Madison City Schools

Middle School Course Catalog

Where Learning is a Journey,
Not a Destination

Opening the Door to the Future

School Year 2026 - 2027

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All students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade will be enrolled in the following courses: English Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, Science, 9 Week PE, and electives. Since course selection is based on your pre-registration, please read the course descriptions carefully and make a firm commitment to the courses you mark on the course selection form. Changes will only be made if a school error exists. Efforts will be made to schedule all courses, including alternates, in priority order. Students will be notified when they can view their schedules online.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find information on my child's summer reading assignments?
All summer reading assignments are posted to our website during the spring.

When is Open House and when can I get my child's schedule?
These dates will be published at a later date via social media and school websites.

Why does middle school have a rotating block schedule?
Research has shown that students perform better in some courses at different times of the day and a rotating block allows all students to access courses at their peak learning time.

6th Grade Core Course Descriptions

Language Arts 6
Year Course
Grade 6
Language Arts 6 is based on the Alabama Course of Study Standards for 6th Grade. The course will continue students' growth in literacy skills and the application of those foundational literacy skills: reading strategies, critical thinking, vocabulary building, research skills and effective writing.

Honors Language Arts 6
Year Course
Grade 6
6th Grade Honors Language Arts is a learning environment which requires students to engage more independently in critical thinking skills in class and at home. The course will continue students' growth in literacy skills and the application of those foundational literacy skills: reading strategies, critical thinking, vocabulary building, research skills and effective writing. (iReady score 581-800)

Math 6
Year Course
Grade 6
Math 6 is based on the Alabama Course of Study Standards for 6th grade. Concepts will include, but are not limited to ratios and rates, rational numbers, expressions and equations, geometrical reasoning, and statistics. Students gain a deeper understanding of math concepts by narrowing their focus to fewer topics. Students who successfully complete this course will be ready for Math 7.

Honors Math 6
Year Course
Grade 6
Honors Math 6 is based on the Alabama Course of Study Standards for 6th grade. This more in-depth course is designed for students who desire the opportunity to take Accelerated Math 7. Concepts will include, but are not limited to ratios and rates, rational numbers, expressions and equations, geometrical reasoning, and statistics. (iReady score 480-800)

Honors Math Team 6
Year Course
Grade 6
Fee: **There will be fees associated with this class for tournament costs. Saturday tournament attendance is expected, and the schedule is to be determined.*
Honors Math Team 6 is based on the Alabama Course of Study Standards for 6th grade. Concepts will include, but are not limited to ratios and rates, rational numbers, expressions and equations, geometrical reasoning, and statistics. Students in Honors Math Team 6 are expected to apply all skills learned at a higher level of conceptual understanding. Some independent learning will be required. Students who successfully complete this course will be prepared for Math Team Accelerated Math 7 and on the pathway for placement into Math Team Accelerated Math 8. Students will be expected to attend weekend competitions.
(iReady score 480-800)

Earth & Space Science 6
Semester Course
Grade 6
This course focuses on three core ideas of Earth and Space Science: Earth's place in the universe, Earth's systems, and Earth and human activity. In this course, students will be encouraged to make inquiries regarding Earth and Space Science and relate them to the world around them. Some areas of study include geologic processes, human impact on the environment, the composition of Earth's core, objects of the solar system, and changes in human population based on Earth's systems. Students will utilize laboratory experiments and inquiry activities to deepen their understanding of the concepts.

Social Studies 6
Semester Course
Grade 6

This course provides an in-depth study of the formation of the United States and its civic foundations. Students will investigate the fundamental values and principles of the events, philosophies, and individuals that shaped the United States of America. Incorporating colonization and the American Revolution, standards address the United States' government, civic responsibilities, and individual rights and freedoms. Students will develop critical thinking skills through analyzing historical documents, constructing and defending arguments, and engaging in problem-solving through cooperative learning, large and small group discussions, hands-on activities, and exposure to primary sources.

7th Grade Core Course Descriptions

Language Arts 7
Year Course
Grade 7

Language Arts 7 is a comprehensive course aligned to the Alabama Course of Study Standards for Grade 7 that focuses on strengthening reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills. Students will analyze a variety of literary and informational texts, compose in the narrative, argumentative, and expository modes of writing, and engage in class discussions that promote comprehension, collaboration, and communication. Independent reading supports vocabulary development and fluency, while digital citizenship is integrated throughout classroom activities. The course provides a balanced approach to literacy instruction, helping students build confidence and mastery as they transition from foundational skills to deeper levels of analysis and expression.

Honors Language Arts 7
Year Course
Grade 7

7th Grade Honors Language Arts is an academically rigorous course aligned to the Alabama Course of Study Standards for Grade 7. Students will engage in advanced reading, writing, and analysis through close study of complex texts, evidence-based discussions, and frequent opportunities for independent learning. Emphasis is placed on writing across the three major modes—narrative, argumentative, and expository—to refine clarity, structure, and voice. Independent reading and seminar-style discussions challenge students to think critically, draw thematic connections, and explore diverse genres. This course moves at a faster pace and requires a higher level of independence, depth of analysis, and academic maturity than the on-level course. (Recommended i-Ready score: 598–800.)

Math 7
Year Course
Grade 7

Math 7 is based on the Alabama Course of Study Standards for 7th grade. Concepts will include, but are not limited to: rational numbers, proportional reasoning, equations and expressions, 2D and 3D Geometry, statistics and probability. Students gain a deeper understanding of math concepts by narrowing their focus to fewer topics. Students who complete this course will be ready for Math 8.

