

Music and Allied Arts

Performance Ensembles

Music performance groups (band, chorus, and orchestra) meet three times during the six-day schedule rotation. It is expected that students enrolled in these groups are interested in this discipline and committed to improving their skills. Students who do not participate in performance groups remain on team and participate in learning activities related to the core subjects.

Performing Arts offerings at Oak Middle School include grade level choral, band, and string orchestra ensembles. Students can experience music by singing or playing in rehearsals, assemblies, concerts and parades. Those students possessing a high level of ability and motivation are encouraged to audition for the Central District Jr. High Music Festival. Drama will be offered as part of the 7th grade Allied Arts strand, and 8th grade students will experience music technology in our keyboard lab.

Students participating in performance groups are expected to prepare their music individually for rehearsals and concerts. Students must take responsibility for having their instruments and other materials on hand for class. Since formal music lessons conclude at the end of sixth grade in the Shrewsbury Public Schools, students are encouraged to study privately with a specialized teacher to enhance their skills. Private lessons, however, are not required. Students participating in band, chorus, or string orchestra are expected to be present at all performances, as these presentations serve as part of the overall assessment of each student's musical progress. Students regularly observe audio and video recordings of their work, as well as professional recordings, to analyze and discuss all aspects of performance.

Many of the music strands of the Curriculum Frameworks have been incorporated into the Shrewsbury music program. Aspects of creating and performing are utilized when practicing or presenting a concert. Imagination and creative thinking are employed when a student chooses his or her own form of assessment, and then strives to achieve that goal. Students involved with Jazz Band, Select Band and Select Choir are learning the tools for successful improvisation. The Shrewsbury music curriculum is continually being analyzed and modified to align with state and national standards.

Grade 7

In grade seven, students can experience a variety of musical offerings. Performance opportunities are offered in the form of the following three ensembles: Band, Chorus, & String Orchestra

These groups rehearse three times per six-day rotation and perform annually at seasonal concerts. *The opportunity exists for talented and motivated members of the 7th grade performance groups to audition for the Central District Jr. High Music Festival.

Students will:

- Focus on expanding their skills and musicality
- Rehearse and perform appropriate literature of various styles from different musical periods

Grade 8 Music

In grade eight at the Oak Middle School students have the opportunity to take advantage of the following musical offerings: Band, Chorus, & String Orchestra

Each of these ensembles rehearses three times during a six-day rotation. *The opportunity exists for talented and motivated members of the 8th grade performance groups to audition for the Central District Jr. High Music Festival.

Students will:

- Focus on expanding their skills and musicality
- Rehearse and perform age appropriate challenging literature of varied styles
- Experience expanded instrumentation and voicing
- Explore varied solo opportunities

Additional Performance Opportunities

Jazz Ensemble - The Jazz Ensemble is open by audition to wind and percussion players in the 7th and 8th grade bands and to all piano, guitar and bass players. Students in the Jazz Ensemble will play many different styles of music (dixieland, swing, blues, rock, pop) and will learn the basics of improvisation. The jazz band meets two mornings a week before school.

Select Band - The Select Band is open by audition to students who participate in the 7th and 8th grade bands. The group provides students with the opportunity to challenge themselves through the performance of technically demanding, high quality literature in a well-balanced ensemble. The Select Band rehearses one to two times per week both before and after school. The Select Band performs one to two concerts per year and may also perform at the MICCA (Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductor's Association) Festival in early April.

Select Boys Choir/Select Girls Choir - Both groups are available for 7th and 8th grade students selected by audition. The groups perform a challenging repertoire of music in

a variety of styles. In addition to performing in school concerts, the select choirs perform at special events throughout the community, as well as participating in the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductor's Music Festival in the spring. Members of the 7th and 8th grade Chorus, Band, and Orchestra are encouraged to audition for these ensembles. Each select choir rehearses one morning per week from 7:00-7:50am.

Fall Play - The Fall Play is open by audition to students in the 7th and 8th grade. The fall play provides students with the opportunity to develop their acting and improvisational skills throughout the six to eight week production process. There is an informational meeting in early September where parents and students can learn more about the audition process as well as the specific requirements of the chosen show. The fall play rehearses two times per week in the evening and performances are held the weekend after Thanksgiving.

Spring Musical - The Spring Musical is open by audition to students in the 7th and 8th grade. The musical provides students with the opportunity to develop their acting, singing, dancing skills throughout the eight-week production process. There is an informational meeting in early February where parents and students can learn more about the audition process as well as the specific requirements of the chosen show. The musical rehearses Monday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons and Wednesdays from 6 - 8 PM. Performances are held the first weekend in June.

