



Spokane Public Schools



2024

DREAM ACCESS OPPORTUNITY

COURSE CATALOG **MIDDLE SCHOOL**



Spokane Public Schools

Teaching & Learning Services • Curriculum & Instruction
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COURSE CATALOG

MIDDLE SCHOOL

2024

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English Language Arts and Social Studies

6th Grade

Course Descriptions

English 6

grade 6

Full Year

In English 6, students will investigate the thematic concept of change. Students will read a variety of texts learn about the theme of change through the experiences of real and imaginary characters. Close reading strategies will help students to determine what each text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from what it does not say explicitly. Writing and speaking will focus on text-based evidence. Students will be asked to write in narrative, informational, and argumentative, modes. Students will also look at print texts and then examine how those same texts are portrayed in film.

Social Studies 6 - Ancient Civilizations

grade 6

Full Year

In 6th grade, students spend the year studying ancient civilizations from the beginning of time through the fall of the Roman Empire. Students begin with the study of Early Peoples and the Beginning of Civilization, examining the characteristics of Hunter-gatherer societies, Early Agriculture, Early Cities, and Early Civilizations. Next, they move to a study of the Ancient Near East, including the Fertile Crescent, Ancient Egypt and Nubia, Judaism, and the Jewish People. Students then continue their study of ancient civilizations by looking at Ancient India and China, including the Civilizations of Early India, India's Empires, Ancient China, the Chinese Empire. Finally, students study Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome, learning about the Ancient Greeks, Ancient Greek Civilization, the Roman Republic, The Roman Empire, and Christianity. Besides learning about these ancient civilizations, students will develop fundamental social studies skills and concepts central to understanding history, geography, government, economics, and culture.

Course Listings

Course Name	PowerSchool Course Name	Course Code
English 6	English 6	4101
Social Studies 6 - Ancient Civilizations	Ancient Civilizations 6	2102

Courses may vary at individual school sites.

Mathematics and Science

6th Grade

Course Descriptions

Math 6

grade 6

Full Year

Math 6 is the course for sixth-grade students and provides the foundational elements for Algebra and beyond. Students will explore and solve mathematical problems, think critically, work cooperatively with others, and communicate their ideas clearly as they work through concepts. A summary of the major concepts and procedures learned in this course follows. In sixth grade, students will analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems. Students will use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions and solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations. They will also, expand their understanding of our base ten number system as they work to solve problems involving unit rates, percentages, and dividing fractions.

Math 6 Accelerated

grade 6

Full Year

Accelerated Math is for 6th grade students. This course is for students who want to take a high school course (Algebra 1) as an eighth grader, making it easier to get to Calculus or Statistics as a high school senior. This course offers a combination of sixth grade and seventh grade math by completing more than one year of math topics in this yearlong class. Students must be able to learn and apply math concepts at an accelerated pace to be successful in this course.

Science 6 - Earth & Space Science

grade 6

Full Year

This course focuses on Earth and Space. It provides sixth grade students the opportunity to learn science concepts and principles, acquire reasoning and problem-solving abilities, and develop inquiry skills. The sixth-grade course is designed to enable students to attain a fundamental level of scientific literacy that will provide the competencies needed for successful participation in our scientifically and technologically oriented society. Students will study weather, climate, and water cycling; rock cycling and plate tectonics; natural hazards; natural resources and human impact; and Earth in space. Science 6 will also include the opportunity for students to participate in a schoolwide Science Fair.

Course Listings

Course Name	PowerSchool Course Name	Course Code
Math 6	Math 6	5813/5814
Math 6 Accelerated	Math 6 Accelerated	3103
Science 6 - Earth & Space Science	Science Earth 6	5102

Courses may vary at individual school sites.