Accelerated Math 7
Year Course
Grade 7

This fast-paced course is designed for students who desire the opportunity to take Accelerated Math 8 next year. Students will be taught the Accelerated Math 7 course of study. Concepts will include, but are not limited to: rational numbers, proportional reasoning, exponents, multi-step equations and inequalities, algebraic expressions, linear equations, linear functions, 2D and 3D Geometry, statistics and probability. ***This course is required for students that desire to be placed in Accelerated Math 8 next year.***
(iReady score 495-800)

Math Team Accelerated Math 7
Year Course
Grade 7

Fee: **There will be fees associated with this class for tournament costs. Saturday tournament attendance is expected, and the schedule is to be determined.*

This fast-paced course is designed for students who desire the opportunity to take Math Team Accelerated Math 8 next year. Students will be taught the Accelerated Math 7 course of study. Concepts will include, but are not limited to: rational numbers, proportional reasoning, exponents, multi-step equations and inequalities, algebraic expressions, linear equations, linear functions, 2D and 3D Geometry, statistics and probability. Students who successfully complete this course will be prepared for Math Team Accelerated Math 8. Students will be expected to attend weekend competitions. Students in Math Team Accelerated Math 7 are expected to apply all skills learned at a higher level of conceptual understanding. ***This course or Accelerated Math 7 is required for students that desire to be placed in an accelerated math course next year.*** (iReady score 495-800)

Life Science 7
Semester Course
Grade 7

This course focuses on life science. Students are encouraged to develop an appreciation of the importance of diversity of life, while simultaneously understanding the impact of their roles as individuals in the community of life. Some areas of study include characteristics of life, cell structure and processes, DNA, human body systems, Mendel's Laws of Inheritance (genetics), and ecology. The focus of this course prepares students for biology and other life science courses taken in high school. Students are involved in laboratory experiments for a deeper understanding of the concepts.

World History 7
Semester Course
Grade 7

This is the first course in a three-course world history and geography sequence, comprised of the study of prehistory through the Roman Empire, with an emphasis on the development of Western Civilization. This broad survey of ancient civilizations and cultures is viewed through a variety of disciplinary lenses, including civics and economics. This course also includes the analytical study of other cultures, through an emphasis on geography, which enable students to develop necessary skills to be knowledgeable, responsible, and engaged citizens.

8th Grade Core Course Descriptions

Language Arts 8
Year Course
Grade 8
8th Grade Language Arts focuses student learning to help students prepare for college and future careers based on the standards outlined in the Alabama Course of Study. The course focuses on analyzing different types of texts, making connections through reading different types of literature and informational texts, experiencing the writing process with modes of writing, participating in thoughtful discussions with peers, and practicing digital citizenship.

Honors Language Arts 8
Year Course
Grade 8
8th Grade Honors Language Arts is a learning environment which requires students to engage more independently in critical thinking skills in class and at home. This course focuses student learning to help students prepare for college and future careers. The foundation for 8th Grade Honors Language Arts is the Alabama Course of Study for English Language Arts. The standards focus on analyzing different types of texts, making connections through reading different types of literature, experiencing the writing process with modes of writing, and practicing digital citizenship. (iReady score 609-800)

Math 8
Year Course
Grade 8
Math 8 is based on the Alabama Course of Study Standards for 8th grade. Concepts will include, but are not limited to: number theory, laws of exponents, algebraic expressions, slope-intercept form, linear functions, systems of linear equations, Pythagorean Theorem, and data collection and analysis.

Accelerated Math 8
Year Course
Grade 8
Prerequisite: Accelerated Math 7
This Accelerated Grade 8 course has been carefully aligned and designed for middle school students who have completed the Grade 7 Accelerated course and show particular motivation and interest in mathematics. In Accelerated Math 8, there are five domains: The Number System, Expressions and Equations, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. The algebra focus is on quadratic relationships. Students who successfully complete this course will be prepared to enter Geometry with Descriptive Statistics in Grade 9 and then accelerate directly into Algebra II with Inferential Statistics in Grade 10, thus providing them with an opportunity to take additional, specialized mathematics coursework, such as AP Calculus or AP Statistics.

Math Team Accelerated Math 8
Year Course
Grade 8
Prerequisite: Accelerated Math 7
Fee: *There will be fees associated with this class for tournament costs. Saturday tournament attendance is expected, and the schedule is to be determined.*
This Accelerated Grade 8 course has been carefully aligned and designed for middle school students who have completed the Grade 7 Accelerated course and show particular motivation and interest in mathematics. In Accelerated Math 8, there are five domains: The Number System, Expressions and Equations, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. The algebra focus is on quadratic relationships. Students who successfully complete this course will be prepared to enter Geometry with Descriptive Statistics in Grade 9 and then accelerate directly into Algebra II with Inferential Statistics in Grade 10, thus providing them with an opportunity to take additional, specialized mathematics coursework, such as AP Calculus or AP Statistics. Students in Math Team Accelerated Math 8 are expected to apply all skills learned at a higher level of conceptual understanding.

Physical Science 8
Semester Course
Grade 8

This course focuses on physical science. The scientific process is used throughout the year with students developing laboratory skills and techniques through discovery-oriented experiments. The curriculum includes the study of atoms and bonding, chemical reactions, Newton's laws of motion, potential and kinetic energy, and mechanical and electromagnetic waves. The focus of this course is designed to prepare students for the physics and chemistry courses taken in high school.

World History 8
Semester Course
Grade 8

This Grade 8 course examines World History and Geography from the Middle Ages through the Enlightenment. Students explore major civilizations in Europe, Africa, and Asia, as well as the rise of global trade and exploration, the development of governments and belief systems, and how these historical shifts have shaped the modern world.

PreAP (Advanced Placement) World History 8
Semester Course
Grade 8

This course is designed to prepare 8th-grade students for the transition into Advanced Placement World History in the 9th grade. The class covers the 8th-grade Alabama Course of Study Social Studies Standards, Alabama College and Career Readiness Standards, and is aligned with the high school AP World History class. Students will be exposed to advanced document analysis, essay writing, and independent reading. The class requires a large amount of out of class preparation and follows the same guidelines as AP World History. The goal of the class is for students to learn, develop, and apply the skills necessary to be successful in AP World History, while also transitioning students to the rigor of an AP class. Please note this class is not a prerequisite for AP World History. Outside reading is required.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) and STEM Electives

App Creators – *Project Lead The Way*
9 Weeks Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Prerequisite: Computer Science for Innovators and Makers
App Creators introduces students to the field of computer science and the concepts of computational thinking, through the creation of mobile apps. Students are challenged to be creative and innovative, as they collaboratively design and develop mobile solutions to engaging authentic problems. Students experience the positive impact of the application of computer science to society as well as other disciplines, particularly biomedical science.

Automation and Robotics – *Project Lead The Way*
Semester Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Fee: $10
Students will apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. By working in teams, students will work on designs of various projects from local businesses and learn how to create ideas for their engineering notebooks. Students will create designs in their engineering notebooks and learn how to build and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms. Students will be using VEX Robotics equipment to build their designs.

Building for the Future – *Project Lead The Way (formerly Green Architecture)*
9 Weeks Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Fee: $10
This course is aligned with industry trends and designed to broaden students' exposure to construction-related careers, including skilled trades and design professions. Students will build foundational skills relevant to both college pathways and the workforce. Highlights include: analyzing and designing 2D floor plans, and building 3D models, user-centered design and systems thinking, basic woodworking, PVC plumbing system planning and prototyping, HVAC and insulation exploration, site analysis and sustainable design

Career Preparedness A – High School Credit 0.5
Semester Course
8th Grade Students
A 0.5 credit course that prepares students with knowledge and skills in the areas of career development, academic planning and computer skill application. The required 20-hour online experience can be met by successfully completing this course. ***The final grade is calculated in the student's high school GPA. Upon successful completion of Career Preparedness, the student receives 0.5 credit towards graduation.***

Computer Science Essentials – *Project Lead The Way*
Semester Course – No High School Credit
8th Grade Students
Computer Science Essentials will expose students to a diverse set of computational thinking concepts, fundamentals, and tools, allowing them to gain understanding and build confidence. In Computer Science Essentials, students will use visual, block-based programming and seamlessly transition to text-based programming with languages such as Python to create apps and develop websites, and learn how to make computers work together to put their design into practice. They'll apply computational thinking practices, build their vocabulary, and collaborate just as computing professionals do to create products that address topics and problems important to them. Computer Science Essentials helps students create a strong foundation to advance to Computer Science Principles, Computer Science A, and beyond.

Computer Science for Innovators and Makers – *Project Lead The Way*
9 Weeks Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students
Fee: $10
Computer Science for Innovators and Makers teaches students that programming goes beyond the virtual world into the physical world. Students are challenged to creatively use sensors and actuators to develop systems that interact with their environment. Designing algorithms and using computational thinking practices, they code and upload programs to microcontrollers that perform a variety of authentic tasks. CSIM broadens students' understanding of computer science concepts through application.

Design and Modeling – *Project Lead The Way*
9 Weeks Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students
Fee: $10
Students discover the engineering design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives, while solving problems. They are then challenged to apply what is learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has Cerebral Palsy. Students will also learn the importance of effective communication of a design solution, the importance of team norms in a collaborative setting, and the critical role documentation plays in each step of the design process.

Energy and the Environment – *Project Lead The Way*
9 Weeks Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Fee: $10
Students are challenged to think big and toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They use what they've learned to design and model alternative energy sources, as well as evaluate options for reducing energy consumption. The course is divided into three sections with a hands-on-project at the end of each section. These projects include designing and building wind turbine blades and dwellings to protect ice from direct heat sources.

Flight and Space – *Project Lead The Way*
9 Weeks Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Fee: $10
The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through PLTW Flight and Space. Students explore the science behind aeronautics (e.g. basic parts of an airplane and which forces make aircraft fly). Custom built simulation software allows students to experience and move beyond a classroom's four walls. Students become engineers as they design, prototype, and test models to learn about the science of flight and what it takes to travel and live in space. They solve real-world aviation and space challenges including health and diet in space travel. A range of aerospace careers are explored and highlighted throughout the course.

Healthcare Career Explorations
9 Weeks Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Prerequisite: Health Science Discovery
Healthcare Career Exploration is designed to give middle school students a broad overview of professions within the health science career cluster. Students will be introduced to the careers and terminology associated with each pathway. Skills and technologies associated with each profession will also be included. To implement the standards effectively, instruction and learning activities should be provided in a classroom/laboratory setting using hands-on experiences involving the equipment, materials, and technology appropriate to the course content in accordance with current practices.

Health Science Discovery
9 Weeks Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students
Health Science Discovery introduces concepts and skills needed in a variety of professions in healthcare, including nursing, physical therapy, emergency medicine, medical laboratory technology, respiratory therapy, environmental sciences, and informational services. Course content presents basic skills, education, training, and job requirements in selected healthcare professions to help students make informed decisions regarding their college and career goals. The course includes information concerning practices that promote health and wellness and prevent disease. Students will also be introduced to legal and medical ethics, communication, medical math, medical terminology, and technical skills related to healthcare. The course is designed to encourage hands-on learning using equipment, materials, and technology appropriate to the course content in accordance with current practices.

Introduction to Python with CodeX
9 Weeks Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Prerequisite: Computer Science for Innovators and Makers
Introduction to Python with CodeX is a dynamic and engaging course designed to introduce you to the exciting world of programming with Python. Whether you're a complete beginner or have prior coding experience, this course will equip you with the fundamental knowledge and practical skills to become proficient in Python programming. The CodeX physical computing device features an integrated speaker, accelerometer, LCD display screen, buttons for input, and an array of sensors and LED lights, providing students with a versatile platform for programming education and hardware experimentation. Throughout this course, students will explore the fundamentals of Python with the CodeX physical computing device and CodeSpace educational platform, experiencing interactive exercises, real-world examples, and hands-on projects.

Magic of Electrons – *Project Lead The Way*
9 Weeks Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Fee: $10
In this class, students examine the behavior and parts of atoms as well as the impact of electricity on the world around them. They learn skills in basic circuitry design and use what they know to propose authentic designs.

Medical Detectives – *Project Lead The Way*
9 Weeks Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Prerequisite: Life Science
Fee: $10
Medical Detectives (MD) is the second of a three course sequence* that explores the biomedical sciences through hands-on projects and labs that require students to solve a variety of medical mysteries. Students investigate medical careers, vital signs, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, as well as human body systems such as the nervous system. Genetic testing for hereditary diseases and DNA crime scene analysis put the students in the place of real life medical detectives. *The three course sequence is not required and each course of the three course sequence may be taken without a prerequisite.

