success of all students by developing respectful relationships, providing rigorous instruction, and maintaining high expectations.

2020-2021 Contact Information		
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Ms. Magden	Counselor (504 Coordinator)	
Ms. Lovo	Secretary/Registrar	

EASTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL

300 University Boulevard, East
Silver Spring, MD 20901
301.650.6650

Office of the Principal

Dear Eastern Students and Parents,

Welcome to Eastern Middle School. This course booklet provides an overview of the instructional program offered at Eastern and includes a general description of the required courses, elective options, and special programs available to our students.

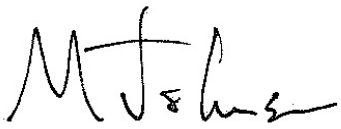
Our mission at Eastern Middle School is to build a foundation for the success of all students by developing respectful relationships, providing rigorous instruction, and maintaining high expectations. We believe that the program of studies available to every student at Eastern Middle School supports this mission.

Eastern Middle School is fortunate to have highly competent and dedicated teachers, counselors, administrators, and support staff who provide a rigorous instructional program and extended learning opportunities for students.

I encourage families to use this booklet to facilitate decision-making and long-range planning for the most challenging and rigorous courses possible for a successful middle school experience.

I look forward to working with you throughout your Eastern Middle School experience!

Respectfully,



Matt Johnson
Principal

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General Information

Core Courses
All students are required to take English, mathematics, science, world studies, physical education, and health. These six core courses are required at all grade levels. The content of each core course follows the curricular guidelines and expectations for all middle schools in Montgomery County Public Schools. For more information on the MCPS curriculum, see
https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/middleschool/

Electives
In order to increase the opportunity for exploration, we offer electives in a variety of ways. Electives are offered on a semester or yearlong basis. The final offering of elective courses is determined by enrollment and staffing.

Optional After-School Course
We recognize that for a variety of reasons many students may have limited opportunities in the eight-period schedule to participate in elective courses. In order to create more opportunities for elective participation we offer band in an extended-day block. This class follows the MCPS curriculum and students who participate earn a grade and credit. The course meets every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:05 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.

Student Service Learning (SSL) Opportunities
Student Service Learning (SSL) helps students learn and develop through active participation in thoughtful, structured, and organized service that meets a recognized community need. Each student is required to earn 75 hours of student learning service credits by the time he or she graduates from high school. Thirty hours are built into the middle school curriculum when students complete service projects in Grade 6 Science, Grade 7 English, and Grade 8 US History. Students who fulfill the requirements of these SSL activities and complete these courses receive 10 SSL hours at the end of each middle school year. Students may begin earning SSL hours during the summer following the completion of fifth grade. Middle school students may earn additional SSL hours by volunteering to work at organizations approved by the school system. Eastern's SSL coordinator provides information on SSL opportunities throughout the school year. For more information on SSL opportunities, please refer to the MCPS website at **mcpsssl.org**.

Academic Programs

Advanced Learner Opportunities
Eastern Middle School offers programming and instruction that is differentiated for highly able and potentially high-achieving students who are motivated to pursue rigorous and challenging instruction. This programming provides content and instruction that match students' abilities, achievement levels, and interests. We urge all students who have the capability, motivation, and/or potential to accept the challenge and take advantage of these opportunities.

Humanities and Communication Magnet Program
This three-year course of study is designed for students throughout Montgomery County who do not have an academic peer group at their home middle school. Students in the magnet program are selected after taking a test in fifth grade. The goal of the program is to provide a rigorous and challenging interdisciplinary program with an emphasis on reading and writing, world studies, and media production. Students take magnet classes for a portion of their schedules, science and math classes as appropriate to their abilities, and grade-level physical education. Students in the magnet program can choose from the variety of electives offered all Eastern Middle School students.

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)
ESOL helps the world-born student learn enough English to function linguistically and culturally in the community and to engage in the academic rigor of middle school classes. Lessons integrate the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing and have a strong structural or grammar base while presenting aspects of culture in the home, school, and community. Functional language and authentic texts are used so that the language learned is applicable to daily life. Language tests are administered to determine eligibility for and exit from the ESOL program. An eligible student may be assigned either one or two class periods of ESOL, depending upon need.

ESOL-Multidisciplinary Education Training and Support (METS) Program
The METS program is a special component of the general ESOL program. It is designed to meet the special needs of students who are recent immigrants and who have had interrupted schooling in their own countries. This program offers a core curriculum of developmental reading, social studies, and mathematics. METS students also take one or two periods of ESOL each day. The program helps prepare students to enter the mainstream of the school.

Special Education Program
Students with disabilities have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) that provide specialized instruction to address their academic needs. Data for present levels of performance are used to develop goals and objectives that allow students to receive the required supports, services, and accommodations they need. All students, regardless of their cognitive functioning, must have opportunities to receive instruction designed to foster their involvement and progress in the general curriculum. The program focuses on utilizing strategies that will enable students to make reasonable progress on their IEP goals relative to the content standards.

Social Emotional Special Education Services (SESES) Program
The SESES program serves the needs of students with emotional disabilities by fostering academic and social emotional growth. It seeks to enhance the educational experience for children and youth who are experiencing behavioral and emotional challenges so that they can become healthy and productive individuals. Through the use of a multidisciplinary team, the program empowers students to reach their full potential. The program staff helps develop each student's experiences in all classrooms through staff development, advocacy, and consultation.