Fitness & Health

6th Grade

Course Descriptions

Fitness & Health 6

grade 6

Semester

Students will participate in a variety of activities (sports, games, and fitness) in which they will increase competency in activity-specific skills. Students will also apply knowledge of concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics related to movement and performance, demonstrate knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical activity and fitness, exhibit responsible personal and social behavior, and recognize the value of physical activity. Students will analyze individual health behaviors and their current fitness levels, demonstrate an ability to set and adjust individual fitness goals, and work toward creating and implementing a personal health and fitness plan.

Course Listings

Course Name	PowerSchool Course Name	Course Code
SV Fitness & Health 6	Fitness & Health 6	5813/5814
Fitness & Health 6	Fitness & Health 6	5900

Courses may vary at individual school sites.

Semester Electives

6th Grade

Course Descriptions

Art Exploratory 6

grade 6

Semester

Students of all abilities will learn and apply the elements and principles of design by using a variety of media. Creativity will be developed using different visual art techniques and skills. The foundations of aesthetics, criticism and art history will also be explored.

Career Exploratory 6

grade 6

Semester

Students will explore their interests, skills, and aptitudes. Students will engage with content that reinforces key STEM skills and mindsets. Students will connect with employers, educators, and resources in the region. Students will learn practical steps to protect their privacy and safety online. Students will engage in real-life financial scenarios that focus on skill building and responsible decision making.

World Language Exploratory 6

grade 6

Semester

Students will be introduced to the culture and world languages of the languages offered at high school. They will learn everyday vocabulary and examine the culture of the people who speak the languages. It is designed to be a fun way to learn and experience each language before making a choice for yearlong language study at high school

Course Listings

Course Name	PowerSchool Course Name	Course Code
Exploratory Art 6	Art 6	4101
Exploratory Career 6	Career Exploratory	7134
Exploratory World Language 6	Exploratory World Language - Sem	6693

Courses may vary at individual school sites.

Full Year Electives

6th Grade

Course Descriptions

Beginning Choir 6

grade 6

Full Year

This course will build foundational singing and literacy skills as they pertain to choral singing. Students will build the skills they will need to be successful in the intermediate and advanced choral classes. The course will include a variety of musical styles. Students will explore and discover how to perform different forms, and languages, common in a basic choral experience. Students will be required to perform in both in school and after school performances. There are possible fees for uniforms that may be charged.

Beginning Orchestra 6

grade 6

Full Year

This course is for students who would like to learn to play a string orchestra instrument—violin, viola, cello, or bass. Members of this class will have multiple opportunities to perform throughout the year. Practice at home is encouraged to be at performance level. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day. There are possible fees for uniform and/or instrument rental that may be charged.

Beginning Band 6

grade 6

Full Year

This class is for students who would like to learn to play a brass (trumpet, trombone), woodwind (flute, clarinet) or percussion instrument. Members of this class will have multiple opportunities to perform throughout the year. Practice at home is encouraged to be at performance level. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day. There are possible fees for uniforms and/or instrument rental that may be charged.

Course Listings

Course Name	PowerSchool Course Name	Course Code
Beginning Choir 6	Intro To Choir 6	4551
Beginning Orchestra 6	Intro To Orchestra	4543
Beginning Band 6	Intro To Band 6	4755

Courses may vary at individual school sites.

English Language Arts

7th & 8th Grade

Course Descriptions

English 7

grade 7

Full Year

In English 7, students will investigate the thematic concept of choice. Close reading strategies will help students to determine what each text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from what it does not say explicitly. Writing and speaking will focus on text-based evidence. For example, students will write a literary analysis of a novel and include findings from research to produce a multimedia biographical presentation. Much like in 6th grade, students will be asked to write in argumentative, informational, and narrative modes. Students will also look at print texts and then examine how those same texts are portrayed in film.

English 7 Accelerated

grade 7

Full Year

A language arts accelerated program at the middle level will include an environment where students experience learning that is more cognitively complex than the general education offering; that is faster paced; and is characterized by greater depth of content. It is necessary to note that SpringBoard is the basic education curricular framework offered in general education and accelerated classrooms for grades 7 and 8 language arts. SpringBoard is the College Board's college preparation curriculum. Thus, language arts accelerated class sections are designed to extend our most advanced literacy learners. A pre-course summer assignment is required for this course.

English 8

grade 8

Full Year

In English 8, units of study focus on the theme of challenges. Students will learn about an archetype of a hero, which is a model that writers follow in creating stories about heroes. Writing and speaking opportunities are varied and engaging. For example, students will write a hero's journey narrative about a hero of their choice, along with essays and an argument that presents their position on an issue in a compelling way. Using research on an issue of national or global significance, students will create an informative multimedia presentation. Viewing film is also a part of researching and analyzing what authors are communicating. As part of studying comedy and Shakespeare, students will analyze scenes from the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and then view those scenes in film to determine how and why a film director may have changed the scenes.

English 8 Accelerated

grade 8

Full Year

A language arts accelerated program at the middle level will include an environment where students experience learning that is more cognitively complex than the general education offering; that is faster paced; and is characterized by greater depth of content. It is necessary to note that SpringBoard is the basic education curricular framework offered in general education and accelerated classrooms for grades 7 and 8 language arts. SpringBoard is the College Board's college preparation curriculum. Thus, language arts accelerated class sections are designed to extend our most advanced literacy learners. A pre-course summer assignment is required for this course.

Reading Strategies

grades 6-8

Full Year/Semester

This course is designed for students who are working to improve their reading skills. The course may be taken for one semester, or it may transition to a full year elective for students benefiting from additional support as they develop grade level reading skills. Students may be assigned to the course if it is determined that they would benefit from additional instruction and opportunities for practice as they work to increase their reading level. Reading at grade level is an important skill for success in high school and beyond, making this middle level intervention course an important opportunity for striving readers to grow their skills.

Course Listings

Course Name	PowerSchool Course Name	Course Code
English 7	English 7	1110
English 7 Accelerated	English 7 Accelerated	1150
English 8	English 8	1120
English 8 Accelerated	English 8 Accelerated	1151
Reading Strategies	Reading Foundations	1138
Courses may vary at individual school sites.		

Mathematics

7th & 8th Grade

Course Descriptions

Math 7

grade 7

Full Year

Math 7 is the course for most seventh-grade students and continues to build the foundation elements for Algebra on top of the work students did in Math 6. Students will explore and solve mathematical problems, think critically, work cooperatively with others, and communicate their ideas clearly as they work through concepts. A summary of the major concepts and procedures learned in this course follows.

In seventh grade, student will analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems. Students will extend their mathematical ability as they continue to develop many of the ideas started in Math 6. They will also construct scale drawings as they solve problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume. Students will explore circles, triangles, polygons, and they will use random sampling to draw inferences about a population.

Math 7 Accelerated

grade 7

Full Year

Accelerated Math is for 7th grade students. This course is for students who want to take a high school course (Algebra 1) as an eighth grader. Making it easier to get to Calculus or Statistics as a high school senior. This course offers a combination of seventh grade and eighth grade math by completing two years of math topics in one year. Students must be able to learn and apply math concepts at an accelerated pace to be successful in this course.

Math 8

grade 8

Full Year

Math 8 jumps into topics traditionally found in a pre-algebra course. Students will continue to investigate problems, work with their peers, and communicate clearly to solve problems. A summary of the major concepts and procedures learned in this course follows.

In Math 8, students explore rigid transformations to contrast that with dilations to develop their idea of slope. Most of the course will be focused on linear relationships, systems, and functions. Students will be introduced to scientific notation, the laws of exponents, Pythagorean Theorem, and associations in data.

Algebra 1

grade 7, 8

Full Year

Students will learn to use functions to solve problems. They will develop the ability to explore and solve abstract problems, as they work cooperatively with others and communicate their ideas. Topics for this course include a study of linear, quadratic, and exponential functions as well as statistics. Use of the graphing calculator is an integral part of this course. This course grade appears on student's high school transcript.

Students and parents should consult their school principal regarding entrance criteria.

