

# Courses available at the Middle School:

## Core Classes:

### Language Arts

Language Arts 7 and 8  
Read 180

### Math

Basic Math  
Math 7 or 8  
Algebra  
Geometry (Grade 8 only)

### Science

Science 7 or 8

### Social Studies

Social Studies 7  
American History 8

### Physical Education and Health

PE/Lifeskills 7 and 8

## Elective/Exploratory Classes:

### Art

Art 7 and 8

### Spanish

Spanish 7 and 8

### Resources and Technology

Resources and Tech 7 and 8

### Music

General Music  
Instrumental Music (Band)  
Vocal Music (Chorus)  
Showchoir

### Family and Consumer Education

F&CE 7 and 8

### Agriscience

Agriscience 7 and 8

### Communication Arts

Communication Arts 7 and 8

### Structured Study Hall

SSH 7 or 8

## Core Classes:

Core classes are defined as classes that all students take, although there may be programming choices for students in a given department. These classes meet every day for the entire year.

Placement in certain core classes is made by the Principal, and will be based on parent recommendation, teacher recommendation, MAP data, WKCE performance, and demonstrated student academic ability and habits.

## Course Descriptions:

### **Language Arts 7: Ms. Nikolay/Mrs. Schlinder**

Language Arts 7 emphasizes the structure of language through the study of literature, writing, research, and oral communication skills. Students will be introduced to a variety of literature and literary devices through guided and independent reading. In addition, by modeling and with practice, students will expand the use of writing for appropriate audiences. Research will incorporate the use of organizational skills, source materials, and process-oriented products. Communication skills will also be emphasized regularly as part of the curriculum; this includes listening and speaking skills as well as vocabulary development. Students are expected to exercise reading, writing, and communication skills independently and with teacher direction.

In this course, students will also experiment with a variety of writings. In their writing, students will emphasize audience and purpose, develop their own personal styles, and incorporate complexity, depth, and creativity. Through the study of literature, students will explore universal themes, the interconnection of ideas, and many points of view. Also, the appreciation, interpretation, and modeling of literary techniques will encourage the development of the students' self-understanding and production of new ideas. These new ideas will be supplemented with the process of research that incorporates organization, analytical, and critical thinking skills as well as the investigation and evaluation of ideas and source materials. Students are expected to exercise independent and complex thinking, reading, writing, and learning skills through self-initiated and teacher-directed areas of study.

### **Language Arts 8: Mr. Bliske**

Students in eighth grade language arts will experience numerous opportunities to apply their reading, writing, thinking, and speaking skills. The year starts out with a focus on critical reading and writing skills. Making sure that what they read or write really says what they thought. "Reading between the lines" and "implying more than is written" is addressed.

Students will explore the real world through fiction. We will read several novels as a class, but there will be literature circles that allow students with unique interests to read what they want.

Students will explore their thoughts and feelings about themselves and how they are connected to society through a number of writing activities that will range from creative to analytical. Throughout the year, students will be expected to perform or produce example of their skills (role playing, acting, creating visuals and using them in speeches, writing, debating, and listening). There won't be many worksheets or fill in the blank assignments. Most everything will need to be their original work.

**Read 180: Mr. Crockett**

Read 180 is an intensive reading intervention program that helps educators confront the problem of adolescent illiteracy on multiple fronts, using technology, print, and professional development. Read 180 is proven to meet the needs of students whose reading achievement is below proficient level. The program directly addresses individual needs through adaptive and instructional software, high-interest literature, and direct instruction in reading, writing, and vocabulary skills.

**Math 7: Ms. Mayo****Math 8: Mrs. Killerlain**

Regular grade level math will be continuing to use the Singapore Math curriculum, with support and enrichment materials brought in based on assessments, students needs, and learning abilities. We will be covering multiple concepts, such as factoring of polynomials in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade we will be covering concepts such as real numbers and geometry. Practical math skills, including personal math skills (checking, budgeting, etc.) will also be covered.

**Real Life Math: Ms. Mayo or Ms. Killerlain**

Basic math is a class being offered to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who require a different paced math curriculum and additional support to master mathematical concepts. Some of the concepts being taught in this class are fractions, decimals, ratio, percents and basic geometry concepts. The focus is on supporting diverse learning needs.

**Algebra: Mrs. Killerlain**

This class is offered to students who have met the criteria for mathematics acceleration and differentiation. This Algebra 1 class is the same class as is offered at the high school. Taking this class as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader allows the student to take Geometry as a freshman. This class goes into greater depths of Algebra than Singapore Math, and focuses on mastering the abstract concepts of algebra.

**Geometry: Mr. Schneider**

Geometry is a course for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who have advanced beyond the challenges of the current curriculum and for whom acceleration is appropriate. Geometry is a high-school level course (but will not count toward high school credits) that focuses on the mathematics of Geometry.

**Science 7: Mr. Jaeger**

Seventh grade Science is an integrated Science course. We cover topics in Chemistry, Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth Science during the seventh grade year. It is a fun and hands-on exploration of the world around us as we learn how to discover the wonders of Science.

### **Science 8: Mr. Collins**

Middle school science classes in Marshall follow an integrated model in which students at each grade level learn material in each of the four major science disciplines – biology, chemistry, earth science and physical science. Lessons are presented in a variety of ways to accommodate different learning styles. The specific topics include genetics, evolution, weather, astronomy, chemical reactions, and Newton's laws of motion. Environmental topics are infused into the curriculum throughout the year.

### **Social Studies 7: Ms. Mayo or Mr. Beacom**

World Cultures & Geography is a study of the people, land and natural resources, of various regions of the world. Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the countries of the Pacific Ocean are the targets we study. We explore how people interact within their region, outside of their region, and within the environment in which they live.