Support Services

Counseling Services
Eastern students are assigned to a counselor who support them in three major areas: academic achievement, career and educational planning, and personal and social development. The school counselors deliver a comprehensive program focused on the academic, personal, social, and career development of all students. Services are provided through a combination of direct counseling interventions (individual and small group), as well as classroom guidance activities and instruction. We are strategically aligned with state and local mandates, the MCPS mission, and the school-wide vision for academic excellence.

Level I Alternative Program
The Level I Alternative Program is a support strategy utilized to assist students in managing their own academic behaviors. Students who participate in the program are assigned to the Level I Alternative Program as one of their elective classes. During this period the students work on study habits, break down large assignments into manageable chunks organized on a completion time line, and work on

developing positive classroom behaviors. The program coordinator works closely with each student's teachers and counselor. Students may also be assigned for a short-term basis to the Level I Alternative Program after an extended absence to receive assistance completing make-up work.

School Library Media Program
The library media program provides access to ideas, information, and learning opportunities that enable each student to function effectively in an information-based society. Media center experiences teach literacy skills, media production, and literature appreciation using strategies that meet the needs of a diverse student population. Resources available throughout the media center include books, periodicals, reference materials, and electronic resources. The media specialist works collaboratively with classroom teachers in order to support curricular goals and desired outcomes. Students have the opportunity to work in the media center before school, during designated class times, and after school. Media center staff is available to provide assistance as needed.

Linkages to Learning (LTL)
LTL is a comprehensive school-based health and human services program based on a holistic approach to prevention and early intervention for students and families. LTL assists families and students by providing or referring services to help children in school, at home and in the community based on the resources and needs within the community. Participation in LTL services is based on referrals through the school counseling office. LTL services include:

- Individual, group, and family therapy
- Social skills and behavior management groups for students
- Parenting workshops and parent support groups
- Information, referral, and follow-up for health care, food, clothing, housing, financial and legal assistance
- Eligibility assistance for local, state, and federal programs
- Health education and nutrition classes
- Adult education classes
- Teacher consultation and in-service training for school staff
- Education supports to promote success for every student

Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities vary from year to year. The following programs are generally offered.

Jazz Band
Art Club
Digital Literacy Club
STEM Club
Girls in Science
Chess Club
Math Club
Sign Language Club
National History Day Club
School Newspaper
Entrepreneur Club
Sewing Club
G.S.A
Tennis Club
Yearbook
Student Government Association
Orchestra Club
Homework Club
Drama Club
Step Club
Zumba
Creative Writing Club
History Bee Club

Scholastic Sports (Eligible 7th and 8th graders only)

- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Soccer
- Softball

Intramural Sports

- Soccer
- Track Challenge
- Weight training
- Flag Football
- Basketball

REQUIRED CORE COURSE OPTIONS GRADE 6

6th GRADE COURSE OPTIONS 2020-2021		
Required Courses	**Comprehensive**	**Humanities**
ENGLISH	ENGLISH 6 ADVANCED ENGLISH 6	HUMANITIES ENGLISH 6
READING[1]	DEVELOPMENTAL READING READ 180	
SOCIAL STUDIES	WORLD STUDIES 6 HISTORICAL INQUIRY WS6	HUMANITIES WORLD STUDIES 6
MATHEMATICS	C2.0 MATHEMATICS 6 INVESTIGATIONS IN MATHEMATICS	
SCIENCE	INVESTIGATIONS IN SCIENCE 6 ADVANCED INVESTIGATIONS IN SCIENCE 6	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH	PE/HEALTH 6	

[1] Grade 6 students who have met or exceeded the proficient standard on multiple data points, including teacher recommendations, can opt out of a reading class. The data will be reviewed and a recommendation will be indicated on the student's registration card.

ENGLISH

English 6
Students in English 6 examine language and literature in the context of four thematic units: foundations, adventures, challenges and barriers, and choices. Students analyze varied and complex texts, develop arguments, synthesize information from multiple sources, examine different perspectives, and engage in self-reflection. Each unit is organized around common tasks designed to integrate various facets of 21st century literacy, including writing and discourse, analysis and critical thinking, research, technology, and publication and presentation.

Advanced English 6
This course is designed for able and motivated students with a lively interest in the power and versatility of language. Students in Advanced English 6 examine language and literature in the context of four thematic units: foundations, adventures, challenges and barriers, and choices. In preparation for advanced middle school and high school English courses, students read challenging texts written in various periods and rhetorical contexts. Students develop their abilities to express ideas with clarity and precision by writing increasingly complex compositions for a variety of purposes, including literary analysis, argument development, original narrative, and research.

READING

Developmental Reading
This developmental reading class is offered to students in the special education program whose Individual Education Plans indicate its appropriateness. There are three reading programs encompassed in this course: The *Rewards* program is a research-validated program that teaches students a highly generalized strategy for reading the multisyllabic words frequently in content-area texts. *Phonics for Reading* is an intervention tool that focuses on phonemic awareness and mastery. The *Read Naturally Live* program provides a method to improve reading fluency. It combines teacher modeling, repeated reading, and progress monitoring. Students practice reading the story using a timing device at a predetermined goal rate. Progress monitoring is embedded in the course.

