



Grand Haven Area Public Schools

Lakeshore Middle School

REQUIRED 8TH GRADE COURSES

LANGUAGE ARTS (*All year*)

Language arts: Students will study thematic literary units incorporating reading skills, process writing, grammar, and usage. Listening and speaking techniques will also be incorporated. The Reader's & Writer's Workshop format is used to engage students in various units of study: narrative poetry, argument, literary essay, compare/contrast, and op-ed.

MATHEMATICS (*All year*)

Math: The eighth grade math curriculum will encourage students to learn mathematics by using and connecting mathematical ideas to the world beyond the classroom, and by actively engaging students in the understanding of math. Eighth grade math will continue to focus on the four major content strands: *numbers, geometry, algebra, and statistics/probability*, with a major emphasis on algebra. The algebra component will include a continued exploration of linear functions as well as non-linear functions.

Algebra: (This course is worth 1 high school credit)

Algebra is a yearlong course that is required for all students graduating in 2011 and beyond.

First Semester: Algebra builds upon knowledge to recognize and solve mathematical and real-world problems involving linear relationships and to make sense of and move fluently between the graphic, numeric, symbolic, and verbal representations of these patterns. Algebra builds on the approach to the study of functions and representations begun in the middle grades. This is done by broadening the study of linear relationships to include piecewise functions, absolute value equations, systems of equations with two and three unknowns, formalized function notation, and linear regression and correlation.

Second Semester: The second half of the year will build upon knowledge of linear patterns of change and familiarity with nonlinear patterns such as exponential and quadratic. The knowledge of exponential and quadratic function families is extended and deepened by including topics such as rules of exponentiation, operations and factoring polynomials, and standard and vertex forms for quadratic equations. Students will also develop their knowledge of power functions and the applications they model. Finally, Algebra expands the number domain from real to complex numbers. Algebra is a requirement for graduation and preparation for their high school math proficiency test. A scientific calculator or a graphing calculator is required.

Geometry: (This course is worth 1 high school credit)

Geometry is a yearlong course that is required for all students graduating in 2011 and beyond.

First Semester: The first semester of the year focuses on logical thinking and proof, foundations of Euclidean Geometry, and properties of triangles and quadrilaterals.

Second Semester: The second semester of the year focuses on properties of polygons, area and volume of two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures, and applications of Geometry.

SCIENCE (*All year*)

Science: 8th grade Science is an introductory physics course that teaches the middle school physics components of the Michigan Science Standards. This course lays the foundations for all the sciences taken in High School. Students will conceptually explore Newton's Laws of Motion, Electricity, Waves, Sound, Light and Optics. Teachers and students will take an inquiry-based approach to learning and concepts. This inquiry-based approach will be built upon a foundation of labs, hands-on activities, and scientifically researched reading and vocabulary strategies.

SOCIAL STUDIES (*All year*)

Social Studies: Social Studies includes the study of history, geography, civics, economics, and decision making with regards to public issues and citizen involvement. The era of history to be studied begins with the Revolutionary War and analyzes events and evaluates decisions in the United States through Industrialization.

WORLD LANGUAGES (ALL YEAR)

Spanish: (This course is worth 1 high school credit)

First Semester: Students will learn the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In basic social and cultural situations, students will learn how to use the language appropriately, focusing on topics such as greetings, personality traits, school subjects, and hobbies. These situations will form the focal point for developing skills through the study of vocabulary, grammar, dialogues, readings, and hands-on activities. Cultural materials emphasize geography and the way of life of the Spanish-speaking world.

Second Semester: In a practical and cultural setting, students will expand upon skills learned in first semester Spanish. Topics will include food, health, leisure activities/sports, and places in town.

German: (This course is worth 1 high school credit)

First Semester: While acquiring German vocabulary and basic grammatical structures, students will learn how to function appropriately in basic social and cultural situations. Various situations such as shopping, travel, sports, restaurant visits, family, school, and home form the focal point for developing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.

Second Semester: During the second half of the year, students will review and expand upon the listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills acquired. Students will study these skills in practical contexts such as clothing, shopping, helping at home, weather, free time, and food.