Science of Technology – *Project Lead The Way*
9 Weeks Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Fee: $10
Science impacts the technology of yesterday, today, and the future. Students apply the concepts of physics, chemistry and nanotechnology to STEM activities and projects: making ice cream, cleaning up an oil spill, discovering the properties of nano-materials, constructing a rollercoaster, and participating in the annual National Rube Goldberg Competition.

STEM
9 Weeks Course
6th and 7th Grade Students
Fee: $10
In this course, students will gain a foundational understanding of what engineers do. In this hands-on, project-based learning course, students will work in groups utilizing the engineering design process to propose student-created solutions to challenges. Examples of past projects include: STEM Animations, paper roller coasters/towers, design builds, computer-aided designs (CAD), assembly line construction, inventions/innovations, and MORE!

Fine Arts Electives

Introduction to Visual Arts
9 Weeks Course
6th, 7th & 8th Grade Students
Fee: $10
The purpose of this nine week course is to introduce students to a basic understanding of visual arts. Students will try different types of art media, like drawing and painting, while also learning about art appreciation, art history, and art criticism. This class is designed to help students engage their creativity as well as developing their art skills.

Intermediate Visual Arts
9 Weeks Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Prerequisite: Introduction to Visual Arts
Fee: $10
This course allows students to explore various media in the art curriculum. The curriculum is designed in a progressive manner, so that students build their skills and knowledge as they go through middle school. The students explore a wide range of topics and media throughout the term. Design, drawing, painting, and printmaking comprise some of the activities in which the students will be involved. Art shows, contests, and art history to expose the students' talents and build their self-esteem, while appreciating the work of their peers and artists from around the world.

Advanced Art
Semester Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Prerequisite: Artwork submission required.
Fee: $10
This course is designed for the highly motivated art student and students preparing for high school visual arts. It is offered to students who have previously taken perquisite art courses and who had submitted the portfolio application. Students will focus on improving their technical art skills, realism, and creative expression by using a variety of media and art techniques.

3D Art / Sculpting Art
9 Weeks Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Fee: $20
Prerequisite: Introduction to Visual Arts
This course is a three- dimensional art course that will explore media such as clay, plaster, wire, metal, and wood. Clay projects will involve the study of modeling with pinching, coiling, and slab construction techniques. Students will study historical and contemporary examples of sculptures from various cultures.

Art – Interior Design
9 Weeks Course – DMS
7th and 8th Grade Students
Fee: $10

This course introduces students to the basics of interior decorating. By learning the application of the principles of design in an interior space, students will have the opportunity to develop and apply their creative problem solving skills while meeting the needs of each space and client. Students get to balance their creativity with real-world parameters such as clients' styles, floor plans, environments, and budgets.

Beginning Band
Year Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students
Prerequisite: Attend Instrument Screening
Fee: $50/semester or $100 up front/year

Beginning Band is a year-long class designed for the student who has not played a band instrument before. Fundamentals of playing a musical instrument and accurate reading of music are stressed. Instruments must be provided by each student. Students must attend an instrument screening where the band director will help guide your student through the instrument selection process and provide information for purchasing or renting an instrument. Students in band are expected to participate in one evening concert each semester for a major portion of their grade.

Concert Band (Intermediate)
Year Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Prerequisite: Audition Required
Fee: $50/semester or $100 up front/year

Concert band is designed for students that already know how to play an instrument. An audition is required. Instruments must be provided by each student. Students in Concert Band continue to develop and refine basic individual and ensemble skills as well as begin to learn more advanced concepts and elements of music. Students in Concert and Symphonic Bands are eligible for the (optional) spring band trip. Mandatory graded performances include (but are not limited to) one evening concert per semester, home football games, pep band performances, and the MPA (Music Performance Assessment) Competition.

Symphonic Band (Advanced)
Year Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Prerequisite: Audition Required
Fee: $50/semester or $100 up front/year

Symphonic band is the top performing ensemble in the band program. Students in symphonic band continue to develop and refine individual and ensemble skills as well as begin to learn more advanced concepts and elements of music. An audition is required. Students in Concert and Symphonic Bands are eligible for the (optional) spring band trip. Mandatory graded performances include (but are not limited to) one evening concert per semester, home football games, pep band performances, and the MPA (Music Performance Assessment) Competition.

Jazz Band
Semester Course (Spring)
7th and 8th Grade Students
Prerequisite: One year of band experience and membership in Concert or Symphonic Band
Fee: $15

This course is designed as a complementary ensemble to the Concert and Symphonic Bands. Students must have at least one year of playing experience and must provide their own instruments. The Jazz Band will explore jazz elements in literature, while learning advanced playing techniques and fundamentals. The Jazz Band may perform at concerts, competitions, or festivals determined by the director.

Beginning Soprano/Alto Chorus
Year Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students
Fee: $40
The Beginning Soprano/Alto Chorus is an entry-level ensemble for all students who sing in the soprano or alto range. This choir introduces foundational vocal techniques, basic music reading, and ensemble skills through age-appropriate treble repertoire. This course serves as the foundation for continued participation in the choral program, helping students build the skills and confidence needed for more advanced ensembles in future grades. Students participate in daily rehearsals and perform in one mandatory evening concert per semester, as well as various school assemblies and the Alabama Vocal Association (AVA) State Choral Performance Assessment. Optional Honor Choirs are available.

Beginning Tenor/Bass Chorus
Year Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students
Fee: $40
The Beginning Tenor/Bass Chorus is an entry-level ensemble for all students who sing in the tenor or bass range. This choir introduces foundational vocal techniques, basic music reading, and ensemble skills through age-appropriate treble repertoire. This course serves as the foundation for continued participation in the choral program, helping students build the skills and confidence needed for more advanced ensembles in future grades. Students participate in daily rehearsals and perform in one mandatory evening concert per semester, as well as various school assemblies and the Alabama Vocal Association (AVA) State Choral Performance Assessment. Optional Honor Choirs are available.