### **American History 8: Mr. Beacom**

Creating America is a study of the growth and development of our country from the colonial time up to and including the Civil War. We target the changes that occur at different time periods in America's history and how they affect society, the economy and our government. We also study how America reacted to foreign and domestic issues such as rebellion, war and expansion.

### **Physical Education and Lifeskills: Ms Maly**

All students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will take the PE/Lifeskills course. PE/Lifeskills is a blend of fitness-based physical education curriculum, nutrition and healthy habits, alcohol, tobacco and other drug use prevention, health, and human growth and development. Focus is on developing positive and healthy lifestyles.

## **Elective/Exploratory classes:**

Elective or Exploratory classes are defined as classes that provide enrichment, total well-rounded personal development, and a compliment to the Core classes offered. Often they are student selected, and students must make choices between some offerings as a part of the registration process.

## **Course Descriptions:**

### **Art 7: Ms. Yarnell**

This semester long class will include two-point perspective, linoleum prints, coiled pottery, group painting study, drawing from life and a computer art project. Students will need a notebook or sketchbook to use as their daily journal. Students will be introduced to art history, aesthetics and criticism using the Elements and Principles of Art and incorporate these tools into their projects and daily work.

**Art 8: Ms. Yarnell**

This semester long class is designed to build on your art skills from seventh grade. The class will incorporate art history, aesthetics, criticism as well as art production. This course will include a self-portrait, an artist research painting, clay, drawing, printmaking and a computer art project. Students will continue building their understanding and use of the Elements and Principles of Art in their projects and daily work.

**Spanish 7 and 8: Mrs. Hartman**

In middle school Spanish students will be working on learning to read, write, speak and understand the basics of the Spanish language. Students will also be learning about the customs and traditions of the Spanish-speaking world.

**Resources and Technology 7: Mr. Von Wald**

Resource and Technology 7 is intended as an introductory class to technology courses available at the high school and as an overview to technology today. In this course we will be covering measurement, drafting, woodworking, plastics, research and design, metalworking and career exploration.

**Resources and Technology 8: Mr. Von Wald**

8th Grade Resources and Technology students will be exploring technology through a design and engineering based project and other research and design projects. Students will also explore technology through the use of computers to do research, class discussions and presentations.

**Vocal Music (Chorus): Ms. Heimstreet**

Open to any interested student in grades 7-8. This group rehearses daily. In addition, the group participates in 4 concerts per year. There are several singing opportunities available including solo & ensemble festival and the pops concert. Involvement in Chorus offers a unique opportunity to grow as a vocalist while also working with other singers.

**Show Choir: Ms. Heimstreet**

This group is an audition-based group. This group rehearses daily. In addition, the group participates in 4 concerts per year. The group also participates in solo & ensemble festival held in February and the pops concert in March. Involvement in Show Choir offers a unique opportunity to grow as a vocalist while singing and dancing as a member of an ensemble.

**Instrumental Music (Band): Mr. Milock**

The band plays a variety of music in concerts, parades, field shows and pep. The curriculum focuses on the advancement of each student's skill on his/her instrument as well as music theory, music history and general music appreciation. Students meet for band daily and lessons are provided weekly.

**Music Appreciation: Mr. Milock or Ms. Heimstreet**

Music Appreciation is a non-performance music class, and will be open to any student in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Music Appreciation focuses on the exploration of diverse genres and styles of music, music history, world music and culture, exploration of significant composers and performers. There will be the opportunity for field trips for Music Appreciation students to attend concerts during the year.

**Family and Consumer Education 7: Mrs. Gardenier**

Students learn by doing as they demonstrate skills in nutrition and food preparation, serving a breakfast as a final project. They also sew three machine projects.

**Family and Consumer Education 8: Mrs. Gardenier**

A comprehensive unit on food production and marketing is included in the “Snack Shop” unit, where students make and sell snacks products to other students. In addition, students are creating their own patchwork project.

**Agriscience 7: Mrs. Bakken**

Printing ink, disposable diapers, and plastic...students in this course will learn about these agriculture products and more as they are introduced to the largest industry in the United States - Agriculture. Students will explore the basic processes of plant growth and the many products we get from plants. Class activities include a “plant war” and making a corsage. Basic pet care and responsibilities will be discussed with visits from various pets.

**Agriscience 8: Mrs. Bakken**

Root beer, hamburgers, potato chips, cheese and ice cream...students will explore the science of producing these agriculture products as they make these in the lab. World hunger and the use of biotechnology will be discussed as well as the role of food science in our food supply. The course ends with a basic overview of the dairy industry and its importance to Wisconsin.

**Communication Arts 7 and 8: Mr. Crockett**

Open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, Communication Arts students will develop a better understanding of the English language through a course combining speaking, communication, drama/acting, art and language skills. Communication Arts students will explore a variety of classical and contemporary literature, expand their knowledge of writing forms (essay, poems, short stories), read outside of class for pleasure, and finally, participate in multi-media projects including television, radio, newspaper, and theater. The Communication Arts classes will produce the daily announcements for the school, which will be broadcast over the in-school cable channel.

**Structured Study Hall: Mr. Bliske, Mr. Collins, Mrs. Greene, Ms. Fritsch, Ms. Nikolay, Mrs. Schlinder, or Mr. Jaeger**

Structured Study Hall will be a mentored study hall that focuses on individual student achievement through work logs, goal setting and incentives, and meeting diverse student needs. There will be a 5:1-8:1 ratio of students to teacher, and the focus in on supporting skill development and academic success. This course will be graded as pass-fail. Placement in this study hall is by parent recommendation, teacher recommendation, MAP data, WKCE performance, and demonstrated student academic ability and habits.