Prerequisite(s): 7th Graders: Meet established criteria for 7th Grade Algebra 1 enrollment. 8th Graders: Successful completion of 7th Grade Accelerated Math.

Math Strategies 7/8

grades 7, 8

Semester

This course is designed for students who are working to improve their math skills. The course may be taken for one semester, or it may transition to a full year elective for students benefiting from additional support as they develop grade level math skills. Students may be assigned to the course if it is determined that the student would benefit from additional instruction and opportunities for practice as they work to increase their math level. Success with grade level math concepts is an important skill for success in high school and beyond, making this middle level intervention course an important opportunity for students to grow their math skills.

Course Listings

Course Name	PowerSchool Course Name	Course Code
Math 7	Middle School Mathematics 1	3112
Math 7 Accelerated	7th Ms Accelerated Math	3139
Math 8	Middle School Mathematics 2	3115
Algebra 1	Algebra 1 A-B	3117
Math Strategies 7	Math Strategies 7	3218
Math Strategies 8	Math Strategies 8	3219
Courses may vary at individual school sites.		

Science

7th & 8th Grade

Course Descriptions

Science 7 - Life Science

grade 7

Full Year

This course provides seventh grade students the opportunity to learn science concepts and principles, acquire reasoning and problem-solving abilities, and develop inquiry skills. It is designed to enable students to attain a fundamental level of scientific literacy that will provide the competencies needed for successful participation in our scientifically and technologically oriented society. Students will learn key biological concepts including cells and systems; metabolic reactions; matter cycling and photosynthesis; ecosystem dynamics; genetics; natural selection and common ancestry.

Science 8 - Physical Science

grade 8

Full Year

This course focuses on physics and chemistry, providing eighth grade students the opportunity to learn science concepts and principles, acquire reasoning and problem-solving abilities, and develop inquiry skills. The eighth-grade course is designed to enable students to attain a fundamental level of scientific literacy that will provide the competencies needed for successful participation in our scientifically and technologically oriented society. Students will cover the concepts of light and matter; thermal energy; chemical reactions and matter transformations; chemical reactions and energy; contact forces; sound waves; forces at a distance.

Course Listings

Course Name	PowerSchool Course Name	Course Code
Science 7 - Life Science	Life Science	5111
Science 8 - Physical Science	Physical Science	5125

Courses may vary at individual school sites.

Social Studies

7th & 8th Grade

Course Descriptions

Social Studies 7 - World History

grade 7

Semester

In the seventh grade, students will continue their study of world history from 6th grade, focusing on major societies, world religions, events and movements that existed from the Fall of Rome to 1450 CE. Students will examine the Byzantine Empire, Islamic Civilizations, African Civilizations, Empires of Asia, and Mesoamerica. Through this study, students will develop enduring understandings of core concepts and ideas in civics, economics, geography, and history. Students will also develop skills in the areas of research, reading, and writing. Research instruction will include writing a guiding research question, selecting sources, evaluating information for relevancy and accuracy, drawing conclusions, evaluating primary and secondary sources, and distinguishing among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment.

Social Studies 7 - Washington State History

grade 7

Semester

In seventh grade, students become more proficient with the core concepts in social studies. Students study Washington State from its earliest inhabitants to the present day. Various lessons will be taught that meet the requirements of the Since Time Immemorial legislation. The study of Washington State includes an examination of the various native people that inhabited what is now Washington State, a look at multiple cultural and immigrant groups that settled in Washington State, a survey of the history of Washington State from its beginnings through the 20th century, and a study of Washington's foundational documents including the purpose, structure, and organization, of government at the local and state level.