Grade 7 and 8 Art

Visual Arts

The Visual Arts Program at the Shrewsbury Middle Schools provide students with the opportunity to work in a variety of materials both two and three-dimensional. These opportunities further develop each student's sense of design, drawing and creativity. Each grade level continues with and enriches the skills acquired in previous years and develops a knowledge base of various artists and art movements. The Middle School, Grades 5-8, curriculum is seen as a single unit of experiences with each student optimally receiving four thirty day cycles of art, one each year. When possible, work coordinates with other middle school curriculum. Students may participate in the Boston Globe Scholastic Art Competition and in Youth Art Month.

Within each of the grade levels the Visual Arts incorporate the Learning Standards of the Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Frameworks. These standards are:

- Media, materials and techniques
- Element and Principles of Design
- Observation, abstraction, invention and expression
- Drafting, revising and exhibiting
- Critical response

Grade 7

All students are given the opportunity to formally examine various art methods and techniques in a creative environment. Student decision-making and experimentation is emphasized in achieving technical development and creative, personal growth. Use of a sketchbook as personal journal is continued.

Knowledge Tasks - Students will be able to:

- Understand the concept of value from white to black and recognize a five value scale
- Identify 1 and 2 point perspective
- Review color theory from 5th and 6th grade; emphasizing monochromatic color and the mixing of tints, shades and tones
- Understand the difference between symmetrical and asymmetrical balance
- Recognize unity, balance, contrast & emphasis in various works of art
- Use appropriate vocabulary
- Know the proper use of materials, tools and techniques

Performance Tasks - Students will be able to:

- Create and use a 5 value scale in artwork
- Create an artwork that contains 1 point perspective
- Use a monochromatic palette in a work of art with a full range of tints, shades and tones
- Show asymmetrical balance in an artwork
- Create drawings from direct observation
- Use a variety of materials and techniques to create art work

Grade 8

Students continue to expand upon the basic skills acquired in previous grades. Emphasis is placed on further developing craftsmanship and presentation of artwork. Student decision-making and experimentation is emphasized in achieving technical development and creative, personal growth. Use of a sketchbook as personal journal is continued. Students are encouraged to pursue art classes at the high school level.

Knowledge Tasks - Students will be able to:

- Understand the concept of shape and form
- Identify the principles of design in various works of art especially movement, pattern and rhythm
- Review color theory from 7th grade; emphasizing complementary and analogous harmonies
- Know and understand the differences between colored pencil, oil pastel and soft pastel.

- Use appropriate vocabulary
- Know the proper use of materials, tools and techniques

Performance Tasks – Students will be able to:

- Create an artwork that contains complementary and/or analogous harmonies
- Create an artwork that emphasizes mark making using colored pencil, oil pastel, or soft pastel
- Create drawings from observation
- Use a variety of materials and techniques to create art work

Grade 7 Drama

Drama is offered as part of the 7th grade Allied Arts program.

Students will:

- Experience a basic foundation for theater production
- Learn acting techniques, character & scene development, script reading and improvisation
- Learn blocking, lighting, costume & set design, vocal projection, and body position

Grade 8 Electronic Music

Electronic Music will be available as part of the Allied Arts program for all students in the 8th grade.

Students will:

- Learn to experience elements of music composition and improvisation
- Learn advanced musical notation and terminology
- Expand music listening and analytical skills
- Learn basic piano skills

Grade 7 and 8 Health

The Health Education Program for middle school students provides the opportunity to develop and demonstrate health-related knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors. Physical, mental and social dimensions of wellness are integrated throughout the three-year curriculum. The course of study will enable student to thrive, persevere, and maintain a positive attitude through preadolescent and adolescent development.

The focus of this curriculum is to promote health and wellness, and not merely to prevent disease and disability. Each grade level has a major unit and a minor unit for content.

Grade 7

This course includes substance abuse prevention and violence prevention. Each unit includes note taking, discussions, handouts, journals, and assessment. The course is part of the Allied Arts strand and runs for 6 weeks.

Students will:

- Describe addiction to alcohol, tobacco and other substances and the methods for intervention and treatment
- List prevalent early and late adolescent risk behaviors and the potential negative consequences
- Define and describe gateway behaviors and their relationship with additional risk behaviors
- Explain how peer pressure is related to choices and apply proactive strategies for managing peer pressure
- Identify the legal, financial, social, physical and psychological consequences of potentially harmful behaviors related to substance abuse.
- Recognize violent behavior and how substance abuse enhanced these tendencies.

Grade 8

This course includes a study of safety and first aid and healthy relationships. Each unit includes note taking, discussions, handouts, journals, and assessment. The course is part of the Allied Arts strand and runs for two 6 week periods.