Intermediate Soprano/Alto Chorus
Year Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students
Fee: $40
The Intermediate Soprano/Alto Chorus is an intermediate level ensemble open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who sing in the soprano or alto range. This course provides an opportunity for students to continue developing their vocal technique, music reading skills, and ensemble performance abilities through a variety of choral repertoire appropriate for treble voices, while preparing students for more advanced ensemble opportunities. Students participate in daily rehearsals and perform in one mandatory evening concert per semester, as well as various school assemblies and the Alabama Vocal Association (AVA) State Choral Performance Assessment. Optional Honor Choirs are available for all members. All-State auditions are available to 7th/8th grade members.

Intermediate Tenor/Bass Chorus
Year Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students
Fee: $40
The Intermediate Tenor/Bass Chorus is an intermediate level ensemble open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who sing in the tenor or bass range. This course provides an opportunity for students to continue developing their vocal technique, music reading skills, and ensemble performance abilities through a variety of choral repertoire appropriate for treble voices, while preparing students for more advanced ensemble opportunities. Students participate in daily rehearsals and perform in one mandatory evening concert per semester, as well as various school assemblies and the Alabama Vocal Association (AVA) State Choral Performance Assessment. Optional Honor Choirs are available for all members. All-State auditions are available to 7th/8th grade members.

Advanced Soprano/Alto Chorus
Year Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students
Prerequisite: Voice Placement
Fee: $40
The Advanced Soprano/Alto Chorus is an upper-level ensemble for soprano and alto singers who demonstrate strong vocal technique, musical independence, and a high level of commitment. Instruction focuses on advanced sight-reading, harmonic singing, tone development, and expressive performance of challenging treble repertoire. Students rehearse daily and are required to perform in one evening concert per semester, as well as designated school assemblies and the Alabama Vocal Association (AVA) State Choral

Performance Assessment. Additional opportunities include optional Honor Choirs for all members and All-State auditions for 7th and 8th grade students. ***Voice Placement: Students participate in a brief, individual voice placement each spring to determine readiness for advanced treble repertoire and the most appropriate voice part. This process is non-competitive and used solely to support appropriate placement within the program.***

Advanced Tenor/Bass Chorus
Year Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students
Prerequisite: Voice Placement
Fee: $40

The Advanced Tenor/Bass Chorus is an upper-level ensemble for tenor and bass singers who demonstrate strong vocal technique, musical independence, and a high level of commitment. Instruction focuses on advanced sight-reading, harmonic singing, tone development, and expressive performance of challenging treble repertoire. Students rehearse daily and are required to perform in one evening concert per semester, as well as designated school assemblies and the Alabama Vocal Association (AVA) State Choral Performance Assessment. Additional opportunities include optional Honor Choirs for all members and All-State auditions for 7th and 8th grade students. ***Voice Placement: Students participate in a brief, individual voice placement each spring to determine readiness for advanced treble repertoire and the most appropriate voice part. This process is non-competitive and used solely to support appropriate placement within the program.***

Beginning Theatre
9 Weeks Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students

This course will offer students exposure to basic theatre knowledge and acting skills. Students will build confidence and become more comfortable expressing themselves in front of others.

Intermediate Theatre
Semester Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Prerequisite: Beginning Theatre
Fee: $50

Students are introduced to various aspects of performing. Topics will include: improvisation, pantomime, voice and diction, acting principles, make-up, short production skits, monologues and variety of dramas. Students conclude the semester course with a required one-act play production, which may occur after school.

Advanced Theatre
Semester Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students
Prerequisite: Audition required
Fee: $50

This course will allow students to build upon foundations of vocal, kinesthetic, emotional, analytical, and intellectual elements of theatrical training through improvisation, dramatization, process-centered elements of dramatic performance, aesthetics, criticism, and history. In addition, this course will focus on one major production each semester. Students must either audition and be approved with a one minute monologue, or obtain instructor approval to register. After school productions and some rehearsals will take place at the high school auditorium and will be mandatory. Students may also be required to participate in fundraising for the program.

Technical Theatre
9 Weeks
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students
Fee: $15
Prerequisite: Beginning Theatre

In this 9-week course, students will learn how to work backstage for theatrical productions including how to work basic lights and sound, acquiring and making props, set design, set building, costume design, sewing, makeup design and application, and how to work as a set crew for a production. Participation as a tech crew member at productions during the course will be mandatory.

General Electives

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)
Semester Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students
Prerequisite: Application & Interview Process
Students will develop and reinforce attitudes, skills, and knowledge to successfully enter and complete a college prep academic program in high school. Students will learn and apply study skills and learning strategies to improve performance in the content areas: Note taking, outlining, writing, speaking, reading, test strategies and the use of technology to improve performance will be stressed.

Competition Chess
9 Weeks Class
6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Students
Chess is the classic game that develops spatial thinking and strategies and builds focused concentration. The class is geared for the more advanced level chess players. Intermediate and advanced players learn sophisticated combinations and strategies and advanced opening moves. Students compete in various tournaments outside of school.

Digital Publishing Tools
9 Weeks Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students
Students will learn the fundamental concepts of word processing, spreadsheets and presentation software through a variety of software applications. The students will explore basic design concepts that will be utilized when creating a personalized digital portfolio that showcases their academic work. Students will increase their computer competency and keyboarding skills for composing and creatively expressing ideas digitally. Digital citizenship concepts and skills will be taught throughout the class.

Innovations/Inquiry-Based Learning Class
Semester Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Fee: $10
This elective is in a project-based learning environment in which students create and develop ideas to grow a more successful and innovative future. Students will have the opportunity to lead their own passion projects for what they are most interested in. In this reflective and engaging elective course, students will be motivated to innovate by participating in hands on project based learning.

Introduction to Chess
9 Weeks Course
6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Students
This class is designed to teach chess to children who have no knowledge of the game. Students will learn pawn and piece movement as well as the fundamentals of the beginning, the middle, and the end of the game. Students will use actual chess pieces as part of the practical instruction in addition to viewing demonstrations, both live and recorded.

