

Curriculum Overview and Media Center

Course of Studies Overview

In 7th and 8th grades, students participate in courses according to the following format: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies are taught “on team” every day, throughout the year. Foreign Language (Chinese, French, Latin or Spanish) is taught “off team” every day throughout the year.

Allied arts courses are taught “off team” for 30 consecutive days. There are six, 30-day cycles throughout the year. The offerings in Allied Arts are as follows:

Grade 7

- Health
- Technology Education (engineering design)
- Art
- Drama
- Physical Education (two cycles)

Grade 8:

- Health
- Technology Education (engineering design)
- Art
- Electronic Music
- Physical Education (two cycles)

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.

Media Center

The Media Center helps students become independent, lifelong learners by encouraging critical thinking and problem solving through the access, evaluation and effective use of information. Research and literacy skills are integrated throughout the curriculum following the Common Core State Standards for ELA and Literacy in History, Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects. The media specialist co-teaches with subject matter teachers during research units to teach students how to locate, evaluate, and use information on websites, in databases, and in books. They also learn how to avoid plagiarism through the use of citations and bibliographies. Literature appreciation and a love for reading are promoted by providing a wide variety of books in all genres and reading levels appropriate for middle school students. Students are invited to come to the media center, with teacher permission, at any time during the school day to select

and check out books, or to do research.

Grade 7 Writing Standards

- Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation
- Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation

Grade 8 Writing Standards

- Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration
- Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation