

**DUBLIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE HANDBOOK
2022 - 2023**



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OHIO ACADEMIC LEARNING STANDARDS

Learning Standards explain the knowledge and skills Ohio students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 need to have. Ohio's Learning Standards emphasize skills like critical thinking and problem solving — qualities most sought by today's employers. By teaching our students to apply these skills to what they are learning in school, we can make sure they are on track to graduate from high school and enjoy success in college, careers and life (Ohio Department of Education, 2022).

Middle school teachers use these Learning Standards to design learning experiences in a supportive and engaging classroom environment that will prepare students for future learning at high school.

MS SCHEDULING GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND BEST PRACTICES:

In Dublin City Schools, we recognize the need for students to engage in related arts along with other academic studies. We employ a student driven, data informed philosophy to drive best practices for instruction. We recognize the importance of educating the whole child, with devoted time for related arts (e.g., music, art, physical education).

Highlights include:

- Students in grades 6,7, and 8 have a similar bell schedule consisting of seven, fifty-minute periods and a thirty-minute lunch
- Trimester options for Related Arts courses are offered in order to increase student exposure and choice during the middle school years
- A choice of study center is available for students in grades 6, 7, and 8 .
- Language arts, in grades 6 and 7, has extended time, with preference given to a block format each day to support reading, writing and word study
- Homebase is a year-long program for grades six through eight, which takes place every day for 25 minutes. Through small supportive communities, students develop social-emotional skills, explore careers, and receive personalized academic assistance.

The middle school schedule and course offerings are evaluated annually to provide our Dublin middle school students with world-class instruction and a well-rounded education.

SPRING SCHEDULING PROCESS

Scheduling activities take place each spring to assist students in selecting appropriate courses for the next school year. Scheduling materials are available on the district and school websites as well as distributed by the middle schools. Teachers and school counselors are available to advise students regarding course selections.

REASONS THAT JUSTIFY CHANGES IN STUDENT SCHEDULE

1. Trimester imbalances
2. Schedule adjustments for the educational options approved by the administration
3. Computer scheduling errors
4. Level change based on student need. *When a student, parent or teacher recognizes that the academic level is not appropriate, a meeting may be required in order to review this placement.*

DATES FOR ADDING AND DROPPING CLASSES

ADD: The last day to add a high school credit-bearing course is as follows:

First Semester and Year Long Classes: **August 23, 2022**

Second Semester: **January 9, 2023**

WITHDRAW: The last day to drop a high school credit-bearing course is as follows:

First Semester and Year Long Classes: **November 4, 2022**

Second Semester: **March 31, 2023**

WITHDRAW-FAIL (WF): The last day to drop a high school credit-bearing course with a WF (WF on transcript with calculation as failure in the student's GPA) is as follows:

First Semester and Year Long Classes: **December 16, 2022**

Second Semester: **May 26, 2023**

GRADE REPLACEMENT

Students are permitted to retake any high school credit class they choose to replace credit; however, students cannot earn credit twice for the same course. Both grades that the student earns in repeated courses would remain on the official transcript. Although both courses will be reflected on the transcript, the lower grade will not be calculated in the student's GPA. Credit will be removed from the lower grade.

GRADING SCALES

Grading Scale		
A	93-100	4.00
A-	90-92	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	73-76	2.00
C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	63-66	1.00
D-	60-62	0.67
F	59-below	0.00




Honors Grading Scale		
A	93-100	4.50
A-	90-92	4.17
B+	87-89	3.83
B	83-86	3.50
B-	80-82	3.17
C+	77-79	2.83
C	73-76	2.50
C-	70-72	2.17
<p><u>Honors</u> courses receive an additional .5 value. Grades of D+ and lower in these courses do not receive the added point value.</p>		

WORLD LANGUAGE COURSE INFORMATION

Currently, Spanish will continue to be scheduled at all Dublin middle schools. If a student chooses to take French, German, Japanese or Chinese, those students will be provided transportation to one of our high schools that offer the chosen language during first period. Please note the high school assigned may not be the child's feeder high school. Transportation will then be provided for students to their middle school. Students will begin their day at the middle school with 2nd period. Languages are outlined on page 20.




MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM OF COURSES

6TH GRADE COURSES

	Subject Area	Course Options	Click icon for details
Required Core	English Language Arts (2 periods)	Language Arts 6	
	Mathematics	Mathematics 6 or Mathematics 7 or Accelerated Mathematics 7-8	
	Science	Science 6	
	Social Studies	Social Studies 6	
Music <i>Required in grade 6 and scheduled opposite of Study Center.</i>	Music (yearlong alternating days)	Band 6 or Choir 6 or Orchestra 6, Level 1 & 2	
Related Arts- These trimester courses are required in grade 6 for all students	Art	Art 6	
	Physical Education	Physical Education 6	
	Literacy	Modern Literacy 6 or Cog Ed Modern Literacy 6** or Reading Connections 6**	

**Trimester elective for qualifying students.



7TH GRADE COURSES

	Subject Area	Course Options	Click icon for details
Required Core	English Language Arts (2 periods)	Language Arts 7	
	Mathematics	Mathematics 7 or Mathematics 7-8 or Mathematics 8 or Algebra 1 *	
	Science	Science 7	
	Social Studies	Social Studies 7	
Related Arts- <i>Music is a full year elective scheduled opposite of Study Center.</i>	Music (yearlong alternating days)	Band 7 or Choir 7 or Orchestra 7	
Related Arts- These trimester course are required in grade 7 for all students	Health	Health 7	
	Physical Education	Physical Education 7	
	Art	Art 7	
	Literacy	Reading Connections 7**	
	Cog Ed	Cog Ed 7**	

**Trimester elective for qualifying students.

*Algebra I class is offered for one high school credit. **Enrollment in this class will result in a grade and credit on a high school transcript.**

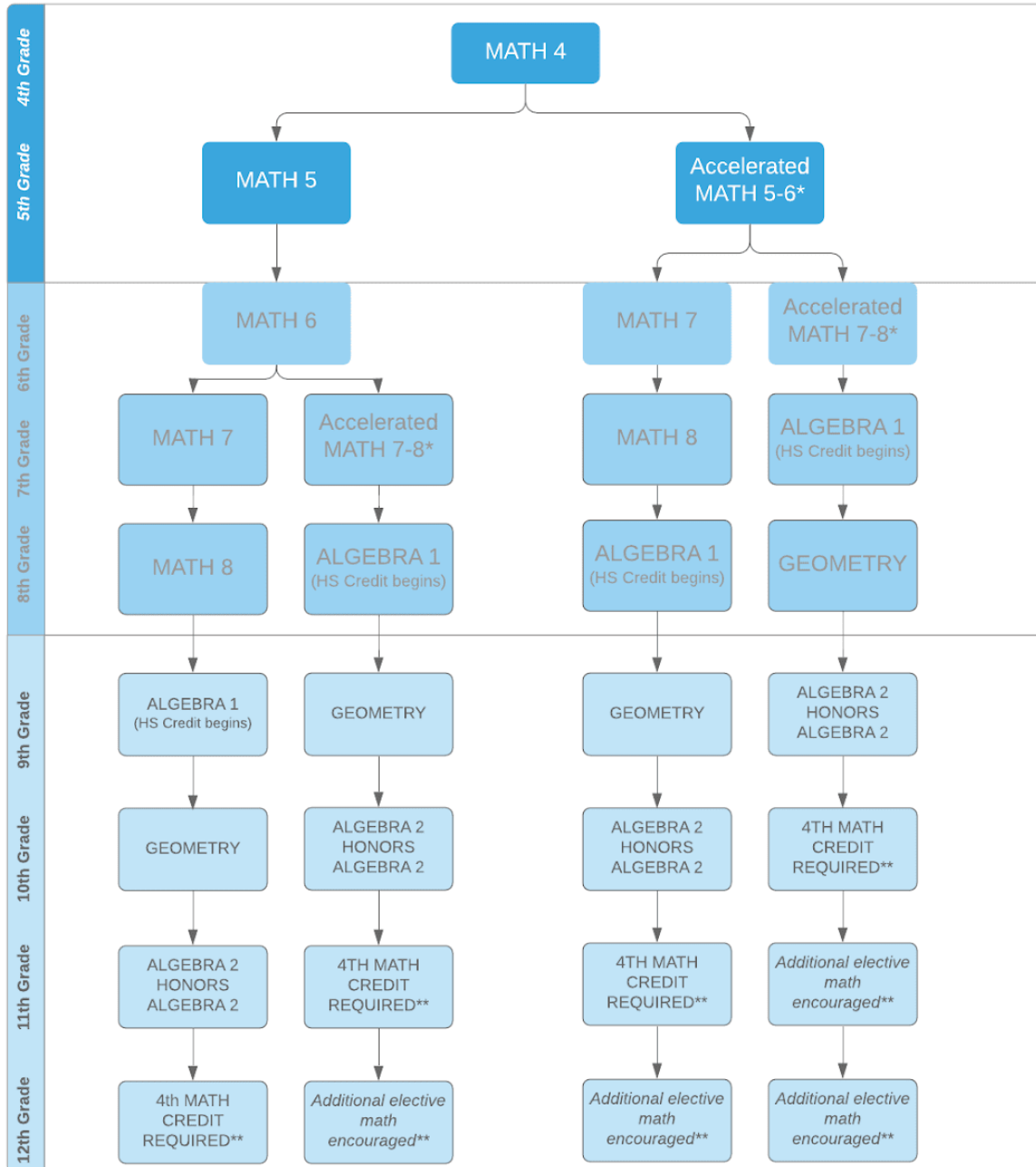
8TH GRADE COURSES

	Subject Area	Course Options	Click icon for details
Required Core	English Language Arts	Language Arts 8	
	Mathematics (Link icon to Math Progression)	Mathematics 8 or Algebra 1* or Geometry*	
	Science (Link icon to Science Progression)	Science 8 or Accelerated Option: Telescoped Science 8/Physical Science*	
	Social Studies	Social Studies 8	
Related Arts-Block 1	Music (full year elective)	Band 8 or Choir 8 or Orchestra 8	
Related Arts-Block 2 <i>Students may choose 1 full year elective.</i>	World Language	Spanish I*, French I*, German I*, Japanese I*, Chinese I *	
	Art	Art 8	
	STEM	STEM 8	
Related Arts-Block 3 <i>Students take 3 trimester related arts.</i>	Health (required)	Health 8	
	Physical Education (elective)	Physical Education 8	
	Art (elective)	Art 8	
	Technology (elective)	Technology Solutions 8	
	Literacy	Reading Connections 8**	
	Cog Ed**	Cog Ed 8**	

**Trimester elective for qualifying students.

*Algebra I, Geometry, Accelerated Option:Telescoped Science 8/Physical Science & World Language I classes are offered for one high school credit. **Enrollment in these classes will result in a grade and credit on a high school transcript.**