Read 180 Grade 6
Read 180 is a developmental reading course designed to accelerate student learning. The program helps students who are reading below grade level boost their reading up to grade level and beyond. One component of the class is the Scholastic Read 180 software. Students spend time daily on computers using motivational interactive online resources to enhance their comprehension, vocabulary, decoding, fluency, and spelling skills. The course features small class sizes and a three-group instructional model that ensures individualized instruction for all students. This may be a single or a double period class.

WORLD STUDIES

World Studies 6
This course will help students gain knowledge of ancient world history and culture from Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, and Ancient China. Students will develop the social studies strands of geography, economics, political systems, and culture while building their understanding of the rich cultures and history from the earliest human settlements to great civilizations of the year 1000 CE.

Historical Inquiry in World Studies 6
This course provides enriched opportunities for learning about ancient world history and culture from Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, and Ancient China. Students will deepen their understanding of the rich cultures and history from the earliest human settlements to great civilizations of the year 1000 CE. Students are challenged to analyze archaeological evidence, ask questions to further their knowledge, and understand history as ongoing investigation.

MATHEMATICS

C2.0 Mathematics 6
Curriculum 2.0 (C2.0) Math 6 focuses on the Standards for Mathematical Practice to build a climate that engages students in the exploration of mathematics. The Standards for Mathematical Practice are habits of mind applied throughout the course so that students see mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. Through this course, students will:

- Reason about multiplication and division to solve ratio and rate problems about quantities.
- Use the meaning of fractions, the meanings of multiplication and division, and the relationship between multiplication and division to understand and explain why the procedures for dividing fractions make sense.
- Understand the use of variables in mathematical expressions.
- Build on and reinforce the understanding of numbers, to develop the ability to think statistically.
- Reason about relationships among shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume.

Investigations in Mathematics
This course focuses on the Standards for Mathematical Practice to build a climate that engages students in the exploration of mathematics. The Standards for Mathematical Practice are habits of mind applied throughout the course so that students see mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. Through this course, students will:

- Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide positive and negative rational numbers.
- Create and interpret numerical and algebraic expressions and equations in one variable.
- Develop understanding of proportionality through the use of linear equations and systems of equations to solve and graph single- and multi-step real world and mathematical problems.
- Reason about geometric relationships among two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures.
- Compare two data distributions and generate data sets by random sampling.
- Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models.

SCIENCE

Investigations in Science 6
IS6 is a problem/project-based curriculum. Instruction is interwoven around a relevant problem/project to allow a focus for student learning. Students engage in minds-on inquiry and hands-on explorations, productive discourse, and purposeful reading and writing. Units studied in IS6 center around topics related to matter and its interactions, ecosystem dynamics, human impacts on the environment, energy, and waves. Students engage in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in order to propose solutions to identified problems

Advanced Investigations in Science 6
Advanced IS6 is a problem/project-based curriculum offering motivated students with enriched opportunities to investigate and work collaboratively on topics related to matter and its interactions, ecosystem dynamics, human impacts on the environment, energy, and waves. Instruction is interwoven around a relevant problem/project to allow a focus for student learning. Students engage in minds-on inquiry and hands-on explorations, productive discourse, and purposeful reading and writing. Students engage in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in order to propose solutions to identified problems.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Health and Physical Education 6
Students in Grade 6 participate in activities designed to develop individual psychomotor skills, physical fitness, and fundamentals of team play. The importance of physical fitness is stressed as students learn the basic concepts of strength, endurance, and flexibility. More time is devoted to group activities through which cooperation, fair play, and sports etiquette are developed. Included in this course is a nine-week unit in health. Students will focus on the following content areas: mental health; alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; safety and injury prevention; and personal and consumer health.

REQUIRED CORE COURSE OPTIONS GRADE 7

7TH GRADE COURSE OPTIONS 2020-2021		
REQUIRED COURSES	**COMPREHENSIVE**	**HUMANITIES**
ENGLISH	ENGLISH GRADE 7 ADVANCED ENGLISH 7	HUMANITIES ENGLISH 7
READING	DEVELOPMENTAL READING READ 180	
SOCIAL STUDIES	WORLD STUDIES 7 HISTORICAL INQUIRY WORLD STUDIES 7	HUMANITIES WORLD STUDIES 7
MATHEMATICS	Math 7 INVESTIGATIONS IN MATHEMATICS ALGEBRA 1A/B[1]	
SCIENCE	INVESTIGATIONS IN SCIENCE 7 ADVANCED INVESTIGATIONS IN SCIENCE 7	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH	PE/HEALTH 7	

[1] High school credit upon successful completion of course requirements for 1A and 1B and passing grade on the 1B final exam

ENGLISH

English 7
Students in English 7 examine language and literature in the context of four thematic units: voices from the past, a sense of place, identity, and imagination. Students analyze varied and complex texts, develop arguments, synthesize information from multiple sources, examine different perspectives, and engage in self-reflection. Each unit is organized around common tasks designed to integrate various facets of 21st Century literacy, including writing and discourse, analysis and critical thinking, research, technology, and publication and presentation. Students write to discover and clarify what they think, to explore their ideas and communicate with others. Students read a variety of texts, including poetry, short stories, and essays, in addition to multimedia texts, to become more adept with written and spoken language. Students are expected to think critically, question what they read and view, and express their original ideas with confidence and clarity.

