

Eastern Middle School

**300 University Boulevard East
Silver Spring, MD 20901
(301) 650-6650**



Program of Studies and Course Offerings 2010-2011

Eastern Middle School Vision

All students are entitled to exemplary instruction in a safe and orderly environment. All students will receive the instruction, encouragement and opportunities they need to build the knowledge and skills required to become contributing citizens of a global society.



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 is 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 that 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,

Casey B. Crouse
Proud Principal Eastern Middle School

**Eastern Middle School
2010-2011**

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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.

Electives

In order to increase the opportunity for exploration, we offer electives in a variety of ways. Some electives are offered on a semester basis, while others are offered all year long. The final offering of elective courses is determined by enrollment and staffing.

Academic Support Electives

Students at risk for earning a score of Basic on the Maryland State Assessment (MSA) will be assigned an appropriate academic support class in reading and/or mathematics. This academic support class is designed to diagnose skill weaknesses, remediate basic skills and accelerate a student's academic program. Classes are designed to be small with low student-teacher ratios. A student can be assigned for as short as one semester or as long as a year.

Schedule

Eastern utilizes a seven period format. Students are registered for seven courses each semester, which meet for approximately 49 minutes daily. Eastern is currently evaluating a variety of methods in which we can effectively incorporate time for re-teaching and reassessment into the school schedule.

Optional After-School Courses

We recognize that for a variety of reasons many students may have limited opportunities in the seven-period schedule to participate in elective courses. In order to create more opportunities for elective participation we will be offering BAND and SPANISH 1 A/B in an extended-day block. These classes will follow the MCPS curriculum and students that participate will earn a grade and credit. The courses will be scheduled every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2:45PM – 4:05PM. Students can enroll in ONE after-school course. Transportation will be provided (pending budget approval).

Support Services

Counseling Services

While at Eastern, students will be assigned to a counselor who will help them in three major areas: academic achievement, career and educational planning, and personal and social development. Eastern Middle school counselors deliver a comprehensive program that focuses on the academic personal social and career development of all students. We support the school wide vision for academic excellence. 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 and the MCPS mission.

Mentoring

Students in need are assigned a mentor in the school who provides a support system outside his or her academic area. The students select mentors with input from the administrator or the guidance counselor. Additional information about this program is shared with students during the school year. Mentors are committed staff members or members of the community. To volunteer to be a mentor for a student, please call Mr. Haynes at (301) 650-6650.

Level I Alternative Program

The Level I Alternative Program is a support strategy utilized to assist students in managing their own academic behaviors. Students that 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.

Student Service Learning Opportunities

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. Eastern's SSL Coordinator provides information on SSL opportunities throughout the school year.

The 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 are designed to 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 the classroom teachers in order to support the 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 that is 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

Academic Programs

Gifted and Talented (G/T) Program

Gifted and Talented (G/T) programming and instruction offer differentiated studies for the highly able and potentially high-achieving students who are motivated to pursue rigorous and challenging instruction. This programming provides content and instruction that match the students' abilities, achievement levels, and interests. We urge all students who have the capability, motivation, and/or potential to accept the challenge of Gifted and Talented instruction to take advantage of these opportunities. Students receiving Gifted and Talented programming are expected to maintain at least a "B" average. Students who receive a grade of "C" in a G/T class at the end of the first marking period of the semester are counseled about ways to improve their performance and supported in that effort by school staff and parents. Students who receive a grade of "D" or "E" over two consecutive marking periods are considered for removal from Gifted and Talented programming.

Humanities and Communication Magnet Program

This three-year course of study is open to highly gifted and highly motivated students from throughout Montgomery County who applied, tested, and was selected during their fifth grade year. 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 productions. Students are enrolled in Magnet program classes for a portion of their schedules. They are scheduled into science, math, and foreign language as appropriate to their abilities. For most, these are accelerated or G/T classes. Students are also enrolled in physical education class by grade level, and they have the variety of electives offered all Eastern Middle School students from which to choose over the course of their three years in middle school. Please refer to the program's Scope and

Sequence available on the website.

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)

ESOL is offered to help the foreign-born student learn enough English to function linguistically and culturally in school and in the mainstream of American society. 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 real-life situations are used, so that the language learned is applicable to daily life. Language testing is administered to determine eligibility for the ESOL program. An eligible student may be assigned either one or two class periods of ESOL, depending upon need.

ESOL-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 recently arrived immigrants and who have had interrupted schooling in their own countries. This program offers a core curriculum of basic reading, social studies, and mathematics. METS students also take one or two periods of ESOL each day. In this way they are prepared 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. Utilizing strategies that will enable students to make reasonable progress on their IEP goals relative to the content standards is a primary area of focus.

Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities vary from year to year. We, anticipate the following programs for the upcoming school year.