DCS Mathematics Course Progression

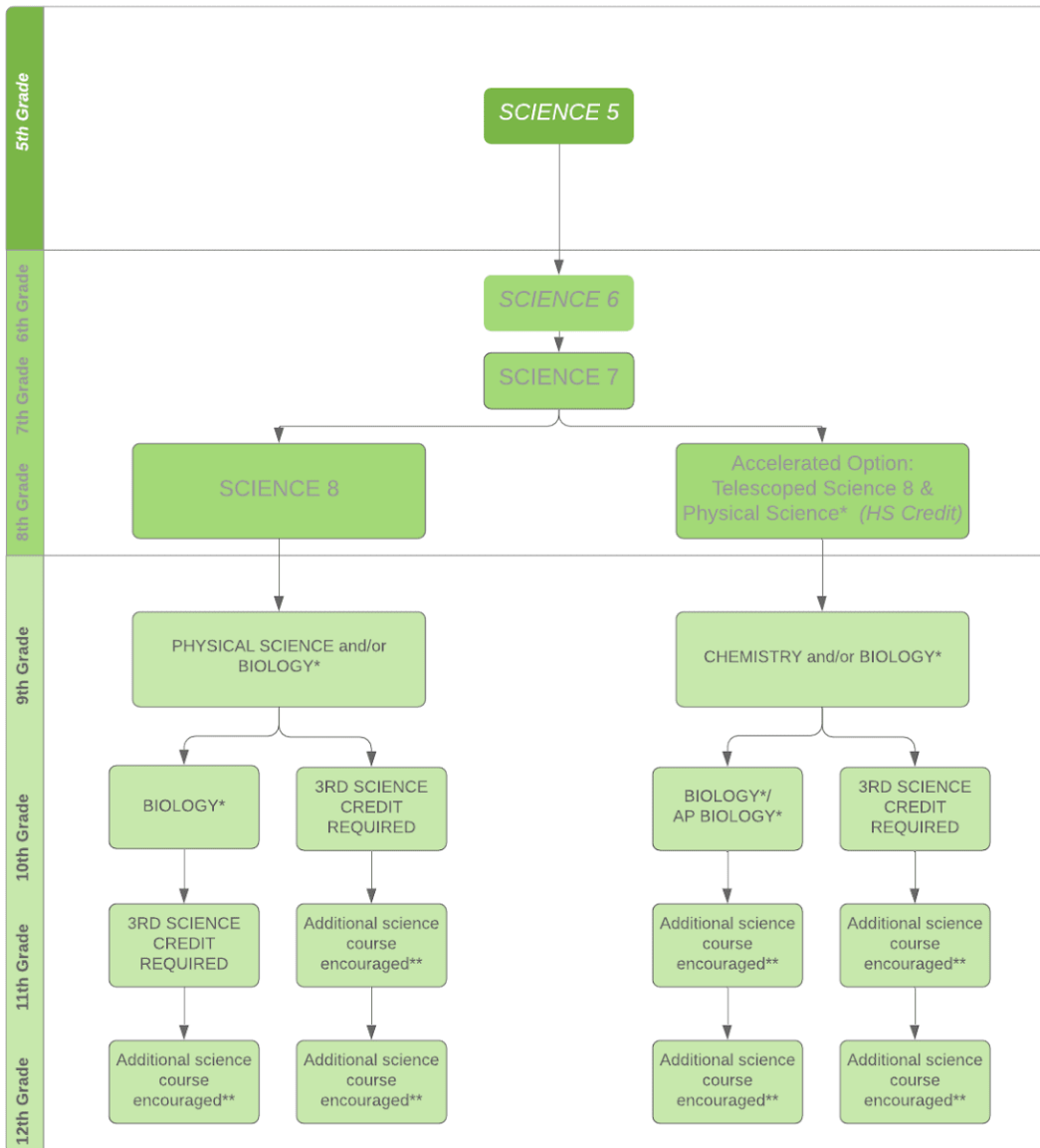


**** Beyond Algebra 2/Honors Algebra 2, students select their math pathway. Students may take more than one option/path. More details can be found in the course handbook. Below are some frequent pathways/options for 4th courses and beyond.**

ADVANCED INTEGRATED MATHEMATICS	PRECALCULUS or HONORS PRECALCULUS ↓ CALCULUS or AP CALCULUS AB/BC	AP STATS	IB MATHEMATICS <i>(available in 11th and 12th grade after completion of Algebra 2)</i>	STATISTICS & DISCRETE MATH
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*Denotes that placement in this accelerated math class is student driven and data informed. Final decisions are made by school based team in collaboration with families.

DCS Science Course Progression



*Graduation Requirement
 ** Students have options in completing their science course work by selecting from the options below. More details can be found in the course handbook.

<p>CHEMISTRY</p> <p>PHYSICS</p> <p>ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & SOCIETIES</p> <p>EARTH & SPACE SCIENCE</p> <p>HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY</p>	<p>AP BIOLOGY (two periods)</p> <p>AP CHEMISTRY (two periods)</p> <p>AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE</p> <p>AP PHYSICS 1 & 2</p> <p>AP PHYSICS C (two periods)</p>	<p>IB COURSES available in 11th and 12th grade after completion of prerequisites. (See HS handbook for details.)</p> <p>STEM ACADEMIES available after completion of prerequisites. (See HS handbook for details.)</p>	<p>ADVANCED RESEARCH IN SCIENCE</p>
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*Denotes that placement in this accelerated science class is **student-driven and data-informed**. Final decisions are made by the school-based team in collaboration with families.

Course Descriptions 2022-2023

Grade 6

Required Core:

Language Arts 6

6th Grade Language Arts is a course that meets for 2 periods each day, all year long. Students will embark on a journey of self-discovery through reading, writing and language (i.e., grammar, vocabulary and word study). The course is aligned to *Ohio's Academic Content Standards* and prepares students for the *Grade 6 Ohio's State Tests in English Language Arts*. The course stresses the independent use of reading strategies to comprehend and respond to a variety of literary and informational texts. In addition, this course emphasizes to students that writing is a process. Students will also acquire vocabulary through both reading practice and explicit instruction. Students are given time for modeled, shared, assisted and independent reading and writing practice.

Mathematics 6

Mathematics 6 students engage in learning through four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking. This course is aligned to Ohio's Learning Standards for Mathematics and the 8 Standards for Mathematical Practice. *The Dublin Secondary Mathematics Workshop Model* will be utilized as the vehicle for mathematics instruction.

Science 6

6th Grade Science engages students in scientific inquiry as they explore topics in Earth, Physical and Life Sciences. In this course, students will learn to describe rocks, minerals and soil that make up Earth's lithosphere, applying the content by inferring past, present and future environments on Earth. They will study the basics of the Modern Cell Theory, recognizing that all living organisms are made of cells that carry on functions to sustain life. Students also investigate the foundational concepts of the nature of matter; that the atom makes up all objects with mass. They will explore introductory concepts of motion and energy, specifically learning about potential and kinetic energy and ways to describe and graph the motion of objects.

Social Studies 6

6th Grade Social Studies focuses on the study of the people and regions of the Eastern Hemisphere. Students become aware of the geographic features, early history, cultural development, and economic change of the regions. Students learn about the development of the early river civilizations in Africa and Asia. The geographic focus of the course includes the study of contemporary regional characteristics, the movement of people, products and ideas and cultural diversity. Students develop an understanding of the role of consumers and the interaction of markets, resources and competition.

Music:

Band 6

During the initial phases of the 6th grade band experience, beginners are divided into groups and receive instruction in the fundamental skills necessary to play the instrument of their choice. The emphasis is on individual progress. Students will eventually have opportunities to play together in groups of mixed instruments, as their skills and the school schedule will permit. Students perform concerts as a full band. Sixth grade band is a full-year course. Concert attendance is a course requirement.