Advanced English 7
This course is designed for able and motivated students with a lively interest in the power and versatility of language. Students in Advanced English 7 examine language and literature in the context of four thematic units: voices from the past, a sense of place, identity, and imagination. In preparation for Advanced English 8 and advanced high school English courses, students refine their ability to express ideas with clarity and precision by writing increasingly complex compositions for a variety of purposes, including literary analysis, argument development, original narrative, and research. Students read challenging texts written in various periods and rhetorical contexts, applying the styles and themes to the world around them.

READING

Developmental Reading

This developmental reading class is offered to students in the special education program whose Individual Education Plans indicate its appropriateness. There are three reading programs encompassed in this course: The *Rewards* program is a research-validated program that teaches students a highly generalized strategy for reading the multisyllabic words frequently in content-area texts. *Phonics for Reading* is an intervention tool that focuses on phonemic awareness and mastery. The *Read Naturally Live* program provides a method to improve reading fluency. It combines teacher modeling, repeated reading, and progress monitoring. Students practice reading the story using a timing device at a predetermined goal rate. Progress monitoring is embedded in the course.

Read 180

Read 180 is a developmental reading course designed to accelerate student learning. The program helps students who are reading below grade level boost their reading up to grade level and beyond. One component of the class is the Scholastic Read 180 software. Students spend time daily on computers using motivational interactive online support to enhance their comprehension, vocabulary, decoding, fluency, and spelling skills. The course also features small class sizes and a three-group instructional model that ensures individualized instruction for all students. This may be a single or a double period course.

WORLD STUDIES

World Studies 7

The World Studies 7 curriculum reinforces and broadens the students' understanding of the concepts developed in the previous year of study. The students are introduced to new concept areas that include the examination of the patterns of conflict in feudal and modern Europe, the role of ancient and present-day Africa, the impact of geography on Meso-America, and an in-depth examination of cultures connected through trade, leading to the globalization of today's cultures. Students continue their application of writing, speaking, research, and world geography skills throughout the course of study. In addition, students analyze primary source texts and visuals is a central method for learning about the past and the challenges of historical interpretation.

Historical Inquiry in World Studies 7

Through the study of world civilizations and global interactions from 1000 CE to 1450 CE, students learn about political, cultural, geographic and economic systems today and in the past. They study the rise of empires and nation-states in Europe, Africa, and Latin America and the impacts of their interactions still felt today. Building on historical thinking skills learned in Grade 6, students continue to engage in sourcing, close reading, corroboration, investigation, contextualization, and historical interpretation as they examine primary and secondary sources.

MATHEMATICS

Math 7

Mathematics 7 extends students' understanding of mathematical concepts developed in Mathematics 6. Instruction at this level will focus on four areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES 13 volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. Students who successfully complete this course will be ready for Mathematics 8 in Grade 8, strengthening their foundation for the Common Core State Standards Algebra 1 in Grade 9. Mathematics 7 focuses on the Standards for Mathematical Practice to

build a climate that engages students in the exploration of mathematics.

Investigations in Mathematics (IM)
This course focuses on the Standards for Mathematical Practice to build a climate that engages students in the exploration of mathematics. The Standards for Mathematical Practice are habits of mind applied throughout the course so that students see mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. Through this course, students will . . .

- Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide positive and negative rational numbers.
- Create and interpret numerical and algebraic expressions and equations in one variable.
- Develop understanding of proportionality through the use of linear equations and systems of equations to solve and graph single- and multi-step real world and mathematical problems.
- Reason about geometric relationships among two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures.
- Compare two data distributions and generate data sets by random sampling.
- Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models.

Algebra I A/B
This course is for students who have successfully completed IM in grade 6. The units of study include: relationships between quantities and reasoning with equations, linear and exponential relationships, descriptive statistics, quadratic relationships, and generalizing function properties. This course satisfies the high school Algebra 1 credit requirement if the student passes the course and the Algebra PARCC exam. Students successful in this course take Honors Geometry the following year.

SCIENCE

Investigations in Science 7
IS7 is a problem/project-based curriculum focused on topics related to cellular processes, structure and function in living things, genetics, Earth's history, and biological evolution. Instruction is interwoven around a relevant problem/project to allow a focus for student learning. Students engage in minds-on inquiry and hands-on explorations, productive discourse, and purposeful reading and writing. Students engage in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in order to propose solutions to identified problems.

Advanced Investigations in Science 7
Advanced IS7 is a problem/project-based curriculum offering motivated students with enriched opportunities to investigate and work collaboratively on topics related to cellular processes, structure and function in living things, genetics, Earth's history, and biological evolution Instruction is interwoven around a relevant problem/project to allow a focus for student learning. Students engage in minds-on inquiry and hands-on explorations, productive discourse, and purposeful reading and writing. Students engage in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in order to propose solutions to identified problems.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Health and Physical Education 7
These courses continue a program of personal physical development and accept increased responsibility for monitoring their own performance. Instruction emphasizes the value of physical fitness. Team and individual activities are structured to enable students to organize skills into more complex patterns and to respond positively to the demands of leadership, cooperation, teamwork, and competition. Included in this course of physical education is a nine-week unit in health. Students focus on the following content areas: mental health; alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; personal and consumer health; family life; and disease prevention.