8TH GRADE CHOICES

STUDENTS MAY CHOOSE EITHER ONE MUSIC, ADVANCED PHYSICAL EDUCATION, OR EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVE ROTATION

A middle school music student is expected to demonstrate maturity, self-discipline, and the ability to work independently and cooperatively in large group settings. **Students who select a music program are expected to complete the full year of music.**

Band: Band is for students with previous band training and includes several performances throughout the year, including Band Festival, and seasonal concerts. Students are expected to practice at home. Students have the opportunity to participate in Solo and Ensemble, and play many types of music, Music theory, more advanced performance techniques, and high-level musicianship continues to be developed.

Choir: Choir is open to any eighth grader. Students will explore music of various cultures and genres including folk, jazz, classical, sacred, and pop. Students will continue to develop music literacy, and an age-appropriate tone while singing more advanced repertoire. Participation in all daytime and evening performances is an expectation of the course. Eighth grade choir students will have the opportunity to work with clinicians from around the state and participate in District Choral Festival.

Orchestra: Orchestra meets daily for the entire academic year. It is a continuation of Seventh Grade Orchestra and consists of students who have completed the Seventh Grade Orchestra class or by permission of the instructor. The Eighth Grade Orchestra studies more advanced key signatures and rhythm, bowings, high positions, tuning and vibrato. A wide variety of orchestral repertoire is played using these skills. Requirements include home practice and attendance at evening performance events throughout the year. Students will have an opportunity to participate in the District and potential State Festivals.

OR

Advanced Physical Education: (Students will earn 1 high school credit. ½ credit in PE and a ½ credit in Health) The aim of physical education is to give student the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to continue improving their physical performance and fitness and to realize that attaining and maintaining good health is for a lifetime. The focus of Advanced P.E. is for students to improve their fitness and use their skills to increase their level of play in a variety of sports/games. The class will include a variety of team sports and encourage healthy competition, good sportsmanship and teamwork. Students will work on personal fitness, goal setting and be introduced to strategies for attaining those goals. Students need to be willing to work hard and expect to sweat. **For acceptance into Advanced P.E. students need to have earned an 85% or better in 7th Grade Physical Education, or music class if not previously enrolled in P.E.**

Health: (Health is part of the Adv. PE course). This course is designed to not only provide knowledge in various health areas, but also to guide students in mastering the skills to use the knowledge they obtain, to create personal meaning of

knowledge, and to distinguish between reliable knowledge and knowledge based on bias, misunderstanding or desire for personal gain. To introduce concepts, students will first focus on well-being. In addition, students will study social and emotional health, nutrition, safety, alcohol and drug abuse, personal health and wellness, and reproductive health. Students will write, present ideas to the class, collaborate, set goals, and advocate for themselves. Students should expect to participate fully both mentally and physically and grow as students and human beings.

OR

8TH GRADE ELECTIVE ROTATION: Hands-on exploratory classes in art, physical education, science, or technology that will expose students to a variety of opportunities. Offerings change on an annual basis.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special Education teachers and their assistants support students on the general education teams. Appropriate accommodations and delivery of services are done through the content of the general education courses.

CATEGORICAL EI CLASSROOM: A highly structured classroom environment designed for practicing social and life skills through academic areas.

CATEGORICAL EMI AND TMI CLASSROOM: A self-contained program addressing the needs of special students including academics, self-help and functional skills, and prevocational skills. Physical, occupational, and speech and language therapy are available during the day.

CATEGORICAL SXI - A unique self-contained program offering individualized programming for students with a wide range of mental and physical disabilities. Instruction includes daily living skills, communication, feeding program, social skills, pre-vocation skills, sensory motor and community based instruction. Occupational, physical and speech and language therapy are included throughout the day.

DIRECTED STUDY Directed Study is a daily class period that is designed to prepare students to develop essential study skills and become responsible for academic work. A variety of skills are taught and incorporated into the student's core subjects. Skills include organization, test taking, time management, writing, and vocabulary and homework strategies. This class is offered and recommended for 7, and 8th graders.

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