Social Studies 8 - American Studies

grade 8

Full Year

In eighth grade, students develop a new, more abstract level of understanding social studies concepts. Students will study diverse perspectives to gain a more complete understanding of the events and people in United States history from the Revolutionary Era to the end of the Civil War and Reconstruction. Students learn about the causes and effects of the American Revolution and analyze the ideas, people, society, and events of the period. Students also learn about the United States Constitution and the development and construction of the United States government. Students assess the ways in which the ideals, values, and principles that drive American culture – including those described in its foundational documents – can be applied to a historical or modern situation and the ways in which those ideals have changed over time. Students also analyze the growth of the United States, describe how the idea of Manifest Destiny and its migration patterns shaped the expansion of the nation, and evaluate the effects that westward expansion had on other cultures. Finally, students will study the causes, events, and effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction, especially focusing on the political, economic, and social impact of the War and Reconstruction on various populations in the United States.

Course Listings

Course Name	PowerSchool Course Name	Course Code
Social Studies 7 - World History	Social Studies 7 World History	2111
Social Studies 7 - Washington State History	Social Studies 7 Washington State History	2114
Social Studies 8 - American Studies	American Studies 8	2121

Courses may vary at individual school sites.

Career, College, & Life Readiness

7th & 8th Grade

Course Descriptions

Career, College, & Life Readiness

grade 8

Semester

Career, College, and Life Readiness will give students the foundation to be future-ready! Students will focus on real-world life skills and practical knowledge. Students practice essential life skills, including financial literacy, career and college planning, human growth and development, and drug, tobacco, and alcohol education. In addition, this class embeds reading, writing, communicating, problem-solving, and decision-making about real everyday issues.

Course Listings

Course Name	PowerSchool Course Name	Course Code
Career, College, & Life Readiness	Career College & Life Readiness	7120

Courses may vary at individual school sites.

Fitness & Health

7th & 8th Grade

Course Descriptions

Fitness & Health 7

grade 7

Semester

In 7th grade physical education, students will participate in a variety of small-sided games and physical fitness activities, performing skills and demonstrating knowledge of concepts, skills, tactics and strategies, and personal behaviors to achieve and/or maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness and to develop physical literacy, or the ability to move with competence and confidence in a variety of environments. State standards around the core ideas of nutrition will also be addressed in this course.

Fitness & Health 8

grade 8

Semester

Students in 8th grade physical education will build on the concepts, skills, tactics and strategies, and management of personal behaviors from 7th grade by applying them in modified game play and a variety of physical fitness activities. Increased emphasis is placed on nutrition and students developing physical literacy and the need to remain physically active for physical and mental health throughout life by participating in physical activities that are enjoyable and challenging.

Course Listings

Course Name	PowerSchool Course Name	Course Code
SV Fitness & Health 7	Fitness & Health 7	5813/5814
Fitness & Health 7	Fitness & Health 7	5901
SV Fitness & Health 8	Fitness & Health 8	5813/5814
Fitness & Health 8	Fitness & Health 8	5902

Courses may vary at individual school sites.

Career & Technical Education

7th & 8th Grade

Course Descriptions

AVID 7/8

grades 7, 8

Semester

The AVID (Achievement Via Individual Determination) elective is designed to provide the skills, capacities, and support that student need to be able to maximize their Individual determination to achieve in rigorous courses.

Students will learn writing, inquiry, collaboration, organizational, reading, effective note taking and study skills. Work on critical thinking and asking higher level probing questions. Receive academic support from the teacher, peers and college age and above tutors to participate in the rigorous curriculum of challenging courses like Honors and AP. Participate in enrichment and motivational activities that help make them career and college ready.

An AVID student is one with demonstrated academic potential, with a 2.0-3.5 grade point average. Have the desire and determination to go to college or on to other post-secondary pursuits. Usually are first in their family to attend college or other post-secondary training.

PLTW CS App Creators

grades 7, 8

Semester

App Creators (AC) introduces students to the field of computer science and the concepts of computational thinking, through the creation of mobile apps. Students are challenged to be creative and innovative, as they collaboratively design and develop mobile solutions to engaging, authentic problems. Students experience the positive impact of the application of computer science to society as well as to other disciplines, particularly biomedical science.