REQUIRED CORE COURSE OPTIONS GRADE 8

8TH GRADE COURSE OPTIONS 2019-2020		
REQUIRED COURSES	**COMPREHENSIVE**	**HUMANITIES**
ENGLISH	ENGLISH GRADE 8 ADVANCED ENGLISH 8	HUMANITIES ENGLISH 8
READING	ACADEMIC LITERACY READ 180 DEVELOPMENTAL READING	
SOCIAL STUDIES	US HISTORY 8 ADVANCED US HISTORY 8	HUMANITIES US HISTORY 8
MATHEMATICS	MATHEMATICS 8 ALGEBRA 1A/B[1] HONORS GEOMETRY A/B[1] HONORS ALGEBRA 2A/B[1]	
SCIENCE	INVESTIGATIONS IN SCIENCE 8 ADVANCED INVESTIGATIONS IN SCIENCE 8	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH	PE/HEALTH 8	

[1] High school credit upon successful completion of course requirements for 1A and 1B and passing grade on the 1B final exam

ENGLISH

English 8
This course focuses on writing and language in the first semester, and literature and language in the second semester. This course centers on the study of language and literature as the vehicle of creative and critical thought that enables students to think about and understand the world. The focus shifts in second semester to a careful study of how professional writers create stories and use language in thoughtful and deliberate ways. Students will read and engage in various writing styles, honing their ability to tailor their own style to audience and purpose.

Advanced English 8
This course is designed for able and motivated students with a lively interest in the power and versatility of language. This course focuses on writing and language in the first semester, and literature and language in the second semester. This course centers on the study of language and literature as the vehicle of creative and critical thought that enables students to think about and understand the world. The focus shifts in second semester to a careful study of how professional writers create stories and use language in thoughtful and deliberate ways. Students will read and engage in various writing styles, honing their ability to tailor their own style to audience and purpose.

READING

Developmental Reading
This developmental reading class is offered to students in the special education program whose Individual Education Plans indicate its appropriateness. There are three reading programs encompassed in this course: The *Rewards* program is a research-validated program that teaches students a highly-generalized strategy for reading the multisyllabic words frequently in content-area texts. *Phonics for Reading* is an intervention tool that focuses on phonemic awareness and mastery. The *Read Naturally*

Live program provides a method to improve reading fluency. It combines teacher modeling, repeated reading, and progress monitoring. Students practice reading the story using a timing device at a predetermined goal rate. Progress monitoring is embedded in the course.

Read 180
Read 180 is a developmental reading course designed to accelerate student learning offered to students. The program helps students who are reading below grade level boost their reading up to grade level and beyond. One component of the class is the Scholastic Read 180 software. Students spend time daily on computers using motivational interactive online resources to enhance their comprehension, vocabulary, decoding, fluency, and spelling skills. The course also features small class sizes and a three-group instructional model that ensures individualized instruction for all students. This may be a single or a double period class.

Academic Literacy (iLit)
This course involves implementation of iLit, a reading intervention program designed to meet the needs of struggling readers through differentiated instruction, computer adaptive instruction, background-knowledge-building videos, high interest literature, and explicit instruction in reading, writing, and vocabulary skills.

UNITED STATES HISTORY

United States History
This course focuses on the history of the United States from the birth of new governments and colonization up to the end of Reconstruction. The study of political and economic systems during these periods provides a bridge from past to present. Enduring understandings and essential questions drive the focus and connect the units, thus allowing greater transition of ideas, facts, and generalizations across the curriculum. Writing, speaking, research, and world geography skills continue to be integrated into the instructional delivery throughout the course.

Advanced United States History
This course enhances the study of U.S. History units through the development of skills from high school Advanced Placement courses in history. Units include the American Revolution, the early republic, westward expansion, and the Civil War. In addition to the MCPS course of study, students deepen their understanding of key concepts and events through reading, writing, document analysis, and historical thinking. These skills will be applied in each unit and students will be expected to show progress in skill development and historical knowledge in exams and historical document-based projects.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics 8
This course focuses on the Standards for Mathematical Practice to build a climate that engages students in the exploration of mathematics. The Standards for Mathematical Practice are habits of mind applied throughout the course so that students see mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. Through this course, students will:

- Use linear equations and systems of linear equations to represent, analyze, and solve a variety of problems including the association between two quantities in bivariate data
- Solve and analyze situations using systems of two linear equations in two variables and relate the systems to pairs of lines in the plane
- Understand that functions describe situations where one quantity determines another
- Use ideas about distance and angles to describe and analyze two-dimensional figures
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem to find distances between points on the coordinate

plane, to find lengths, and to analyze polygons
- Complete their work on volume by solving problems involving cones, cylinders, and spheres

Algebra I A/B
This course is for students who have successfully completed Investigations in Mathematics with a grade of "C" or better. The units of study include relationships between quantities and reasoning with equations, linear and exponential relationships, descriptive statistics, quadratic relationships, and generalizing function properties. This course satisfies the high school Algebra 1 credit requirement if the student passes the course and the final exam. Students successful in this course take Honors Geometry the following year.