Choir 6

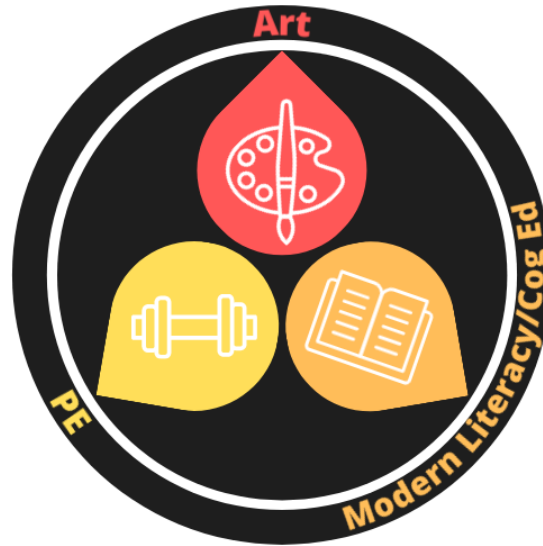
Students will begin to explore the foundations of healthy choral singing through exercises that focus on breathing, phonation, resonance, diction, musical literacy, expressiveness and musicality. Students will further improve these skills through a diverse repertoire of music used for performance and instruction. Students will expand musical knowledge for cultural and historical influences to music. Students use solfege to learn note reading and pitch. Instruments may be used to enhance the songs. Students should be prepared to work on individual and group assignments as part of their daily participation. Concert attendance is a course requirement.

Orchestra 6 (Levels 1 and 2)

Level 1 is for beginning students where they learn the fundamental skills needed to perform. Students may choose to play violin, viola, cello, or bass. Concert attendance is a course requirement.

Level 2 is for students who participated in 5th grade orchestra. Students in this class continue to improve the string playing skills acquired in 5th grade and begin to develop ensemble skills. Students will perform as a string orchestra. Concert attendance is a course requirement.

Related Arts:



Art 6 (Trimester)

In this trimester class, students will apply the underlying elements and principles of visual art as they develop their skills in *Drawing, Painting, Printmaking and Ceramics*. While making their own artwork, the students will be introduced to artists who have worked in these areas. This hands-on class enriches the students' understanding of art as they explore art from history and from cultures different from their own.

Physical Education 6 (Trimester)

Physical Education 6 is a trimester course that focuses on the development of basic skills needed to be successful in a variety of different physical activity settings. The different settings include: invasion, net/wall, striking/fielding, and target games. The students will complete part of the Ohio Physical Education Assessments during this trimester. In accordance with National Standards, students will actively participate, demonstrate responsible behavior, and show positive sportsmanship. Students will recognize and follow safety rules and classroom procedures, respect others, and try new and challenging activities.

Cog Ed 6 - Modern Literacy (Trimester)

This course, offered as a single trimester option for 6th graders, is for students who have met the state criteria for identification in the area of Superior Cognitive Ability. Qualifying students will be scheduled into this elective course. The course will focus on collaboration and communications, critical thinking and problem solving, development of positive self-awareness and research.

Reading Connections 6 (Trimester)

Reading 6 is available to sixth grade students who qualify based on their level of reading achievement. Results of student assessments will give direction to curriculum emphasis. Students work individually and in small groups to improve reading fluency, comprehension, word learning, assessment literacy and vocabulary as driven by student needs and data. This course is graded S/U.

Modern Literacy (Trimester)

Modern Literacy is a trimester course designed to empower students to think critically, behave safely, and participate responsibly in our digital world. Students will engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun.

Grade 7

Required Core:

Language Arts 7

Grade 7 English Language Arts is a course that meets 2 periods a day. It infuses a variety of texts and media to help students understand their place in the world by studying the past and present and connecting it to the world around them. The study of a variety of literary genres, nonfiction, written communication, oral communication, grammar and word study (including roots and affixes) are emphasized. Students are given multiple opportunities to craft a variety of narrative pieces, informational texts, and arguments. The course is aligned to *Ohio's Academic Content Standards* and prepares students for the *Grade 7 Ohio's State Tests in English Language Arts*. Students are given time for modeled, shared, assisted and independent reading and writing practice.

Mathematics 7

Mathematics 7 students engage in learning through four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. This course is aligned to Ohio's Learning Standards for Mathematics and the 8 Standards for Mathematical Practice. *The Dublin Secondary Mathematics Workshop Model* will be utilized as the vehicle for mathematics instruction.