Language Arts Electives

Composition Workshop
9 Weeks Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students

This elective will provide an overview of the basic elements of modern English usage, such as spelling, parts of speech, capitalization, punctuation, subject/verb agreement, and correct pronoun usage. The course will include consistent writing experiences paying special attention to Madison City's writing curriculum, claim, data, commentary, and MLA formatting and citations. With the writing experiences, students will also participate in typing, drafting, editing, and revising. This course is offered to meet the need for a foundation in grammar, sentence structure, composition, and technological publishing skills for final writing projects.

Creative Writing I
9 Weeks Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students

In this course, students will explore how writing expands our understanding of the world, its people, and one's self. Students will receive an overview of writing strategies including an emphasis on narrative structure, mechanics, and craft. Students will create a variety of original pieces that encompass multiple genres including poetry, narratives, micro fiction and much more. By the end of the course, students will understand that creative writing is a reflective, multi-step process that benefits from collaboration and feedback from others.

Creative Writing II
9 Weeks Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Prerequisite: Creative Writing I

In this course, students will build on the skills that were introduced in Creative Writing I. Students will participate in Writing Workshop, where original pieces are revised through collaboration and productive feedback from other writers. Students will also focus on mentor texts to help guide their own writing process while focusing on specific writing strategies. By the end of this course, students will have created a portfolio of their own pieces from a variety of genres.

Digital Communications (Digcom)
Year Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students
Fee: $10
Prerequisite: Application Process

In this course, students learn how to analyze media in print and digital forms to understand how messages are conveyed to audiences. Students learn how to script, storyboard, film, edit and produce digital media while leaving a positive footprint on the global digital community. They can choose to pursue projects such as reporting on various school happenings, creating PSAs, creating short films or moderating social media accounts.

Introduction to Public Speaking
9 Weeks Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students

Students will participate in activities preparing them to speak effectively. Students will gain confidence, poise, and self-esteem. This course will include practice in vocal skills, organization, persuasion, and argument. Activities may include informative and persuasive speeches, readings from literature, and an introduction to debate.

Speech & Debate
9 Weeks Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students
Fee: $10
Prerequisite: Introduction to Public Speaking
This course is designed to develop student competency in research, writing, speech, and debate skills. Discussions over the course of the term will include current events, historical legal cases and classic debate topics. Students will engage in various critical thinking activities including debates, speeches, presentations, and analytical writing. This course integrates listening, speaking, reading, writing, and grammar skills. Rudimentary research skills will be introduced and word processing skills taught. This course will cover a variety of speech and debate events as outlined by the National Speech and Debate Association such as, but not limited to, Lincoln-Douglas, Policy, Public Forum, Congressional Debate, and Speech events.

Reading Lab
Semester Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students
Recommendation required by school based on data.
This course is designed for students who need support with reading related skills. For maximum success, parents, students, and academic support teachers communicate frequently to increase student success with these skills. Recommendation is determined by a student's academic performance and identified needs**. Students may be re-evaluated at the end of each grading period and, if recommended by the teacher, may be moved out of the class into another elective, or may remain in the class.**

Yearbook
Year Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students
Prerequisite: Application Process
Fee: $10
Students create, design, and produce the school's yearbook; learn and use publishing tools; utilize desktop publishing skills; refine revising and editing skills; work under established deadlines; and create spectacular pictures by using PhotoShop. The yearbook staff may be required to stay after school on occasion in order to complete deadlines. Requirements for becoming a staff member are as follows: fill out an application, be interviewed by the adviser and present staff, and obtain three recommendations (one of which is the present English teacher).

Math Electives

Money! Money! Money! – Personal Finance
9 Weeks Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Personal finance is a course designed to help students understand the impact of individual choices on occupational goals and future earnings potential. Real world topics covered will include income, money management, spending and credit, as well as saving and investing. Students will design personal and household budgets; simulate use of checking and saving accounts; demonstrate knowledge of finance, debt, and credit management; and evaluate and understand insurance and taxes. This course will provide a foundational understanding for making informed personal financial decisions.

Math Explore
9 Weeks Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students

Math Explore is a project-based learning elective driven by student choice. Students have the opportunity to take responsibility for their own learning by selecting from several pathways to delve deeper into topics of interest. Through inquiry-based exploration, students will apply skills to real-world applications. A project (physical or digital) will be completed as part of the discovery learning process.

Math Meets Art
9 Weeks Course
6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students

This elective course focuses on the creative side of math, where students will combine several mathematical concepts and principles to create unique artwork. During the 9 weeks, students will draw, build, and observe 3 dimensional figures, learn how to create scale replicas and drawings, using transformations to design tessellations and mandalas, and explore the Pythagorean Theorem, the Sierpinski Triangle, Koch's Snowflake, and the Golden Ratio.

Math Lab
Semester Course
6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Students
Recommendation based on student data and identified needs.

This hybrid course supports students through the use of small group instruction and an interactive computer program. It focuses on number sense and fraction relationships. Placement in this class is based on academic need. **Students may be re-evaluated at the end of each grading period and, if recommended by the teacher, may be moved out of the class into another elective, or may remain in the class.**

Physical Education Electives

All PE Options are 9 Weeks Courses
One 9 Weeks PE is required for all 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Students
$25 PE Uniform/Equipment Fee Required

Fitness and Aerobics
7th & 8th Grade Students
This course will explore a variety of activities that incorporate the five components of fitness: cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, and body composition. Students will be able to demonstrate the knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical activity and fitness tactics using the FITT (Frequency, Intensity, Time, and Type) concepts.

Health and Wellness
7th & 8th Grade Students
This course will allow students to recognize the value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interaction. The focus of this course is to equip students by recognizing and applying real-world connections on how to cope with daily stress, personal safety, and managing a healthy eating, active lifestyle. This course will include classroom work and discussions along with physical activities and exercise.

Indoor Recreational and Team Sports
6th, 7th & 8th Grade Students
This course will enhance students' ability to apply tactics and strategies to modified game play; demonstrate fundamental movement skills in a variety of contexts; select and participate in physical activity; cooperate with and encourage classmates; accept individual differences and demonstrate inclusive behaviors; and engage in physical activity for enjoyment and self-expression. Students will participate in daily exercise, stretching, cardiovascular activities and weekly units of recreational and team sport concepts. The majority of this course will be held indoors.