Honors Geometry A/B
This course is for students who have successfully completed Algebra I with a grade of "B" or better. The topics of study include congruence, similarity, right triangles, trigonometry, circles, expressing geometric properties with equations, geometric measurement and dimension, and modeling with geometry. This course satisfies the high school Geometry credit requirement if the student passes the course. Students successful in this course take Honors Algebra 2 the following year.

Honors Algebra II A/B
Algebra II formalizes and extends students' algebra experiences from Algebra I. Building on their work with linear, quadratic, and exponential functions, students extend their repertoire of functions to include polynomial, rational, radical, and trigonometric functions. Students work closely with the expressions that define the functions, and continue to expand and hone their abilities to model situations and to solve equations, including solving quadratic equations over the set of complex numbers and solving exponential equations using the properties of logarithms. Students extend their knowledge of statistics and explore probability.

SCIENCE

Investigations in Science 8
IS8 is a problem/project-based curriculum focused on topics related to forces and motion, astronomy, weather and climate, and Earth's materials and processes. Instruction is interwoven around a relevant problem/project to allow a focus for student learning. Students participate in minds-on inquiry and hands-on explorations, productive discourse, and purposeful reading and writing. Students engage in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in order to propose solutions to identified problems.

Advanced Investigations in Science 8
Advanced IS8 is a problem/project-based curriculum offering motivated students with enriched opportunities to investigate and work collaboratively on topics related to forces and motion, astronomy, weather and climate, and Earth's materials and processes. Instruction is interwoven around a relevant problem/project to allow a focus for student learning. Students participate in minds-on inquiry and hands-on explorations, productive discourse, and purposeful reading and writing. Students engage in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in order to propose solutions to identified problems.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Health and Physical Education 8
Students in Grade 8 continue to develop good sportsmanship, teamwork, and cooperative skills. Individual, dual, and team activities receive increased attention as students receive guidance in setting realistic lifetime goals for maintaining and/or improving their skills and fitness. Included in this course of physical education is a nine-week unit in health. Students will focus on the following content areas mental health, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, nutrition and fitness, personal and consumer health, safety and injury prevention, and family life.

ELECTIVE COURSE OPTIONS

Elective Courses

Full Year Electives

WORLD LANGUAGES[1]	• FRENCH 1AB • FRENCH 2AB • HONORS FRENCH 3AB • SPANISH 1AB • SPANISH 2AB • HONORS SPANISH 3AB • SPANISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS 1AB • SPANISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS 2AB
MUSIC	• INTERMEDIATE BAND • ADVANCED BAND • AFTER-SCHOOL BAND • INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA • ADVANCED ORCHESTRA • INTERMEDIATE CHORUS • ADVANCED CHORUS
STEM ELECTIVES[1]	• FOUNDATIONS OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AB
LITERACY ELECTIVES	• LITERATURE IN THE HUMANITIES • DIGITAL LITERACY 3

SEMESTER-BASED ELECTIVES

Students who chose to take semester-based electives will choose a first and second preference from each column below. All courses are subject to cancellation pending student enrollment

ARTS ELECTIVES	STEM AND LITERACY ELECTIVES

VISUAL ARTS
• Middle School Studio Art (6 / 7)
  o Prerequisite for other visual arts
• Drawing and Painting 2D Art (7 / 8)
• Ceramics/Sculpture 3D Art (7 / 8)
Visual arts classes may not be repeated
 	
PERFORMANCE ARTS
• Music Investigations 1 (6 / 7)
  o Prerequisite for other performing arts classes
• Guitar (7 / 8)
• Piano (7 / 8)
Performance arts classes may be repeated
	STEM
	• Computer Applications (6 / 7)
	  o Prerequisite for other STEM classes
	• Coding and Robotic Design (7 / 8)
	• Principles of Information Technology, Cyber Security and Engineering (7 / 8)
	STEM classes may not be repeated
	
	LITERACY
	• Digital Literacy (6 / 7)
	  o Prerequisite for Dig Lit 3

[1] High school credit upon successful completion of course requirements for 1A and 1B and passing grade on the 1B final exam

FULL-YEAR ELECTIVES

WORLD LANGUAGES

The World Language Program is designed to enable students to use oral and written language for meaningful and culturally-appropriate communications. The program of study helps students appreciate the linguistic and cultural diversity and the contributions of other people to world civilization. In all world language courses students are expected to display basic competence in the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. MCPS awards high school credit to students who pass both the final examination and both semesters of the courses. (*In order to enroll in a world language course in 6th grade, students must be exempt from a reading class or be a native speaker.)*

French 1 A/B and Spanish 1 A/B
Students in world language level 1 classes explore the language and culture of the people. Students begin to communicate orally and in writing in a culturally appropriate manner about self, family, school, pastimes, food, clothing, shopping, and the home. Vocabulary and basic grammatical structures are taught within the context of everyday topics. Culture is embedded throughout the course.