Accelerated Mathematics 7-8**

This course is an advanced math option open to students who express interest and meet our district's qualification process. In addition, the student must possess strong math abilities and a passion for learning mathematics at a very quick instructional pace. This year-long course will offer content focused around the same critical components of Math 7 and Math 8 in one year's worth of time. The content will include instructional time focused on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and

three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. A scientific calculator is required. This course is aligned to Ohio's Learning Standards for Mathematics and the 8 Standards for Mathematical Practice. *The Dublin Secondary Mathematics Workshop Model* will be utilized as the vehicle for mathematics instruction. ** This is an accelerated course that requires a high degree of student motivation. To request that your child be placed into Accelerated Math 7-8, fill out the Math Placement request form on pg 23-24 of this course handbook. This will start the data review process for potential placement.

Social Studies 7

7th Grade Social Studies is an integrated study of world history beginning with Ancient Greece and continuing through global exploration (750 B.C. to 1600 A.D). Students understand how historical events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic and political factors. Students develop their understanding of how ideas and events from the past have shaped the world today. In order to develop the knowledge and skills needed for economic success in the future, topics related to financial literacy will be incorporated into the course.

Science 7

7th Grade Science engages students in scientific inquiry with a focus on Earth's systems. The curriculum covers Earth, Physical and Life science concepts. Students will gain an understanding of the Periodic Table of Elements and the Law of Conservation as they explore the cycling of matter through Earth's spheres. They will develop an understanding of heat energy transfer between the atmosphere and hydrosphere in their study of the water cycle, atmospheric and ocean currents. Energy transfers through electric circuits, ecosystems and waves will also be investigated. Students will develop an awareness of the factors affecting climate and biomes. Additionally, students will gain perspective of the predictable patterns of motion experienced by the Earth and Moon, contributing to tides and other cyclical events.

Music:

Band 7 (Full Year Elective)

During the 7th grade year, students continue to develop the individual skills acquired during the first year of study as well as beginning the development of ensemble skills. The focus is on group instruction in the full band experience. Individual progress remains an important goal as well. Students at this level are encouraged to participate in the Ohio Music Educator's Solo and Ensemble Contest. Concert attendance is a course requirement.

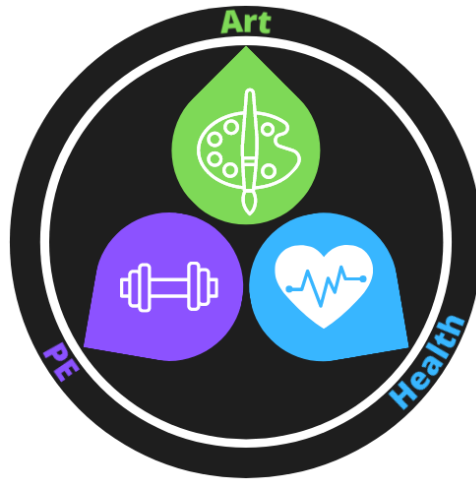
Choir 7 (Full Year Elective)

Students will continue to explore and build on the foundations of healthy choral singing through exercises that focus on breathing, phonation, resonance, diction, musical literacy, expressiveness and musicality. As boys' voices change, more parts will be available to them and we will focus on helping them make that change. Students will expand musical knowledge for cultural and historical influences to music. Students in choir use solfege to learn note reading, pitch and learn songs in unison, 2-parts, or 3-parts. Concert attendance is a course requirement.

Orchestra 7 (Full Year Elective)

Students enrolled in 7th grade strings continue to advance their string playing skills acquired in 6th grade. The focus is on performing as an orchestra and improving individual string playing skills. Students are encouraged to participate in small group ensembles. Concert attendance is a course requirement.

Related Arts:



Art 7 (Trimester)

In this trimester course, students continue to learn about and apply intermediate elements and principles of visual art as they continue to develop skills in *Drawing, Painting, Printmaking and Ceramics*. While making their artwork, the students are introduced to artists who have worked in these areas. This hands-on class enriches the students' understanding of art as they explore art from history and cultures different from their own.

Health 7 (Trimester)

This trimester course is designed to promote responsible decision-making resulting in healthy lifestyle choices. Areas of emphasis are: mental/emotional health; the dangers of drug use leading to addiction; alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, vaping, opioid prescription drugs, and other current drug trend usage; nutrition and lifetime fitness; and body systems. The 7th grade Health course includes curriculum from the Signs of Suicide (SOS) program, Health & Opioid Abuse Prevention (HOPE) Curriculum, and works with the Dublin Police Department with the Drug Abuse Prevention Program (DAPP). The class addresses all aspects of health and well being including: physical health, mental-emotional health, and social health.

Physical Education 7 (Trimester)

Physical Education 7 is a trimester course that focuses on applying knowledge of concepts, strategies, and tactics in different physical activity settings, including: fitness, invasion games, and other activities. Students will complete part of the Ohio Physical Education Assessments. In accordance with National Standards, students actively participate, demonstrate responsible behavior and show positive sportsmanship. Students will recognize and follow safety rules and classroom procedures, respect others, and try new, challenging activities.