A.M. Basketball	Distinguished Gentlemen	Student Government Association
Jazz Band	Drama Club	Homework Club
Jump Around!	School Newspaper	Teen Club
Art Club	Skills Tutor	Interscholastic Sports**
Jump Start Girls	The Games Club	. Basketball
Babysitting Club	Touch Football	. Cross Country
Latino Dance	Intergenerational Bridges	. Soccer
Ladies of Distinction	Volleyball	. Softball
Lego	Touch Rugby	Intramural Sports
Robotics Club	Young Writers' Academy	. Soccer
Chess Club	Basketball Shoot-out	. Track Challenge
Math Club	Tennis Club	. Weight training
Computer Club	Yearbook	. Football
National History Day Club	G.I.R.L. Tech	. Early Bird Basketball

***Open to 7th and 8th Grade Students Only*

Course Options – Grade 6

Required Courses	Comprehensive	Humanities
English	Advanced English 6 English 6 ESOL 1, 2 or 3	Humanities English
Math	Algebra 1 A/B ^{1,2} Investigations in Mathematics Math 7 Math 6	Algebra 1 A/B ^{1,2} Investigations in Mathematics Math 7 Math 6
Science	Investigations in Science 6 GT Investigations in Science 6	Investigations in Science 6 GT Investigations in Science 6
World Studies	Advanced World Studies GT World Studies 6	Humanities World Studies 6
Reading	*Humanities Reading 6 *French 1A/B ¹ *Spanish 1A/B ¹ GT Reading 6 Reading 6 Read 180 Wilson Reading	Humanities Reading 6 Band or Orchestra French 1 A/B ¹ Spanish 1 A/B ¹
Physical Education/Health	PE/Health 6	PE/Health 6
Elective Courses	Comprehensive	Humanities
Music	Chorus 6 Band 6 Orchestra 6	Band 6 Orchestra 6
Art	Arts Investigations 6	
Technology	Information and Communication Technology 6 Lights Camera Literacy	Humanities Media 6

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

² High School Assessment given at the end of the second semester

* Option for students that meet established performance criteria

Description of Courses: Grade 6

Humanities Core courses are English, World Studies, and Media. For detailed course descriptions, please refer to the Scope and Sequence available online at <http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/easternms/programs/humanities/index.shtml>

ENGLISH

Advanced English 6

This course is designed for able and motivated students with a lively interest in the power and versatility of language. In preparation for advanced middle and high school English courses, students read challenging texts written in various periods and rhetorical contexts. Students develop their ability to express ideas with clarity and precision by writing increasingly complex compositions for a variety of purposes, including literary analysis, persuasion, and research.

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 read, analyze, and study different genres related to each of the themes and complete required common tasks. Anchor texts include multi-cultural, contemporary, and classic titles such as *The View from Saturday*, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, *True Confessions* of Charlotte Doyle, *Holes*, *Taking Sides*, and *Esperanza Rising*. The common tasks focus primarily on the writing process of four types of writing-textual analysis, argument, research and synthesis, creative and reflective-and they include the use of information, word processing, and presentation technology to address a variety of language skills.

READING

Opting Out of Reading – Performance Requirements and Options

In order for a grade 6 student to opt out of the Reading 6 requirement they **MUST** meet **BOTH** of the following established MCPS performance criteria.

- Grade 4 MSA score – 437 or above
- Grade 5 Fall MAPR RIT score – 212 or above

Eastern will review data in February and send out letters to those students who have met the above criteria. Students that are eligible and choose to opt out of the Reading 6 requirement must choose between Humanities Reading 6 or Foreign Language 1 A/B.

Humanities Reading 6

Humanities Reading 6 explores how great literature is often influenced by history, and how sometimes great writing can actually change history. Novels, plays, speeches, and non-fiction texts, as well as documentaries and films, help students consider the Utopian ideal, the civil rights movement, censorship, and propaganda. Students will study ancient Greece and Rome, and create projects for the Greek Fest. For the theatre unit, the class will intensively study Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* by not only reading the

play in its entirety, but will also look at various interpretations of the show. They will begin to see how the setting (both time and place) and other directorial choices, such as music and line delivery, can vastly change the tone and mood of a production. Students share their ideas through large and small group discussions, speeches and presentations, formal paragraphs, and informal quick-writes. This interdisciplinary class is designed to enhance their studies in English and world studies, and to give students an appreciation of the important issues brought forth by great writing.

Reading 6 GT

The Reading 6 Gifted and Talented (GT) course includes expository comprehension strategies to help students organize, synthesize, and extend their understanding of increasingly difficult content-related texts. More emphasis is placed on drawing conclusions, making inferences, and supporting evaluations to prepare students for high school and college. The Reading 6 GT texts themselves are more challenging and may include The Children's Homer as well as many of the Junior Great Books series. Vocabulary is examined and expanded through in-depth analysis of concept relationships, word structure, etymology, context clues, synonyms and antonyms, as well as application. Many of the William and Mary language arts program's techniques are applied in vocabulary development. This course is an option for students who meet established performance criteria.

Reading 6

The Reading 6 curriculum focuses on building, refining, and extending reading strategies learned in elementary school. Students learn to personalize effective reading strategies for understanding while they read increasingly more complex and challenging middle school texts. Comprehension is a key focus, including reading beyond the literal level. Students apply strategies to expository materials such as science and social studies textbooks, newspaper articles, and biographical essays. Students then extend their strategies to the study of mythology. During this unit, vocabulary strategies are developed to incorporate etymologies, word parts, synonyms, and antonyms. Reading 6 prepares students for the demands of middle and high school courses and assessments.

Read 180 Grade 6 (Full Year)

Read 180 is a developmental reading course designed to accelerate student learning. The program helps students who are reading below grade level to boost their reading up to grade level and beyond. One component of the class is the state of the art Scholastic Read 180 software. Students spend time daily on computers using motivational interactive CD ROMs 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.

Wilson Reading

This developmental reading class is offered to students in the special education program whose Individual Education Plans indicate its appropriateness. Students enrolled in Wilson Reading should be enrolled in the regular Reading 6 class that is

required for all sixth graders but may not be concurrently enrolled in Read 180 or Transition Reading.