Outdoor Recreational and Team Sports
6th, 7th & 8th Grade Students
This course will enhance students' ability to apply tactics and strategies to modified game play; demonstrate fundamental movement skills in a variety of contexts; select and participate in physical activity; cooperate with and encourage classmates; accept individual differences and demonstrate inclusive behaviors; and engage in physical activity for enjoyment and self-expression. Students will participate in daily exercise, stretching, cardiovascular activities and weekly units of recreational and team sport concepts. The majority of this course will be held outdoors.

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Strength and Conditioning – Boys
7th & 8th Grade Students
This course will include students using age appropriate weightlifting concepts along with basic anaerobic conditioning concepts. Throughout this course students will focus on **basic** weightlifting movements and techniques. The students will also be taught appropriate conditioning exercises.

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Strength and Conditioning - Level 1 – (Boys)
7th & 8th Grade Students
This course will include students using age appropriate weightlifting concepts along with basic anaerobic conditioning concepts. Throughout this course students will focus on **basic** weightlifting movements and techniques. The students will also be taught appropriate conditioning exercises.

Fall Strength and Conditioning Level II – (Boys)
7th & 8th Grade Students

This course will include students using age appropriate weightlifting concepts along with basic anaerobic conditioning concepts. Throughout this course students will focus on **more advanced** weightlifting movements and techniques. The students will also be taught appropriate conditioning exercises. Any male student athlete who participates in a fall sport is highly encouraged to register for this class.

Spring Strength and Conditioning Level II – (Boys)
7th & 8th Grade Students

This course will include students using age appropriate weightlifting concepts along with basic anaerobic conditioning concepts. Throughout this course students will focus on **more advanced** weightlifting movements and techniques. The students will also be taught appropriate conditioning exercises. Any male student athlete who participates in a spring sport is highly encouraged to register for this class.

Strength and Conditioning - Girls
7th & 8th Grade Students

This course will include students using age appropriate weightlifting concepts along with basic anaerobic conditioning concepts. Throughout this course students will focus on **basic** weightlifting movements and techniques. The students will also be taught appropriate conditioning exercises.

Strength and Conditioning - Level I – (Girls)
7th & 8th Grade Students

This course will include students using age appropriate weightlifting concepts along with basic anaerobic conditioning concepts. Throughout this course students will focus on **basic** weightlifting movements and techniques. The students will also be taught appropriate conditioning exercises.

Fall Strength and Conditioning Level II – (Girls)
7th & 8th Grade Students

This course will include students using age appropriate weightlifting concepts along with basic anaerobic conditioning concepts. Throughout this course students will focus on **more advanced** weightlifting movements and techniques. The students will also be taught appropriate conditioning exercises. Any female student athlete who participates in a fall sport is highly encouraged to register for this class.

Spring Strength and Conditioning Level II – (Girls)
7th & 8th Grade Students

This course will include students using age appropriate weightlifting concepts along with basic anaerobic conditioning concepts. Throughout this course students will focus on **more advanced** weightlifting movements and techniques. The students will also be taught appropriate conditioning exercises. Any female student athlete who participates in a spring sport is highly encouraged to register for this class.

****ALL P.E. Courses will include the Alabama Fitness Assessment.****

Science Elective

Environmental Explorations
9 Weeks Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Fee: $10

Are you a field biologist trapped in a middle school body? Then this is the class for you! The Environmental Explorations elective encourages students to investigate the important roles of plant and animal life in our natural and native ecosystems by focusing on zoology, ecology, and botany. Students will discover, explore, and learn to identify native plant and animal species of North Alabama through various project-based activities and will investigate the ecological importance of these organisms in a functioning ecosystem. They will learn basic field biology sampling methods and use these methods to conduct research on plant and animal life surrounding the school.

World Language Electives

Survey of World Languages A (French, German, Latin)
Each course is 9 Weeks
6th and 7th Grade Students
Fee: $10

This survey course of French, German, Latin, and Mandarin languages will involve listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills involving familiar topics. Students will understand and respond to simple expressions. They will speak and write using learned vocabulary in this introduction to each of the languages and cultures that they will explore during the survey. A minimum of one survey of world language class is required for all sixth grade students.

Survey of World Language A (Spanish)
9 Weeks Course
7th and 8th Grade Students
Fee: $10

This survey course of Spanish language will involve listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills involving familiar topics. Students will understand and respond to simple expressions. They will speak and write using learned vocabulary in this introduction to the Spanish language and culture.

Survey of World Languages B (Latin, German, French, Spanish)
Each course is 9 Weeks
7th and 8th Grade Students
Prerequisite: Survey of World Languages A in Desired Language(s)
Fee: $10

This course will be a continuation of what students learned in Survey of World Languages A. The course will involve listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills that will be developed around known topics. Students will understand and respond to simple expressions. They will speak and write using learned vocabulary and experience a deeper understanding of the languages they have explored during the survey courses. Students will also learn more about countries and cultures where the languages are spoken.

Level I French—High School Credit 1.0
Year Course
8th Grade Students
Fee: $10

This course focuses on the language learner's ability to communicate about topics relating to themselves, such as self-description, basic needs, daily activities, preferences, everyday conversation, family, and friends. Students will read, listen to, speak, and write the target language at the novice level. Students will explore various aspects of target culture through authentic texts and speech, visuals, and hands-on learning. No prerequisite is needed to take a Level 1 World Language class. Students can take a Level 1 World Language class even if they have not taken a Survey A / Survey B class of that language. ***The final grade is calculated in the student's high school GPA. Upon successful completion of Level I French, the student receives a Carnegie Unit towards graduation.***

Level I German—High School Credit 1.0
Year Course
8th Grade Students
Fee: $10

This course focuses on the language learner's ability to communicate about topics relating to themselves, such as self-description, basic needs, daily activities, preferences, everyday conversation, family, and friends. Students will read, listen to, speak, and write the target language at the novice level. Students will explore various aspects of target culture through authentic texts and speech, visuals, and hands-on learning. No prerequisite is needed to take a Level 1 World Language class. Students can take a Level 1 World Language class even if they have not taken a Survey A / Survey B class of that language. ***The final grade is calculated in the student's high school GPA. Upon successful completion of Level I German, the student receives a Carnegie Unit towards graduation.***