Reading Connections 7 (Trimester)

Reading 7 is available to seventh grade students who qualify based on their level of reading achievement. Results of student assessments will give direction to curriculum emphasis. Students work individually and in small groups to improve reading fluency, comprehension, word learning, assessment literacy and vocabulary as driven by student needs and data. This course is graded S/U.

Cog Ed 7 (Trimester)

This course, offered as a single trimester option for 7th graders, is for students who have met the state criteria for identification in the area of Superior Cognitive Ability. Student's guidance counselor will notify student if they meet the criteria for this elective option. Qualifying students may select to participate in this trimester class. The course will focus on collaborations and communication, critical thinking and problem solving, development of positive self-awareness, and research.

Grade 8

Language Arts 8

Grade 8 English Language Arts emphasizes nonfiction reading comprehension, literary analysis, a focus on the research process, increasingly sophisticated expository and narrative writing skills, and extends word study through the ongoing study of roots and affixes. It is aligned to *Ohio's Academic Content Standards* and prepares students for the *Grade 8 Ohio's State Tests in English Language Arts*. Students will read various literary genres, respond to their reading through literary analysis, continue to grow as independent readers, write multiple pieces in varying genres, conduct research, and expand their vocabulary.

Mathematics 8

Mathematics 8 students engage in learning through three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. This course is aligned to Ohio's Learning Standards for Mathematics and the 8 Standards for Mathematical Practice. *The Dublin Secondary Mathematics Workshop Model* will be utilized as the vehicle for mathematics instruction.

Algebra 1**

This course will deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students will engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions. Additionally, students will build upon prior experience, providing students with more formal means of assessing how a model fits data. Students use regression techniques to describe approximate linear relationships between quantities. They use graphical representations and knowledge of the context to make judgments about the appropriateness of linear models. A graphing calculator may be required. Per

guidelines established by the Ohio Department of Education, all students in this course must take a State of Ohio Assessment that contributes to the student's State Assessment Criteria for graduation.

****Enrollment in this class will result in a grade and credit on a high school transcript for Algebra 1.**

Geometry**

This course will formalize and extend students' geometric experience from the middle grades. Students will explore complex geometric situations and deepen their explanations of geometric relationships moving towards formal mathematical arguments. Special attention is given to transformations, geometric constructions, and proofs. A graphing calculator, compass, and protractor may be required for this course.

Per guidelines established by the Ohio Department of Education, all students in this course must take a State of Ohio Assessment that contributes to the student's State Assessment Criteria for graduation.

****Enrollment in this class will result in a grade and credit on a high school transcript for Geometry.**

Science 8

8th Grade Science engages students in scientific inquiry with a focus on Earth, Physical and Life Science content. Throughout this course, students will explore the Earth's continually changing surface. They will describe Earth's interior, the patterns of change to Earth's surface and the theory of plate tectonics, focusing on the evidence that exists to support all three. Students will use physical science concepts to support their understanding of Earth as they investigate forces, motion, and energy, building on the foundational knowledge gained in 6th and 7th grade science courses. Students will also investigate how changes to Earth's surface impact the organisms that live on Earth. They will explore the diversity of species that exist on Earth and gather evidence of changes to life forms as they examine the fossil record. They will focus on the importance of reproduction and environmental factors to ensure the continuation of all species. The course is aligned to Ohio's *Academic Content Standards* and prepares students to excel on the *Ohio's State Assessment* in science, which is given in the spring of the 8th grade year.

Accelerated Option: Telescoped Science 8 /Physical Science**

The Accelerated Physical Science Course covers two years of science learning in one as students receive **high school credit** for Physical Science and master the 8th grade science content. The course proceeds at an accelerated pace covering the Science 8 topics listed above. Additionally, students explore the high school physical science curriculum, participating in fields of chemistry and physics. Topics of interest include motion, astronomy, thermodynamics, sound, light, energy transformations, chemistry of the periodic table, and conservation principles. Physical Science is an activity driven course with an inquiry approach that provides both a meaningful and relevant explanation of the physical world. Credit for the course may be counted toward the requirements for college articulation. This course provides excellent preparation for the student who expects to take biology, chemistry, and/or physics in high school. Successful students in this class are academically motivated, have a strong math background, passion for science, and are able to apply their knowledge to new experiences. ****Enrollment in this class will result in a grade and credit on a high school transcript for Physical Science. The pace of this course will be accelerated.**

Social Studies 8

8th Grade Social Studies continues the historical focus with the study of European exploration and the early years of the United States (1492 to 1877). All four social studies strands are incorporated into a chronological view of the development of the United States. Students will examine how historic events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic and political factors. In order to develop the knowledge and skills needed for economic success in the future, topics related to financial literacy will be incorporated into the course.