MATH

Algebra I

This course is for students who have successfully completed Mathematics 7 or Investigations into Mathematics. The units of study include Equations and Inequalities in a Single Variable, Introduction to Functions, Linear Equations and Inequalities in Two Variables, Systems of Equations and Inequalities, Data Analysis and Probability, Exponents and Polynomials, and Quadratic and Exponential Functions. Students in this course take the state High School Assessment Test 1 for Mathematics, which includes both algebraic and statistical concepts. This course satisfies the high school Algebra I requirement if student passes course and final exam. Students successful in this course take Honors Geometry the following year.

Investigations in Mathematics (IM)

This course provides rigorous study for students who have demonstrated proficiency in the content of Math 7 in Grade 5 or 6. The goal of this course is to ensure readiness for algebra and beyond. IM addresses all of the content of Algebra Prep at a deeper and more enriched level. Students extend their understanding of numbers to include rational and irrational numbers in the real number system and further develop computational fluency of real numbers. Areas of focus include multiple representations of linear function, data analysis and representation, probability experiments and simulations, and geometric properties and relationships between two- and three-dimensional figures. IM also previews concepts that are assessed on the Algebra/Data Analysis High School Assessment. The course includes additional concepts, such as set theory and modular arithmetic, which further develop students' abstract thinking. Students successful in this course will take Algebra 1 the following year.

Mathematics 7

This course extends students' understanding of numbers and computation as they learn how to do operations with integers. They connect their knowledge of ratios to the development of proportional reasoning. Students learn how to apply their geometric and measurement skills with increased precision. Other areas of focus include functional relationships, arithmetic and geometric sequences, and data analysis and representation using box and whisker plot, and scatter plots. The development of concepts and skills continues to be fostered through communication and reasoning about everyday situations. This course is for students who have completed the kindergarten to Grade 5 mathematics curriculum as well as the indicators in Math 6. Students in Math 7 will go on to Algebra Prep, Investigations into Mathematics, or Algebra the following year.

Mathematics 6

This course extends students' understanding of algebra to include identifying and extending arithmetic and geometric sequences, writing and evaluating formulas and equations, and graphing in all four quadrants on the coordinate plane. Students find

angle sums and do constructions with 2D figures. They develop and use formulas to find the area of 2D figures, including circles. Frequency tables and circle graphs become the focus of organizing and analyzing data, as students explore misuse of data and measures of central tendency. Students begin to compare theoretical and experimental probability, as well as work with rational numbers and exponents. Computation includes all operations with decimals and fractions, order of operations, and ratios and rates. Students in Math 6 will go on to either Math 7 or Investigations into Mathematics the following year.

SCIENCE

Investigations into Science 6 (IS6)

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 ecosystems, diversity and adaptation of organisms, forces and motion, energy, and light and sound. Students engage in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in order to propose solutions to identified problems.

WORLD STUDIES

Advanced World Studies 6

This course provides enriched opportunities for learning about ancient world history. Building on the current four units of Grade 6 world studies, 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.

World Studies 6

The social studies program in middle school builds chronological and thematic understanding of world and United States history, while also developing the social studies strands of geography, economics, political systems, and culture. Each social studies unit is organized around a historical era and a social studies strand. A mix of modern content and the lessons of history provide the background knowledge and thinking skills that prepare students for high school instruction and their responsibilities as citizens.

In Grades 6, the focus of study is on ancient world history and culture from Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America. In Grade 8 students learn about the founding and early development of our nation from the Revolution through Reconstruction. At all grade levels, students build understanding of the modern world by applying concepts of geography, economics, political systems, and culture to present-day scenarios.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Physical Education 6 and Health 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 in Grade 6, 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 safety, injury prevention, mental health, Project TNT (Towards No Tobacco), and Block It (prevention of sun-related illness and disease).

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The foreign 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 peoples to world civilization. In all foreign language courses students are expected to display basic competence in the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. According to MCPS policy, high school credit will be awarded after the student has passed both the final examination and the course.

French 1A/1B (Full Year)

Spanish 1A/1B (Full Year)

In Level 1A (semester 1) students begin to learn to communicate orally and in written form about daily life. Emphasis is on vocabulary development, simple grammatical structures, and the basic culture of the people. Students are encouraged to use the language beyond the school setting and keep informed of current events in countries where the target language is spoken.

In Level 1B (semester 2) students continue to develop oral and written communication skills. Emphasis remains focused on vocabulary development, simple grammatical structures, the application of language skills to daily life, and the basic culture of the people. Students are encouraged to use the language beyond the school setting and keep informed of current events in countries where the target language is spoken. High school credit is given upon successful completion of levels 1A and 1B, including passing the final exam.

MUSIC

General Chorus 6 (Full Year)

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.

6th Grade Band (Full Year)

6th Grade Orchestra (Full Year)

Students learn the fundamentals of instrument technique including breathing, 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.

ART

Arts Investigations 6 (semester)

This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of fine arts (visual art, music, theatre, and dance). Using the Maryland state outcomes for fine arts education, students learn the elements of each art form and how artists manipulate those elements for communication and expression. In addition, students examine the role visual art, dance, music, and theatre have played in different cultures, providing room for interdisciplinary connections to the MCPS English and social studies curricula. A blend of hands-on experiences as well as fine arts appreciation, criticism, and history are used to help students understand what it means to be an artist.