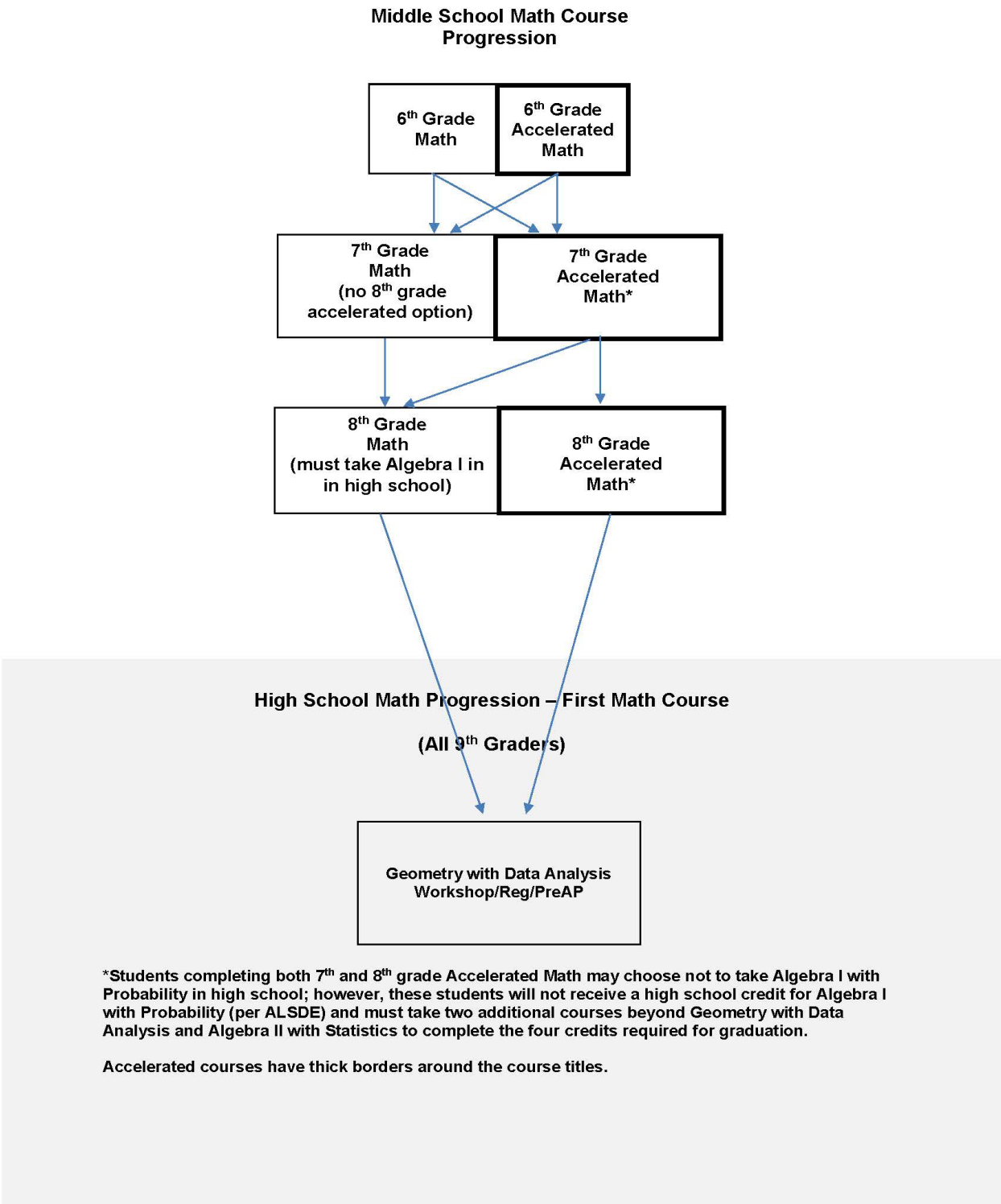
Level I Latin—High School Credit 1.0
Year Course
8th Grade Students
Fee: $10

This course is structured around the Cambridge Latin series, which guides students through the experiences of ancient Roman life by reading stories in Latin at the novice level. Students will have the opportunity to explore many aspects of ancient culture, such as urban life, entertainment, mythology, gender and social issues, and government. Students will connect their own language and culture to Latin through vocabulary building and cultural analysis. No prerequisite is needed to take a Level 1 World Language class. Students can take a Level 1 World Language class even if they have not taken a Survey A / Survey B class of that language. ***The final grade is calculated in the student's high school GPA. Upon successful completion of Level I Latin, the student receives a Carnegie Unit towards graduation.***

Level I Spanish—High School Credit 1.0
Year Course
8th Grade Students
Fee: $10

In this course students will progressively acquire the four basic language skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing using basic vocabulary expressions and beginning grammar concepts. The course will allow students to communicate at a novice level, while exploring the target culture. Students will also gain a better understanding of their own language and culture in order to participate in the global community. No prerequisite is needed to take a Level 1 World Language class. Students can take a Level 1 World Language class even if they have not taken a Survey A / Survey B class of that language. ***The final grade is calculated in the student's high school GPA. Upon successful completion of Level I Spanish, the student receives a Carnegie Unit.***

Appendix


Middle School Math Course Progression
6th Grade Math
6th Grade Accelerated Math
7th Grade Math (no 8th grade accelerated option)
7th Grade Accelerated Math*
8th Grade Math (must take Algebra I in in high school)
8th Grade Accelerated Math*
High School Math Progression – First Math Course
(All 9th Graders)
Geometry with Data Analysis Workshop/Reg/PreAP
*Students completing both 7th and 8th grade Accelerated Math may choose not to take Algebra I with Probability in high school; however, these students will not receive a high school credit for Algebra I with Probability (per ALSDE) and must take two additional courses beyond Geometry with Data Analysis and Algebra II with Statistics to complete the four credits required for graduation.
Accelerated courses have thick borders around the course titles.