French 2A/B and Spanish 2A/B
This course is for students who have successfully completed both semesters and the final exam in French 1 or Spanish 1. Students in world language level 2 classes further explore the language and the culture of the people. Students continue to develop their ability to understand spoken and written language. Students will learn to communicate orally and in writing in a culturally-appropriate manner about a variety of familiar topics. Vocabulary and grammatical structures are taught within the context of everyday topics. Culture is embedded throughout the course. (*Open to students who have successfully completed French 1A/B or Spanish 1A/B, or who have tested in based on placement test performance.)*

Honors French 3A/B and Honors Spanish 3A/B
This course is for students who have successfully completed both semesters and the final exam in Spanish 2 or French 2. Students in World Language level 3 continue to develop their ability to understand spoken and written language. Students will learn to communicate orally and in writing in a culturally appropriate manner about a variety of topics. Culture continues to be embedded throughout this course. Increased grammatical accuracy is stressed as well as higher level listening, speaking, and reading abilities. *(Open to students who have successfully completed French 2A/B or Spanish 2A/B.)*

Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1 A/B
Spanish for Spanish Speakers provides language instruction for students with proficiency in Spanish because either it is their first language or it is spoken extensively in the home. Students will learn to communicate orally and in writing about a variety of topics including history, art, geography, ecology, culture, ethnic groups, and famous Hispanics. In this course, students will develop reading, writing, listening, speaking and grammar skills in Spanish. *(Open to students who have passed a placement test.)*

Spanish for Spanish Speakers 2 A/B
The Spanish for Spanish Speakers 2 A/B course of study provides language instruction for students with proficiency in Spanish because either it is their first language or it is spoken extensively in the home. Students will enhance their oral communication and written composition as they explore various topics such as history, art, geography, ecology, culture, ethnic groups, and famous Hispanics. In this course, students will develop reading, writing, listening, speaking and grammar skills in Spanish. *(Open to students who have successfully completed Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1 A/B.)*

MUSIC

Intermediate Band
Students learn the fundamentals of instrument technique including breathing, posture, tone production, intonation, and sight-reading, as well as music history. Emphasis is placed on developing formal

rehearsal decorum, following a conductor, and developing pitch and rhythmic security in preparation for performing an independent part in the traditional band ensemble. A wide variety of instrumental music is studied and performed. As the group works toward meeting their course objective, they will perform in concerts at school, festivals, and in the community. Intermediate Band consist of brass, wind and percussion instruments including flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion.

Advanced Band
Advanced Band students develop skills that will enable them to perform music at the grade level of difficulty. Areas such as elements of musical form, terms and symbols, tone production, instrument care, and the importance of practice habits are presented. Students learn the cultural influences from the historical periods reflected in the musical works being discussed. Written assignments may include music history and performance critiques. After school rehearsals and public performances outside of the school day may be required to meet course objectives. Advanced band is for experienced musicians.

After-school Band
This course is designed for students who wish to continue their craft but do not have room in their schedule during the regular school day for a band class. The afterschool band consists of brass, wind and percussion instruments including flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion. The course meets every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. on days when the activity buses run. The class will only be offered if there is a demand for the course.

Intermediate Orchestra
Students learn the fundamentals of instrument technique including posture, bow grip, posture, tone production, intonation, and sight-reading, as well as music history. Emphasis is placed on developing formal rehearsal decorum, following a conductor, and developing pitch and rhythmic security in preparation for performing an independent part in the traditional band or orchestra ensemble. A wide variety of instrumental music is studied and performed. As the group works toward meeting their course objective, they will perform in concerts at school, festivals, and in the community. Beginner orchestra is for students with no orchestra experience. Ensembles include the string instruments including violin, viola, cello, and bass.

Advanced Orchestra
Advanced Orchestra students develop skills that will enable them to perform music at the grade level of difficulty. Students learn the cultural influences from the historical periods reflected in the musical works being discussed. The study of music theory includes major scales, and diatonic and chromatic intervals. Written assignments may include music history, performance critiques, and musical composition. Students will be required to provide their own instrument, uniform, and supplies for this class. After-school rehearsals and public performances outside of the school day may be required to meet course objectives. Advanced orchestra is for experienced musicians.

Orchestra club is offered after school from 3-3:45 p.m. on Fridays for students who cannot fit orchestra classes into their schedule. No transportation is provided.

Intermediate Chorus
This musical ensemble is intended for students who love to sing. Students learn the fundamentals of choral singing technique including diction, breathing, tone production, intonation, and sight-reading, as well as music theory. A wide variety of choral music is studied and performed. As the group works toward meeting their course objective, they will perform in concerts at school, festivals, and in the community.

Advanced Chorus
This musical ensemble is intended for students who are experienced singers. Members will refine choral singing technique including diction, breathing, tone production, intonation, and sight-reading, as

well as music theory. A wide variety of choral music is studied and performed. As the group works toward meeting their course objective, they will perform in concerts at school, festivals, and in the community.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH (STEM)

In order to prepare all students for demands of college, careers, and the rapidly changing workforce, MCPS will equip all middle school students to reach their potential through engaging, hands-on electives in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). A priority for MCPS is ensuring that all students have experiences with and exposures to computer science and coding during the middle school years, while also developing the communication, problem-solving, computational, analytical, and innovative thinking needed to thrive in the 21st century.