World Languages - Full Year Elective (Spanish I, French I, German I, Japanese I, Chinese I)**

Students will be introduced to basic communication skills of writing, reading, listening and speaking in the chosen world language. The students also become acquainted with countries that speak the chosen language and gain some insight into the cultural similarities and differences between those studied countries and the United States. **Enrollment in this class will result in a grade and credit on a high school transcript for level one world language. Information on transportation for World Languages found on Page 6

Band 8 (Elective)

8th Grade Band meets as an everyday, year long course that is a continuation of the playing skills developed during the first years in addition to the development of more advanced ensemble skills needed for participation in a large musical group. Students are encouraged to participate in musical contests as they prepare to face the demands of continued instrumental music study in high school. Concert attendance is a course requirement.

Choir 8 (Elective)

In this every day, year long course, students will continue to explore and build on the foundations of healthy choral singing through exercises that focus on breathing, phonation, resonance, diction, musical literacy, expressiveness and musicality. Students will further improve these skills and prepare for a high school experience through a diverse repertoire of music used for performance and instruction. Repertoire will consist of mainly three parts mixed and SATB music to fit the advancing voice and to further challenge students. Students will expand musical knowledge for cultural and historical influences to music. Students in choir use solfege to learn note reading and pitch. Concert attendance is a course requirement.

Orchestra 8 (Elective)

Students enrolled in 8th Grade Orchestra will meet every day, year long to continue to advance their string playing skills. Students will begin to develop advanced ensemble skills needed to perform in an orchestra. Students participate in a wider variety of performances in preparation for high school music. Concert attendance is a course requirement.

Art 8 (Trimester Elective)

In this trimester course, students will continue to learn about and apply elements and principles of visual art as they continue to develop their skills in *Drawing, Painting, Printmaking and Ceramics*. While making their own artwork, the students will be introduced to artists who have worked in these areas. This class enriches the students' understanding of art as they explore art from history and from cultures different from their own.

Art 8 (Full Year Elective)

In this hands-on class, students will further develop and refine their skills in *Drawing, Painting, Printmaking and Ceramics* as they explore the elements and principles of visual art in depth. This technical study will be enriched with examples of important art and artists who have worked in these areas. Students will be encouraged to express their original ideas through a wide variety of independent and group art projects including both 2 and 3 dimensional forms. They will develop critical and creative thinking skills, technical ability, and an understanding of artistic history and heritage, as well as how art has been and is being used in culture to communicate and express ideas and attitudes.

Health 8 (Trimester)

This trimester course is designed to build upon the foundations taught in Health 7 to continue to promote responsible decision-making resulting in healthy lifestyle choices. The areas of emphasis are: mental/emotional health; the dangers of drug use leading to addiction; alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, vaping, opioid prescription drugs, and other current drug trend usage; nutrition and lifetime fitness; and human growth & development. The 8th grade Health course includes the Red Flags program related to depression and the Health & Opioid Abuse Prevention (HOPE) Curriculum. The class goes into more depth on aspects of health and well-being including: physical health, mental-emotional health, and social health.

Physical Education 8 (Trimester Elective)

Physical Education 8 is an elective trimester course that incorporates more game-like situations and activities. These games and activities will focus on applying knowledge of concepts, strategies, and tactics in a variety of different physical activity settings. In accordance with National Standards, students will actively participate, demonstrate responsible behavior, and show positive sportsmanship. Students will recognize and follow safety rules and classroom procedures, respect others, and try new and challenging activities.

8th Grade STEM (Full Year Elective)

The 8th Grade STEM class is a yearlong project-oriented, interdisciplinary course in which students use science, mathematics, engineering and technological knowledge to investigate real-world problems. Students will develop engineering design process skills as they identify problems, design and construct models, test ideas, and make modifications. Students will also enhance digital communication and collaborative skills as they share ideas across buildings and beyond.

Technology Solutions (Trimester Elective)

Technology Solutions is a trimester-long course where students will access, analyze, and critique messages in a variety of forms including commercials and advertisements. Students will also develop digital resources through video broadcasting, graphic design, and other media tools to support their own learning or school programs.

Reading Connections 8 (Trimester Elective)

Reading 8 is available to eighth grade students who qualify based on their level of reading achievement. Results of student assessments will give direction to curriculum emphasis. Students work individually and in small groups to improve reading fluency, comprehension, word learning, assessment literacy and vocabulary as driven by student needs and data. The course is graded S/U.

Cog Ed 8 (Trimester Elective)

This course, offered as a single trimester option for 8th graders, is for students who have met the state criteria for identification in the area of Superior Cognitive Ability. Student's guidance counselor will notify student if they meet the criteria for this elective option. Qualifying students may select to participate in this trimester class. The course will focus on collaboration and communication, critical thinking and problem solving, development of positive self-awareness, and research.