TECHNOLOGY

Information and Communication Technology Grade 6 (semester)

In this course, students use technology in a rigorous, inquiry- and project-based learning environment that promotes relevance and engagement. Students acquire knowledge and skill sets connected to Grade 6 content areas involving the use of application, web-based, and multimedia tools. Programming concepts will be applied to the development of games, educational simulations, and robotic products. The application of computer aided drafting and design and graphics software will be used to communicate 2D and 3-D designs. Students will acquire website development skills and digital art concepts to create a portfolio.

Lights, Camera, Literacy (semester)

Lights, camera, Literacy increases literacy in both written and visual text, improves collaboration skills, builds confidence and motivation, and provides opportunities for high level thinking via specific strategies. Students will transfer their skills as viewers of film to skills on the written page, as well as learn how to read visual text and create effective visual communications. The course focuses on all three areas of the MCPS Moving Image Education: integrating, deconstructing, and creating the moving image. Students will deconstruct information at the literary, dramatic, and cinematic levels. Throughout the course, students will reflect on their learning through student-to-student discourse and journal writing. They will work collaboratively to apply the various to skills and use technology to produce a short film.

Course Options – Grade 7

Required Courses	Comprehensive	Humanities
English	Advanced English 7 English 7 ESOL 1, 2 or 3	Humanities English 7
Math	Honors Geometry A/B ¹ Algebra 1 A/B ^{1,2} Investigations in Mathematics Math 7	Honors Geometry A/B ¹ Algebra 1 A/B ^{1,2} Investigations in Mathematics Math 7
Science	Investigations in Science 7 GT Investigations in Science 7	Investigations in Science 7 GT Investigations in Science 7
World Studies	Advanced World Studies 7 GT World Studies 7	Humanities World Studies 7
Reading	Reading 7 Read 180 Wilson Reading	
Physical Education/Health	PE/Health 7	PE/Health 7
Elective Courses	Comprehensive	Humanities
Foreign Language	French 1A Spanish 1A French 1 A/B ¹ Spanish 1 A/B ¹ French 2 A/B ¹ Spanish 2 A/B ¹ Spanish for Spanish Speakers A/B ¹	French 1A Spanish 1A French 1B Spanish 1B French 1 A/B ¹ Spanish 1 A/B ¹ French 2 A/B ¹ Spanish 2 A/B ¹ Spanish for Spanish Speakers A/B ¹
Music	Concert Chorus General Chorus 7 Band 7 Concert Orchestra	Concert Chorus General Chorus 7 Band 7 Concert Orchestra
Art	Art 7	Art 7
Technology	Web Development Fundamentals Lights Camera Film Literacy	Humanities Media 7 Web Development Fundamentals

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

² High School Assessment given at the end of the second semester

Description of Courses: Grade 7

Humanities Core courses are English, World Studies, and Media. For detailed course descriptions, please refer to the Scope and Sequence available online at <http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/easternms/programs/humanities/index.shtml>

ENGLISH

Advanced English 7

This course is designed for able and motivated students with a lively interest in the power and versatility of language. In preparation for Advanced English 8 and advanced high school English courses, students read challenging texts written in various periods and rhetorical contexts. Students develop their ability to express ideas with clarity and precision by writing increasingly complex compositions for a variety of purposes, including literary analysis, persuasion, and research.

English 7

The English 7 curriculum focuses on reading literature to observe the traits of others and the results of characters' decisions in times of adversity. Teachers emphasize the transferring of lessons learned into students' daily lives. The English 7 curriculum involves the study of language and literature in the context of the challenges people face and the traits and actions linked to success or failure. English 7 integrates all the processes and contents of language arts. Writing, a major focus, stresses the informative and persuasive intents. Students are given opportunities to present their work orally or through media. Language instruction, including the study of grammar, is based on individual student needs. Vocabulary is developed through exposure to a variety of experiences with words: written, heard, and viewed. English 7 prepares students for all required County, State, and National high stakes tests. The thematic units consist of Identity, Place and Creativity.

READING

Reading 7 (Full Year)

This class provides students with opportunities to engage with grade level text, concepts, and content while enhancing students' reading/learning performance. It is intended for those students who are not yet reading at their grade level. Reading 7 focuses on the integration of the Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening indicators in the MCPS Curriculum Framework. Reading prepares student for the demands of the middle school testing program, rigorous instruction in high school courses, and the High School Assessments.

Read 180 (Full Year)

Read 180 is a developmental reading course designed to accelerate student learning. The program helps students who are reading below grade level to boost their reading up to grade level and beyond. One component of the class is the state of the art Scholastic Read 180 software. Students spend time daily on computers using motivational interactive CD ROMs 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.

Wilson Reading

This developmental reading class is offered to students in the special education program whose Individual Education Plans indicate its appropriateness. Students enrolled in Wilson Reading may not be concurrently enrolled in Read 180 or Transition Reading.

MATH

Honors Geometry

This course is for students who have successfully completed Algebra I with above average performance. The units of study include Foundations of Geometry, Reasoning in Geometry, Polygons, Congruence, Indirect Measurement, Three Dimensional Geometry, Measurement, Similarity, Circles, and Trigonometry. Students who are successful in this course satisfy the high school Geometry requirement if student passes final exam and course. Students who successfully complete this course will take Algebra 2 the following year.