Foundations of Computer Science A/B
This course provides an engaging introduction to computing concepts. The course focuses on the conceptual ideas of computing so that students understand why tools and languages are used to solve problems. Topics of study include human computer interaction, problem solving, web design, programming, data analysis, and robotics. *(High school credit will be awarded upon successful completion of course requirements for both semesters and passing grade on the final exam.)*

LITERACY

Literacy is the ability to think critically and creatively through reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing in all content areas. In order for all MCPS students to be ready for the current demands both in academics and in their future careers, it is essential that they collaborate in authentic literacy experiences throughout their day. Students may experience this in a variety of ways such as reading and discussing a wide variety of complex text, asking relevant questions to clarify their thinking, and constructing arguments and explanations using clear evidence and reasoning. Though skills such as these will be different depending on the content of the class, students will have consistent opportunities to develop them in authentic and content-specific ways.

Literature in the Humanities
This interdisciplinary course combines literature and history, and is meant to help students better understand their work in English and world studies classes. The course analyzes novels, plays, speeches, and non-fiction texts, as well as documentaries, films, and even commercials. Students will study dystopian fiction, the Civil Rights Movement, WWII, the Berlin Wall, and the Cultural Revolution. The course also examines symbolism, censorship, propaganda, media representation, and advertising. Students will also study Greek mythology and Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night.* In class, students share their ideas through large and small group discussions, speeches and presentations, formal paragraphs, and informal quick-writes.

Digital Literacy *3*
This course focuses on increasing critical and creative thinking through reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing through an integrated approach. Students will be introduced to a variety of social issues from various perspectives, examine the history of social movements and the impact on social and economic justice, explore their identity, and understand the ways in which communities can respond to these complex issues. Students will explore social justice terminology in order to better advocate for a socially just society. Students will participate in sustained inquiry, analysis, and evaluation of text through reading complex informational, expository, and argumentative texts in a technology-rich medium. Students will use research skills to investigate a contemporary social issue using real-time global texts and then create solutions to address the issue at the individual and/or systemic level. *(Open to students who have successfully completed Digital Literacy.)*

SEMESTER-BASED ELECTIVES

VISUAL ARTS
(Visual arts classes may not be repeated.)

Middle School Visual Art
This course provides students with multiple and varied opportunities to explore identity and the many ways this theme can be represented through visual art. They will develop a fundamental understanding of ideation, media techniques, formal qualities, and compositional devices. Students will also be taught safe practices in an art room and the proper use of art equipment, tools, and materials. (*Open to 6th and 7th graders. This course is a prerequisite to all other visual arts electives.)*

Drawing and Painting
This course focuses on traditional studio media and techniques for drawing and painting. Students will develop a portfolio that demonstrates their ability to skillfully manipulate 2-D studio media. *(Open to 7th and 8th graders who have successfully completed Middle School Visual Art.)*

Ceramics and Sculpture
This course focuses on techniques involved in ceramics and sculpture. Students will develop a portfolio that demonstrates their ability to skillfully manipulate 3-D studio media. *(Open to 7th and 8th graders who have successfully completed Middle School Visual Art.)*

PERFORMANCE ARTS
(Performance arts classes may be repeated.)

Music Investigations
This course helps students develop personal skill in the use of instruments and music technology as a means of creative expression. (*This course is a prerequisite to all other performance arts electives.)*

Guitar
This course helps students create, perform, and respond to guitar music in a variety of styles/genres. Students will learn and develop beginning guitar skills, including selected major, minor, and seventh chords; pentatonic scales; basic strumming and picking technique; and tuning technique. They study cultural, historical, personal, and social context as they relate to guitar repertoire. *(Open to 7th and 8th graders who have successfully completed Music Investigations.)*

Piano
This course provides students with an opportunity to create, perform, and respond to piano music in a variety of styles/genres. Students will learn and develop beginning piano skills and techniques, music literacy, chord chart reading, and basic music theory concepts. They will study cultural, historical, personal, and social context as they relate to piano repertoire. *(Open to 7th and 8th graders who have successfully completed Music Investigations.)*

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (STEM)
(STEM classes may not be repeated.)

Computer Applications
This course provides students with the opportunity to work hands-on to develop computer-related skills and knowledge. Elements of word processing, spreadsheets, multimedia presentations, file management, game design, and digital imagery will be learned with a focus on Microsoft Office Applications. Students will enhance their basic computer skills to become more proficient after completing this course. *(Open to 6th and 7th graders. This course is a prerequisite to all other STEM electives.)*

Coding and Robotic Design
This course instructs students in the elements of game development, design and modeling, robotics, and engineering. (*Open to 7th and 8th graders who have successfully completed Computer Applications.)*

Principles of Information Technology, Cybersecurity, and Engineering
This course instructs students in the elements of cyber safety, computer literacy (hardware and software), software applications, development and use of technology, and the engineering design process. (*Open to 7th and 8th graders who have successfully completed Computer Applications.)*

LITERACY

Digital Literacy
This course focuses on developing critical and creative thinking through reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing in a 21st century approach. Working through a problem-based process, students learn to define real-world problems of interest, research the causes of those problems using real-time global texts, and then create solutions to address the problems. Students will advance their understanding of comprehension, analysis, and evaluation of text as well as vocabulary acquisition through reading complex informational and argumentative texts in a technology-rich medium. *This course is open to 6th and 7th graders. The course is a prerequisite to Digital Literacy 3.)*