Students will:

- Describe how to avoid unintentional injuries applying rules controlling actions and responsible attitudes
- Identify actions steps to avoid unintentional injuries
- Identify procedures to follow involving burns, wounds, poisoning, structure injuries, choking, and temperature extremes
- Demonstrate the use of assertive behavior, refusal skills, and actions intended for personal safety
- Demonstrate attentive listening, feedback, and assertiveness skills to enhance interpersonal communications and resolve conflicts
- Describe appropriate forms of respect, appreciation and responsibilities that friends have for one another
- Harassment/ Bullying
- Describe the types and purposes of dating with acceptable and unacceptable behaviors in dating

- Identify characteristics of teen dating violence
- Identify healthy and unhealthy relationship characteristics
- Identify age appropriate ways to show affection and recognize that an adolescent can express their feelings without becoming sexually active.
- Describe skills to prevent and control the spread of disease and pregnancy prevention

Sexuality Education:

The Shrewsbury Middle School has made a commitment to present instruction in Human Growth and Reproduction and Sexuality Education. These programs have been developed by our professional staff and endorsed by the Health Education Advisory Council as well as the Shrewsbury School Committee. The overall goal is to promote the health and well being of our students and to help them make wise and informed decisions during their teenage years and beyond.

In accordance with Massachusetts law (G.L. c. 71 s32A), and School Committee policy #647, a parent or guardian may exempt a child from any portion of the curriculum that primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues. To receive exemption, simply send a letter requesting an exemption for your child to the principal. No student who is exempted from this portion of the curriculum will be penalized. We will provide an alternative assignment to students who are exempted.

Topics such as puberty, dating, relationships and communication skills, reproduction and pregnancy, genetics, birth control, prevention of HIV/ AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and prevention of sexual abuse are included. The specific courses that include these topics are printed below. If you would like to review the materials for these curriculums, you are welcome to do so.

During the instruction, students will be able to ask questions, which will be answered factually and in an age-appropriate manner. Each student's privacy will be respected, and no one will be put on the spot to ask or answer questions or reveal personal information. Material will be presented in a balanced, factual way that makes clear that people may have strong religious and moral beliefs about issues such a birth control, an abortion and that these beliefs should be respected and valued.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that your child has a positive and educationally enriching experience this school year. If you have any questions about sexuality education, please call the school at 508-841-1200 or Mrs. Patricia Degen, Director of Health, Physical Education and Family and Consumer Sciences, at 508-841-8856.

Grade 7 Health: Related Topics

- Consequences of potentially harmful behaviors to substance abuse

Grade 8 Health: Related Topics

- Choices and consequences, relationships and responsibilities, disease prevention, STD's, HIV/AIDS

Grade 7 and 8 Physical Education

The Physical Education Program for middle school students provides opportunities to work cooperatively, promotes a sense of team spirit, safety, good health, and enjoyment that is a change from traditional classroom instruction. Recognizing the unique opportunity physical education has to contribute to social, emotional, and physical development, it is intended to be a planned sequence of learning experiences designed to contribute as an integral part of the total education for the student.

The games unit and team sports are a major component in the curriculum and a significant progression from elementary physical education. Fitness and Project Adventure activities such as aerobic slides, weight training, and team building activities will all be offered to the students while at the middle school. The staff defines and models sportsmanship and fair play and encourages each student to improve their individual abilities.

This curriculum includes follow up instruction to team sports with a major instructional emphasis placed on proficiency and competency of the individual and team skills for the activities being offered. Students will be encouraged to explore their personal interests that result from participation in a variety of different activities.

The grade level activities are:

- Orientation and Physical Assessment
- Flag Football
- Project Adventure, Soccer
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Snow Shoeing
- Fitness Frisbee
- FitnessGram Testing

Grade 7 and 8 Physical Education Standards - Students will:

- Demonstrate mature forms for all basic manipulative skills and competence in more advanced specialized physical skills
- Identify and pursue leisure time activities that promote physical fitness and relieve mental and emotional tension
- Identify and apply basic principles of training and appropriate guidelines of exercise to improve immediate and long-term physical fitness

- Describe the relationship between a healthy lifestyle and a sense of well-being
- Demonstrate, understand and respect strength and speed differences, and identify strategies for inclusion for all in physical activity settings
- Actively work together to solve problems and progress in skills within each unit

Grade 7 and 8 Technology Education

Oak Middle School technology Education incorporates ScanTek Technology Education modules into the basic curriculum. These modules are used in conjunction with a traditional, materials based approach to teaching this exciting, diverse, hands-on pre-engineering subject. Oak's Technology Education Lab is equipped with both ScanTek modules and traditional tech fabrication machines and tools. The meshing of these two techniques provides students with a true hybrid experience that will allow them to work with both ultra-modern computer curricula yet also have the opportunity to experience materials processing through traditional Tech Ed methods.

Modular subjects studied include:

- Digital photography
- Automotive technology
- Electronics
- Communications
- Alternative energy
- Robotics
- Construction technologies
- Material processing
- CAD (Computer Aided Design)