Algebra I

This course is for students who have successfully completed Mathematics 7 or Investigations into Mathematics. The units of study include Equations and Inequalities in a Single Variable, Introduction to Functions, Linear Equations and Inequalities in Two Variables, Systems of Equations and Inequalities, Data Analysis and Probability, Exponents and Polynomials, and Quadratic and Exponential Functions. Students in this course take the state High School Assessment Test 1 for Mathematics, which includes both algebraic and statistical concepts. This course satisfies the high school Algebra I requirement if student passes final exam and course. Students successful in this course take Honors Geometry the following year.

Investigations in Mathematics (IM)

This course is an enriched course for mathematically accelerated students who have successfully completed the Kindergarten to Grade 5 mathematics curriculum, as well as the indicators for Mathematics 6 and the majority of the indicators of Mathematics 7 by the end of Grade 6. The course is designed for students with exceptional talent in mathematics. The units of study include Patterns and Set Theory, Relations and Finite Operations, Algebra Foundations, Real Number System, Data Analysis, Language of Algebra, Functions and Graphs, and Investigations of Three-Dimensional Geometry. One of the goals of this class is to provide a theoretical view of the world to students while preparing them for Algebra I. Students learn both concrete and abstract mathematical topics while improving their communication, thinking and reasoning. Students successful in this course will take Algebra I the following year.

Mathematics 7

This course is for students who have completed the kindergarten to Grade 5 mathematics curriculum as well as the indicators for Mathematics 6. Areas of focus

include functional relationships, geometric relationships, box and whisker plots, histograms and scatter plots, integers, and proportional reasoning. All concepts and skills are presented in the context of real-life problem solving that requires the use of reasoning, communication and logic. Students investigate mathematical concepts through a variety of experiences. The curriculum is based on preparing as many students as possible for Algebra I by Grade 8. Each of the unit indicators is assessed and serves to benchmark student progress as well as readiness for Algebra I. Students successful in this pre-Algebra course should be enrolled in Algebra I or Algebra Prep the following year.

SCIENCE

Investigations in Science 7

IS7 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 IS7 center around topics related to biochemistry, genetics, structure and function, and biotechnology. Students engage in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in order to propose solutions to identified problems.

WORLD STUDIES

Advanced World Studies 7

This course extends the content and concepts contained in the four units of Grade 7 World Studies. Through the study of world civilizations and global interactions from 1000 CE to 1450 CE, students learn about political, economic, and social systems today. Analysis of primary source texts and visuals is a central method for learning about the past and the challenges of historical interpretation.

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.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Physical Education 7 and Health 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 nutrition, mental health, fitness and Project Alert (drug abuse prevention).

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The foreign 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 peoples to world civilization. In all foreign language courses, students are expected to display basic competence in the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. According to MCPS policy, high school credit will be awarded after the student has passed both the final examination and the course.

French 1A (Full Year)

Spanish 1A (Full Year)

Each of these full year courses explores the first semester of the high school level one course. In this beginning, French or Spanish course students learn to communicate in simple, everyday social situations. They learn to introduce themselves, greet one another, tell time, and express the date, season, and the weather. Students talk about activities they want to pursue in and out of school. They ask questions and formulate responses and opinions. Conversations include the student's immediate world and descriptions of people and everyday objects. French or Spanish culture is integrated into the curriculum through films, special projects, and discussion.

French 1B (Full Year) (Grade 7)

Spanish 1B (Full Year) (Grade 7)

Prerequisite: successful completion of French 1A or Spanish 1A.

Each of these full year courses explores the second semester of the high school level one course. Students will learn to describe how they feel, to discuss plans, to describe their homes, to talk about family, to describe their possessions and the belongings of others, and to discuss actions and activities involving other people. Students will also learn to discuss what they earn and spend, food preferences, and to describe household pets. The communication objectives are supported by the language/grammatical objectives. Culture is integrated into each unit in a variety of formats focusing on the practices, perspectives and products of French or Spanish culture. Students are encouraged to speak the target language daily and participate in dialogue and oral activities.

French 1A/1B (Full Year)

Spanish 1A/1B (Full Year)

In Level 1A (semester 1) students begin to learn to communicate orally and in written form about daily life. Emphasis is on vocabulary development, simple grammatical structures, and the basic culture of the people. Students are encouraged to use the language beyond the school setting and keep informed of current events in countries where the target language is spoken.

In Level 1B (semester 2) students continue to develop oral and written communication skills.

Emphasis remains focused on vocabulary development, simple grammatical structures, the application of language skills to daily life, and the basic culture of the people. Students are encouraged to use the language beyond the school setting and keep informed of current events in countries where the target language is spoken. High school credit is given upon successful completion of levels 1A and 1B, including passing the final exam.

French 2A/2B (Full Year)

Spanish 2A/2B (Full Year)

Students expand their vocabulary and learn increasingly complex expressions and structures for written and oral communication to discuss the past. The culture of the people is examined in greater depth. Students continue to make comparisons between the language and culture studied. They are encouraged to use the language beyond the school setting and keep informed of current events in countries where the target language is spoken. High school credit is given upon successful completion of the full year of level 2, including passing the final exam.

Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1A/B (Full Year)

The Spanish for Spanish Speakers 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. Each of the courses integrates history, culture, language, and connections related to the Spanish-speaking world.

MUSIC

Band (Full Year)

Prerequisite: Attainment of the outcomes of 6th Grade Band.

This musical ensemble is intended for students who love to play an instrument! Students learn the fundamentals of instrument technique including breathing, 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.

Concert Orchestra: (Full Year)

Prerequisite: Attainment of the outcomes of 6th Grade Orchestra.