PLTW CS For Innovators & Makers

grades 7, 8

Semester

Computer Science for Innovators and Makers (IM) teaches students that programming goes beyond the virtual world into the physical world. Students are challenged to creatively use sensors and actuators to develop systems that interact with their environment. While designing algorithms and using computational thinking practices, students code and upload programs to microcontrollers that perform a variety of authentic tasks. The unit broadens students' understanding of computer science concepts through meaningful applications. Teams select and solve a personally relevant problem related to wearable technology, interactive art, or mechanical devices.

PLTW Design & Modeling

grades 7, 8

Semester

Design and Modeling (DM) provides students opportunities to apply the design process to creatively solve problems. Students are introduced to the unit problem in the first activity and are asked to make connections to the problem throughout the lessons in the unit. Students learn and utilize methods for communicating design ideas through sketches, solid models, and mathematical models. Students will understand how models can be simulated to represent an authentic situation and generate data for further analysis and observations. Students work in teams to identify design requirements, research the topic, and engage stakeholders. Teams design a toy or game for a child with cerebral palsy, fabricate and test it, and make necessary modifications to optimize the design solution.

PLTW Automation & Robotics

grades 7, 8

Semester

In the Automation and Robotics (AR) unit, students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

PLTW Medical Detectives

grades 7, 8

Semester

In the Medical Detectives (MD) unit, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, dissect a sheep brain, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction.

Publications

grades 7, 8

Full Year

This class is designed to improve and refine literacy and communication skills. This is a year-long elective class that will create the school yearbook and help with the student news production. This class will that introduces students to the various skills and jobs available in publications including digital page design, photography, and journalism.

Prerequisite(s): Application required.

Productions

grades 7, 8

Full Year

The purpose of this course is to provide a project-based visual arts program, which guides students to achieve the standards in the visual arts and career technical training, by providing students with the technical instruction and practical experiences for aspiring video and film makers in the production of film, video, and new media projects for business and entertainment.

Course Listings

Course Name	PowerSchool Course Name	Course Code
AVID 7/8	AVID 7/8	9237/9238
PLTW CS App Creators	CS App Creators	7130
PLTW CS For Innovators & Makers	CS For Innovators & Makers	7132
PLTW Design & Modeling	Design & Modeling - STEM	7140/7141
PLTW Automation & Robotics		7126
PLTW Medical Detectives	Medical Detectives - STEM	7128
Publications	MS Publications - Year	1191
Productions	Production	1728

Courses may vary at individual school sites.

Visual & Performing Arts

7th & 8th Grade

Course Descriptions

Art 1

grades 7, 8

Semester/Full Year

Students of all abilities will learn and apply the elements and principles of design in creating a variety of 2D & 3D artworks. Creativity, problem solving, and skill building will be developed using different techniques and materials. The foundations of aesthetics, criticism and art history will also be explored. May be taken consecutively across the entire school year.

Art 2

grades 7, 8

Semester/Full Year

Students who have completed ART 1 will learn and apply the elements and principles of design in creating a variety of 2D & 3D artworks. Depth in creative thinking, problem solving, and advanced skill building will be developed using different techniques and materials. The foundations of aesthetics, criticism and art history will also be explored. May be taken consecutively across the entire school year.

Prerequisite(s): Art 1 or instructor permission

Band Intermediate

grades 7, 8

Full Year

This band consists of students with one or more years of instruction on a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. Students will have the opportunity to improve technique while emphasizing basics. This class is part of the parade marching band in the spring and members can also be in the specialty ensembles, such as jazz band. Practice at home is required to be at performance level. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day. There are possible fees for uniforms and/or instrument rental that may be charged.

Band Advanced

grades 7, 8

Full Year

This band is a select ensemble that features performance at an advanced level on brass, woodwind, or percussion instruments. Students will have the opportunity to improve technique while building upon skills developed in Intermediate band. This class is part of the parade marching band in the spring and members can also be in the specialty ensembles, such as jazz band. Practice at home is required to be at performance level. Opportunities to perform include festivals, contests, and concerts. There are possible fees for uniforms and/or instrument rental that may be charged.

