

Middle School Community/Exploratory Cycle Courses, Sequences, and Course Descriptions

(effective as of the 2018-2019 School Year)

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
*Community Cycle courses		
Health 6	Health 7	Health 8
Study Skills	Digital Media Design	Coding/ Robotics
Advisory Lab (2 marking periods)	Advisory Lab (2 marking periods)	Advisory Lab (2 marking periods)
Exploratory Cycle courses		
Hands-on Construction Lab	Intro to Business/ Personal Finance	Career Exploration
Photography	Forensics	Video Production
Fine Art 6	Fine Art 7	Industrial Arts and Design
Script and Screenwriting	Theater	Drama

*Community Cycle courses - All students are enrolled; except Grade 8 Spanish II and French II students (Health 8 is then scheduled within the Phys. Ed. block).

GRADE 6

In each grade students elect to enroll in either Band, Chorus, or the Exploratory Cycle courses.

STUDY SKILLS- *All Gr. 6 students are enrolled for 1 marking period, every other day*

In order to assist students in transition from elementary to middle school, this course focuses on organization, time management, quality research, and project-based individual and collaborative project completion.

BAND- *full year, every other day in lieu of Exploratory Cycle courses listed below*

The band program includes the instrumental study of scales, rhythm exercises, and playing techniques. Students play various types of music including marches, classical show music, popular music, etc. As individual lessons are not a part of the program, students who elect band must know how to play an instrument as well as read music. Students taking this course are required to perform in a winter concern, a spring concert, and at graduation.

CHORUS- *full year, every other day in lieu of Exploratory Cycle courses listed below*

The chorus program is designed to develop the skills required for vocal performance including ear training, basic music theory, music history, vocal production techniques of breathing, tone quality, and singing in harmony and counterpoint. Students taking this course are required to perform at school recitals and evening concerts.

EXPLORATORY COURSES (4): *1 marking period each, every other day*

FINE ART 6

Students explore works of art in relation to history and cultural influence. They are introduced to the elements and principles of art and use the knowledge learned to create artwork using a variety of techniques and mediums.

HANDS-ON CONSTRUCTION LAB

In this course, students explore their creativity through hands-on experiential learning. By using the design thinking process, they have the opportunity to create, collaborate, and communicate with their peers to develop new solutions for the classroom, school, and possibly even the local and global community. Students are exposed to a variety of resources and materials that support them in creating prototypes of their innovative designs.

PHOTOGRAPHY

In this course, students investigate, practice, and apply principles of photographic composition and the technical skills needed to use a variety of digital cameras and image editing programs. They creatively use a variety of techniques to photograph a wide range of subjects and learn how to effectively critique photographs as well as use peer feedback to select pieces for their digital portfolios.

SCRIPT AND SCREENWRITING

In this course, students explore multiple forms of scripts and create projects that allow them to implement skills in storytelling, plot and character development, dialogue in cinematic and theatrical format. In addition, they explore the history of screenplays and scripts, plays, cinema, and commercials to create productions for a variety of audiences and venues.

GRADE 7

In each grade students elect to enroll in either Band, Chorus, or the Exploratory Cycle courses.

DIGITAL MEDIA DESIGN- *All Gr. 7 students are enrolled for 1 marking period, every other day*

In this course, students develop their ability to effectively communicate through the use of various multimedia tools. In this hands-on class, students are introduced to the basic elements of graphic design, stop-motion animation, sound design, and website design. This course prepares students to become creators of digital content in today's technology-rich society.

BAND- *full year, every other day in lieu of Exploratory Cycle courses listed below*

This course continues instrumental study in scales and techniques, playing selections of various types of music and the developing of sight-reading skills. Students who elect this course must know how to play an instruments as well as read music and are required to perform in a winter concert, a spring concert, and at graduation.

Pre-requisite: Students who elect this course MUST play a band instrument.

CHORUS- *full year, every other day in lieu of Exploratory Cycle courses listed below*

The chorus program continues to give students with vocal ability the opportunity to develop the skills required for vocal performance. The repertoire includes choral ensemble and solo material from many musical periods. Students taking this course are required to perform at school recitals and evening concerts.

EXPLORATORY COURSES (4): *scheduled for 1 marking period each, every other day*

THEATER

This course is designed to have students explore their creativity through the arts involved in acting, scene design, lighting, playwriting, makeup, costumes, directing, and dance.

FINE ART 7

This course focuses on giving the student experiences with which to develop his/her ability to express himself/herself artistically while further developing his/her respect and sensitivity to the arts. Personal imagination is developed and encouraged through activities which involve the elements and principles of art and a variety of introductory techniques and mediums, including drawing, painting, printmaking, computer-generated art, and working with 3D form.

INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS/PERSONAL FINANCE

This is a student-centered course that provides a basic introduction to the role that business plays in our global economy. Topics examined include business ownership, marketing, advertising, consumerism, personal budgeting, and practical money skills. This course also serves to foster an interest in the Business Management and Administration Pathway offered at the high school level.

FORENSICS

This is an investigative course in which students learn how to observe, collect, analyze, and evaluate evidence found at crime scenes. Students play the role of an investigator to evaluate physical, chemical, digital, and eyewitness evidence, to determine the likely perpetrator of staged classroom crimes.

GRADE 8

In each grade students elect to enroll in either Band, Chorus, or the Exploratory Cycle courses.

CODING/ROBOTICS- *All Gr. 8 students are enrolled for 1 marking period, every other day*

In this course, students use computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, and problem solving. They are introduced to several programming languages to make interactive games and stories as well as apply engineering skills through an introduction to robotics.

BAND- *full year, every other day in lieu of Exploratory Cycle courses listed below*

This course continues instrumental study in scales and techniques, playing selections of various types of music, and developing of sight-reading skills. Students taking this course are required to perform in a winter concert, a spring concert, and at graduation.

Pre-requisite: Students who elect this course MUST play a band instrument.

CHORUS- *full year, every other day in lieu of Exploratory Cycle courses listed below*

The chorus program continues to give students with vocal ability the opportunity to develop the skills required for vocal performance. The repertoire includes choral ensemble and solo material from many musical periods. Students taking this course are required to perform at school recitals and evening concerts.

EXPLORATORY COURSES (4): *scheduled for 1 marking period each, every other day*

VIDEO PRODUCTION

In this course, students learn the fundamentals of video production from pre-production (storyboarding) through post-production (editing). Students use video production equipment and applications to produce digital content for authentic audiences that is both informative and artistic in nature. Productions may include public service announcements, newscasts, documentaries, and short films.

INDUSTRIAL ARTS AND DESIGN

Students are encouraged to demonstrate their creativity through a range of projects. They are given the opportunity to apply what is being learned for personal satisfaction and the development of life skills. Projects involve the design and construction of a variety of different pieces of work and may be created through computer design/graphics, sewing and needlecraft, work with textiles, or functional art and design.

DRAMA

Drama is an art form that tells a story through the speech and actions of the character in a story. Working in groups and individually, this exciting course takes the student through a variety of activities such as pantomime, improvisation, theater games, and scene-study.

CAREER EXPLORATION

This course is designed to introduce students to the world of careers. Utilizing the National Career Clusters Framework as a guide, students examine various careers in different areas including law and public safety, manufacturing, finance, business management and administration, science, technology, engineering and mathematics, information technology, and human services. With the assistance of career interest surveys, students gain a sense of understanding regarding careers that may match their personalities and interests as well as their outlook for the future.