Concert Orchestra students develop skills that will enable them to perform music at the Grade II - III 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, 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.

Concert Chorus (Full Year)

Prerequisite: Audition

Seventh grade students whose singing skills and musicianship demonstrate readiness to perform challenging repertoire must audition for placement in the Concert Choir. Music representing a broad variety of historical eras and cultures are performed and analyzed. Students will continue to work on their sight-reading skills, singing technique, diction, breathing, and intonation. In order to meet the course objectives, a number of required performances are given at school and in the community. A uniform is required.

General Chorus 7 (Full Year)

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.

ART

Art 7 (Full year)

Students identify and create artworks that communicate universal themes about people, events, and values that unite communities. Students make interdisciplinary connections between art and other subject areas as they investigate the arts and crafts of other cultures. They use art elements and design principles to compose personal artworks from observation or imagination. Using art vocabulary, they establish and apply criteria for talking about art and making aesthetic judgments. Students are taught safe practices in an art room, and the proper use of art equipment, tools, and materials.

TECHNOLOGY

Website Development Fundamentals 7 (full year)

This course is a prerequisite for enrolling in Foundations in Arts, Humanities, Media and Communication A/B in Grade 8. The effective and efficient use of the Web as a source for sharing information has become critical to success in both the academic and professional worlds. This hands-on course will provide students an opportunity to create their own websites adding complexity as the course progresses. Student skill development will progress from one-dimensional web pages to sites that are interactive and include animation. A variety of software and technology tools will be incorporated throughout the course.

Lights, Camera, Film Literacy (Full Year)

This course offers a study of film and film history as the core for teaching more advanced literacy skills. Students learn the physics and history of motion pictures, as well as how to apply filmmaking techniques to their own visual communications. Students read two novels as well as shorter written text selections and screenplays. The eight units include: How Movies Got their Start, Silent Narrative Films, Early Talkies, Early Color, Genre Classics: The Golden Age of Hollywood, Classic Adaptations: The Golden Age of Hollywood and Beyond, Documentaries, Animation, The Business of Film and Film Festivals

Course Options – Grade 8

Required Courses	Comprehensive	Humanities
English	Advanced English 8 A/B ¹ English 8 ESOL 1, 2 or 3	Humanities English 8
Math	Algebra 2 with Analysis A/B ¹ Honors Geometry A/B ¹ Algebra 1 A/B ^{1,2} Algebra Prep	Algebra 2 with Analysis A/B ¹ Honors Geometry A/B ¹ Algebra 1 A/B ^{1,2} Algebra Prep
Science	Investigations in Science 8 GT Investigations in Science 8	Investigations in Science 8 GT Investigations in Science 8
World Studies	Advanced United States History 8 United States History 8	Humanities United States History 8
Reading	Reading 8 Wilson Reading	
Physical Education/Health	PE/Health 8	PE/Health 8
Elective Courses	Comprehensive	Humanities
Foreign Language	French 1B Spanish 1B French 1, 2, or 3 A/B ¹ Spanish 1, 2, or 3 A/B ¹ Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1 A/B ¹ Spanish for Spanish Speakers 2 A/B ¹	French 1B Spanish 1B French 1, 2, or 3 A/B ¹ Spanish 1, 2, or 3 A/B ¹ Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1 A/B ¹ Spanish for Spanish Speakers 2 A/B ¹
Music	General Chorus 8 Concert Chorus 8 Concert Orchestra Advanced Band	General Chorus 8 Concert Chorus 8 Concert Orchestra Advanced Band
Art	Art 8	Art 8
Technology	Website Development A/B ¹ Web Development Fundamentals Lights, Camera, Film Literacy	Humanities Media 8 Web Development A/B ¹ Web Development Fundamentals

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

² High School Assessment given at the end of the second semester

Description of Courses: Grade 8

Humanities Core courses are English, World Studies, and Media. For detailed course descriptions, please refer to the Scope and Sequence available online at <http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/easternms/programs/humanities/index.shtml>

ENGLISH

Advanced English 8 A/B

This course is designed for able and motivated students with a lively interest in the power and versatility of language. In preparation for advanced high school English courses, students read challenging texts written in various periods and rhetorical contexts, making interdisciplinary connections with historical events and concepts developed in their Grade 8 U.S. History class. Students develop their ability to express ideas with clarity and precision by writing increasingly complex compositions for a variety of purposes, including literary analysis, persuasion, and research. The process for awarding credit for this course is pending approval.

English 8

The English 8 curriculum focuses on the communication processes of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing through the study of language and literature. Students will refine these specific skills and strategies and use them widely as tools for learning and reflection. Exploring a variety of texts, students will understand and appreciate language and literature as catalysts for deep thought and emotion. The English 8 curriculum is organized into four thematic units, each approximately one marking period in duration. Each unit addresses an over-arching theme designed to serve as a lens through which students explore the human experience across time and distance in their own writing and published exposition, narration, poetry, and drama. English 8 prepares students for all required county, state, and national high stakes tests. The thematic units consist of Journeys, Community, Responsibility, and Discoveries.

READING

Reading 8 (Full Year)

This class provides students with opportunities to engage with grade level text, concepts, and content while enhancing students' reading/learning performance. It is intended for those students who are not yet reading at their grade level. Reading 8 focuses on the integration of the Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening indicators in the MCPS Curriculum Framework. Reading prepares student for the demands of the middle school testing program, rigorous instruction in high school courses, and the High School Assessments.