Prerequisite(s): Director recommendation

Percussion Beginning

grades 7, 8

Semester

This class is for students who would like to learn to play the percussion instruments used in the band program. Members of this class will have multiple opportunities to perform throughout the semester. Practice at home is encouraged to be at performance level. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day. There are possible fees for uniforms and/or instrument rental that may be charged.

Percussion Ensemble

grades 7, 8

Semester

In this class, students who have experience playing band percussion instruments will improve performance skills through percussion ensemble music, exercises, and band music. Members of this class will perform with the bands in concerts and in the parade in the spring. Practice at home is required to be at performance level. Opportunities to perform include festivals, contests, and concerts. There are possible fees for uniforms and/or instrument rental that may be charged.

Prerequisite(s): Director recommendation

Orchestra Intermediate String grades 7, 8 Full Year

This orchestra consists of students with one or more years of instruction on a string instrument. Students will have the opportunity to improve technique while emphasizing basics. Practice at home is required to be at performance level. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day. There are possible fees for uniforms and/or instrument rental that may be charged.

Orchestra Advanced String grades 7, 8 Full Year

This orchestra is a select ensemble that features performance at an advanced level. Students will have the opportunity to improve technique while building upon skills developed in intermediate orchestra. Practice at home is required to be at performance level. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day. Opportunities to perform include festivals, contests, and concerts. There are possible fees for uniforms and/or instrument rental that may be charged.

Prerequisite(s): Director recommendation

World Drumming grades 7, 8 Semester

This class is open to 7th and 8th grade students interested in learning basic music literacy skills and techniques necessary for performing percussion instruments in a variety of cultural settings. The class will primarily learn and perform drumming techniques from indigenous cultures from around the world. Additional study of Western percussion instruments and techniques will prepare students to participate in a full year band or percussion class. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day.

Guitar Beginning grades 7, 8 Semester

Beginning guitar students will learn and practice basic techniques for guitar. In this introductory class, techniques and fundamentals will be taught and applied to performances. Students will work as an ensemble using district approved curriculum. Students will demonstrate understanding through various assessments, including but not limited to playing tests and in class performances.

Choir Open grades 7, 8 Semester

This class is for students who would like to sing and learn vocal skills in a beginning choir setting. Be a part of a team in this ensemble, creating and performing fun and challenging music together! Students will learn and apply basic music literacy and skills to follow a musical score. No previous experience is necessary. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day. There are possible fees for uniform cleaning that may be charged.

Choir Intermediate grades 7, 8 Full Year

This choir consists of students who have previous experience singing in a beginning choir. Students will get the chance to improve their vocal skills while emphasizing the basics of proper techniques. Students will learn and apply basic music literacy and skills to follow a score. Participation requires a commitment to performing in class and outside of the school day. Opportunities to perform include festivals, contests, and concerts. There are possible fees for uniform cleaning that may be charged.

Choir Advanced grades 7, 8 Full Year

Director recommendation is required. This choir consists of students who have previous experience singing in a beginning, intermediate or advanced choir. Students will get a chance to sharpen their vocal skills through challenging music and performances. This course introduces students to singing 3-part choral music. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day. Opportunities to perform include festivals, contests, and concerts. Possible fees include uniform cleaning.

Prerequisite(s): Director recommendation

Music and the Creative Arts

grades 7, 8

Semester

This is a unique class where students get to explore the world and themselves through six of the creative arts: music, creative writing, movement, storytelling, drama, and visual art. All the arts involve a process of practice, revision, and creativity. We learn and apply basic arts concepts and vocabulary, interconnect many of the arts and build on those skills toward larger projects and performances. We have fun exploring and sharing our experiments and learnings with each other in a comfortable, trusting environment.

Drama

grades 7, 8

Semester

Students will explore the world of theatre through participation in various scenes and possibly short plays. Theatre and improvisation games will also be experienced to assist in developing creativity. Performances outside of the regular class day could be a requirement in this class.