Wilson Reading

This developmental reading class is offered to students in the special education program whose Individual Education Plans indicate its appropriateness. Students enrolled in Wilson Reading may not be concurrently enrolled in Read 180 or Transition Reading.

MATH

Algebra 2

Algebra 2 is the study of the complex number system and functions. Real-world problems are discussed, represented, and solved using advanced algebraic techniques, incorporating technology. The properties and algebra of functions, including polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, piecewise, radical, and rational, are analyzed and applied, as well as conics, matrices, systems of equations, sequences, and series. Students successful in this course will take Honors Pre-Calculus the following year. High school credit is given upon successful completion of the full year of Honors Algebra 2, including passing the final exam.

Honors Geometry

This course is for students who have successfully completed Algebra I with above average performance. The units of study include Foundations of Geometry, Reasoning in Geometry, Polygons, Congruence, Indirect Measurement, Three Dimensional Geometry, Measurement, Similarity, Circles, and Trigonometry. Students who are successful in this course satisfy the high school Geometry requirement if student passes final exam and course. Students who successfully complete this course will take Algebra 2 with Analysis the following year.

Algebra I

This course is for students who have successfully completed Mathematics 7 or Investigations into Mathematics. The units of study include Equations and Inequalities in a Single Variable, Introduction to Functions, Linear Equations and Inequalities in Two Variables, Systems of Equations and Inequalities, Data Analysis and Probability, Exponents and Polynomials, and Quadratic and Exponential Functions. Students in this course take the state High School Assessment Test 1 for Mathematics, which includes both algebraic and statistical concepts. This course satisfies the high school Algebra I requirement if student passes final exam and course. Students successful in this course will take either Geometry or Honors Geometry the following year.

Algebra Prep

Algebra Prep extends students' understanding of numbers to include rational and irrational numbers in the real number system. One goal is to have all students develop computational fluency of real numbers. All concepts and skills are presented in the context of problem solving that requires the use of reasoning and communication. Areas of focus include multiple representations of linear function, data analysis and representation, probability experiments and simulations, and geometric properties and relationships between two- and three-dimensional figures. Algebra Prep also previews concepts that are assessed on the Algebra/Data Analysis High School Assessment. This course is for students who have completed Math 7. Students in this course will take Algebra 1 the following year.

SCIENCE

Investigations into Science 8

The Grade 8 science curriculum is comprised of four units. During the Introductory Chemistry unit, students explore the properties of matter and the interactions between basic building blocks of matter. In the next unit, Atmospheric Phenomena, they conduct a comprehensive study of meteorology. Our planet is the subject of the remaining two units: Earth's Structure is explored as students learn about plate tectonics and destructive and constructive forces; and Earth's History concludes the year with a look back in time.

US HISTORY

Advanced U.S. History Grade 8

This course enhances the four MCPS Grade 8 U.S. History units through the development of skills from high school Advanced Placement courses in history. 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.

US History 8

The Social Studies 8 curriculum 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 of the Social Studies 8 curriculum.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Physical Education 8 and Health 8

Students in Grade 8 continue to develop good sports etiquette, 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 mental health, Red Flags (signs of depression and suicide prevention), and SOS (Students Opposing Smoking.) The topics of family life and disease prevention are woven together as students learn about the dangers of sexually transmitted diseases and specific pathogens, such as viruses and bacteria. Additionally, students learn about pregnancy and the pitfalls of teen pregnancy and teen sexual activity. Methods of pregnancy prevention are introduced with focus on abstinence as the best choice for young people.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The foreign 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 peoples to world civilization. In all foreign language courses, students are expected to display basic competence in the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. According to MCPS policy, high school credit will be awarded after the student has passed both the final examination and the course.

French 1B (Full Year) (Grade 8)

Spanish 1B (Full Year) (Grade 8)

Prerequisite: successful completion of French 1A or Spanish 1A.

Each of these full year courses explores the second semester of the high school level one course. Students will learn to describe how they feel, to discuss plans, to describe their homes, to talk about family, to describe their possessions and the belongings of others, and to discuss actions and activities involving other people. Students will also learn to discuss what they earn and spend, food preferences, and to describe household pets. The communication objectives are supported by the language/grammatical objectives. Culture is integrated into each unit in a variety of formats focusing on the practices, perspectives and products of French or Spanish culture. Students are encouraged to speak the target language daily and participate in dialogue and oral activities.

French 1A/1B (Full Year) (Grade 8)

Spanish 1A/1B (Full Year) (Grade 8)

In Level 1A (semester 1) students begin to learn to communicate orally and in written form about daily life. Emphasis is on vocabulary development, simple grammatical structures, and the basic culture of the people. Students are encouraged to use the language beyond the school setting and keep informed of current events in countries where the target language is spoken.

In Level 1B (semester 2) students continue to develop oral and written communication skills. Emphasis remains focused on vocabulary development, simple grammatical structures, the application of language skills to daily life, and the basic culture of the people. Students are encouraged to use the language beyond the school setting and keep informed of current events in countries where the target language is spoken. High school credit is given upon successful completion of levels 1A and 1B, including passing the final exam.

French 2A/2B (Full Year) (Grade 8)

Spanish 2A/2B (Full Year) (Grade 8)

Prerequisite: successful completion of French 1A/B or Spanish 1A/B

This course is for students who have successfully completed French or Spanish 1A and 1B. It is Level 2 of foreign language as it is offered in the high school. The objectives that students will master include: describing different occupations within the community; following/asking/giving directions; describing weather conditions; extending and accepting invitations; identifying types of stores and their merchandise; comparing past

and present school classes and their activities; stating personal preferences; comprehending menus; discussing future travel plans; daily family routines and common household chores; as well as travel activities. Students will also find evidence of current or community events and holidays related to the French or Spanish culture. Cultural study is also integrated into the varied content themes through films, projects, poems, stories and class discussions of daily life. Students are encouraged to speak the target language daily and participate in dialogues and oral activities.

French 3A/3B (Full Year) (Grade 8)

Spanish 3A/3B (Full Year) (Grade 8)

Prerequisite: successful completion of French 2A/B or Spanish 2A/B

Students continue to build on previously developed skills, while expanding their ability to communicate on a variety of topics. Increased grammatical accuracy is stressed. Students continue to make comparisons between the language and culture that is studied and stay informed on current events in countries where the target language is spoken. High school credit is given upon successful completion of the full year of level 3, including passing the final exam.

Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1B (Full Year) (Grade 8)

Spanish for Spanish Speakers 2B (Full Year) (Grade 8)

The Spanish for Spanish Speakers 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. Each of the courses integrates history, culture, language, and connections related to the Spanish-speaking world.

MUSIC

General Chorus (Full Year) (Grade 8)

Chorus is offered to students in Grades 8 who want to sing and develop their individual and ensemble vocal skills. Mastery of breath control, vocal production, diction, intonation, tone blending, singing in harmony, and music-reading proficiency (including sight singing) are emphasized. Music selected for study and performance is aligned with the content standards. Concerts are the culmination of many hours of hard work and provide opportunities for students to demonstrate mastery of the knowledge and skills outlined in the content standards. They are performance assessments that communicate the measure of success in meeting course objectives to both students and parents. Determining whether students can apply this learning in a public performance is authentic to the real world of music performance. Therefore, participation in all concerts is mandatory.

Concert Chorus (Full Year) (Grade 8)

Prerequisite: Audition

Eighth grade students whose singing skills and musicianship demonstrate readiness to perform challenging repertoire must audition for placement in the Concert Choir. Music representing a broad variety of historical eras and cultures are performed and analyzed. Students will continue to work on their sight-reading skills, singing technique, diction,

breathing, and intonation. In order to meet the course objectives, a number of required performances are given at school and in the community. Concerts are the culmination of many hours of hard work and provide opportunities for students to demonstrate mastery of the knowledge and skills outlined in the content standards. They are performance assessments that communicate the measure of success in meeting course objectives to both students and parents. Determining whether students can apply this learning in a public performance is authentic to the real world of music performance. Therefore, participation in all concerts is mandatory. A uniform is required.

Concert Orchestra (Full Year) (Grade 8)

Prerequisite: Attainment of the outcomes of 7th Grade Orchestra.

Concert Orchestra students develop skills that will enable them to perform music at the Grade II - III 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, 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 Band (Full Year) (Grade 8)

Prerequisite: Attainment of the outcomes of 7th Grade Band.

Advanced Band I students develop skills that will enable them to perform music at the Grade I - II 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. 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.

ART

Art 8 (Full Year)

This course is comprised of two unique semesters of art exploration: digital art and ceramics. Throughout the digital art component, students are introduced to the principles of color, texture, and form using a variety of media including drawing, painting, and digital art. Students will apply the basic principles as they create original pieces in both the traditional and digital format. The ceramics component will introduce provide opportunities for students to create works of art in clay utilizing the pinch method, coil method, slab method, a combination of methods, and free standing sculpture. Students will learn about different types of glazing techniques, and how the firing process works. Throughout the year, historically significant and contemporary art examples representing a variety of cultures are investigated and represented in the creative production process. Additionally, students will learn to evaluate and critique personal artworks and the artworks of others.

TECHNOLOGY

Website Development A/B (Full Year)

This advanced-level course is for Grade 8 students who have successfully completed Website Development Fundamentals. Students learn Web design, from storyboard to a finished online Web page, and develop actual sites from customers' specifications using HTML, Java Script, Cold Fusion, Web composers, and object-oriented programming languages. Students develop skills in streaming media, server applications, and 3-D animation. Project management provides students with skills to lead teams through projects, from inception to completion. A countywide exam is administered at the end of each semester. Students who successfully complete both semesters and pass the semester B final exam earn 1 elective credit toward graduation.

Website Development Fundamentals (Full Year)

This course is a prerequisite for enrolling in Website Development A/B in. The effective and efficient use of the World-Wide-Web as a source for sharing information has become critical to success in both the academic and professional worlds. This hands-on course provides students with an opportunity to create their own websites, adding complexity as the course progresses. Student skill development progresses from one-dimensional Web pages to sites that are interactive and include animation. A variety of software and technology tools is incorporated throughout the course.

Lights, Camera, Film Literacy! (Full Year)

This course offers a study of film and film history as the core for teaching more advanced literacy skills. Students learn the physics and history of motion pictures, as well as how to apply filmmaking techniques to their own visual communications. Students read two novels as well as shorter written text selections and screenplays. The eight units include: How Movies Got their Start, Silent Narrative Films, Early Talkies, Early Color, Genre Classics: The Golden Age of Hollywood, Classic Adaptations: The Golden Age of Hollywood and Beyond, Documentaries, Animation, The Business of Film and Film Festivals. The LCL! course series is of high interest, allows for ease of differentiation, and addresses the visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learner.