Course Listings

Course Name	PowerSchool Course Name	Course Code
Art 1	Art 1 - Semester	4112
Art 2	Art 2 - Semester	4124
Band Intermediate	Band Intermediate	4752
Band Advanced	Band Advanced	4759
Percussion Beginning	Percussion Beginning	4840
Percussion Ensemble	Percussion Ensemble	4841
Orchestra Intermediate String	Orchestra Intermediate String	4784
Orchestra Advanced String	Orchestra Advanced String	4785
World Drumming	MS African Drum Circle	4666
Guitar Beginning	Guitar Lab MS	4830
Choir Open	Choir/Chorus One Semester	4650
Choir Intermediate	Choir Intermediate - Full Year	4651
Choir Advanced	Choir Advanced 7/8 - Full Year	4660
Music and the Creative Arts	Music And The Creative Arts	4391
Drama	Drama - Semester	1136

Courses may vary at individual school sites.

World Languages

7th & 8th Grade

Course Descriptions

Chinese

grades 7, 8

Full Year

The first year of Chinese is a highly communicative introduction to the language and it is the base upon which levels 2, 3 are built. Students will learn important foundational knowledge, vocabulary, and grammar and they will be asked to put their knowledge to work in real-life settings. Students will be able to recognize and pronounce Pinyin, the phonics system, and they will use classroom expressions in certain classroom situations. Students will be able to explain how Chinese characters evolved and identify the most common traditional radicals. Students can greet people, tell time, age, nationality and grade in school, talk about school subjects, identify and describe family members and pets, discuss dates and months of the year, exchange phone numbers, express likes and dislikes, and give and response to invitations. This course will result in a HS credit. Note: not every high school or middle school offers every world language.

French

grades 7, 8

Full Year

The first year of French is a highly communicative introduction to the language and it is the base upon which levels 2,3,4 and AP are built. Students will learn important vocabulary and grammar and they will be asked to put their knowledge to work in real-life settings. They will be able to talk about their lives, their family, and friends, discuss and inquire about weather and pastimes, order food at a restaurant, find their way around a foreign city, and function in new situations. Grammar includes present tense regular and some irregular verbs, adjective agreement, syntax and much more. Students will be reading, writing, listening and speaking every day in class and they will be studying the culture of the people who speak the target language as well as their customs. Note: not every high school or middle school offers every world language. This course will result in a HS credit. Note: not every high school or middle school offers every world language.

Spanish 1

grades 7, 8

Full Year

The first year of Spanish is a highly communicative introduction to the language and it is the base upon which levels 2,3,4 and AP are built. Students will learn important vocabulary and grammar and they will be asked to put their knowledge to work in real-life settings. They will be able to talk about their lives, their family, and friends, discuss and inquire about weather and pastimes, order food at a restaurant, find their way around a city, and function in new situations. Beginning grammar instruction can include use of subjects and verbs, present tense, adjectives, syntax and much more. Each language also has specific grammar that is a focus for year one. Students will be reading, writing, listening, and speaking every day in class and they will be studying the culture of the people who speak the target language as well as their customs.

Spanish 2

grade 8

Full Year

Second year Spanish study enables students to expand vocabulary and explore the target language using more complicated structures and systems such as past tenses, future tense, and reflexive verbs. As students increase their ability to understand, they will be speaking with more confidence and complexity. In addition, they will read short selections and stories at more advanced levels. They will be able to talk about where they live, life after school, clothing, vacations, and professions, for example. Classwork will be conducted in the language as much as possible to provide practice in expression and comprehension. Students' cultural awareness expands through a multimedia, hands-on approach.

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Year 1

Course Listings

Course Name	PowerSchool Course Name	Course Code
Chinese 1	World Language Chinese 1 A/B	6802/6803
French 1	World Language French 1 A/B	6180/6181
Spanish 1	Spanish Year 1A/B	6680/6681
Spanish 2	Spanish Year 2A	6682/6683

Courses may vary at individual school sites.