

WAVERLY MIDDLE SCHOOL



**COURSE DESCRIPTION BOOK
2013-2014**



6th Grade



6th Math (Course 1)

Course Description: The focus of this course is to develop a more complete understanding and use of mathematics involving number sense, geometry, data/probability and algebra concepts. Students will solve problems involving all operations with the use of rational numbers. Through problem solving, students will compute fluently and accurately using appropriate strategies and tools.

Textbooks and Materials:

Prentice Hall Mathematics, Course 1, (2010)

Textbooks will be assigned to students. Online text and resources are also available.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Number Sense: operations with positive rational numbers, GCF, LCM, estimation, computation
2. Geometry: properties of 2-D shapes and 3-D objects, use coordinate plane, transformation, formulas and measurements
3. Data/Probability: organize, compare, and interpret data, make predictions, basic probability
4. Algebra: interpret models of quantitative relationships and solve simple equations

6th Advanced Math

Course Description:

The focus of this course is to develop a more complete understanding and use of mathematics involving number sense, geometry, data/probability and algebra concepts. Students will solve problems involving all operations with the use of rational numbers. Through problem solving, students will compute fluently and accurately using appropriate strategies and tools. This course will add to the rigor of the curriculum and transition to Course 2.

Textbooks and Materials:

Prentice Hall Mathematics, Course 1, Course 2, (2010)

Textbooks will be assigned to students. Online text and resources are also available.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Number Sense: operations with positive rational numbers, GCF, LCM, estimation, computation, positive and negative integers, inequalities.
2. Geometry: properties of 2-D shapes and 3-D objects, use coordinate plane, transformation, formulas and measurements, graph points on a plane, area and perimeter of simple shapes.
3. Data/Probability: organize, compare, and interpret data, make predictions, basic probability, find probability of dependent and independent events, find odds.
4. Algebra: interpret models of quantitative relationships and solve simple equations, write and solve one-step equations involving variables and various operations

6th Reading

Course Description: The Sixth Grade Reading courses will focus on Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary Development, and Reading Fluency. This year long class will have students apply Reading strategies with both fiction and non-fiction. Students will utilize literature from a non-fiction anthology and independent reading.

Textbooks and Materials:

Read for Real (Zaner-Bloser, Inc.)

Accelerated Reader books

Units/Course of Study:

1. Literacy Skills
2. Literacy Genres
3. Literacy Techniques
4. Literary Elements

6th English

Course Description: Our goal in English is to help students communicate effectively. We practice this through the study of spelling lists, Greek and Latin roots, vocabulary, writing, parts of speech, and a reference unit with the integration of technology.

Resource/Materials:

Language Network-McDougal Littell

Angel Website

Units/Course of Study:

1. Spelling Units
2. Vocabulary Units
3. Writing Projects
4. Parts of Speech
5. Reference Unit
6. Speaking/Listening Presentations

6th Science

Course Description: Understanding what science is, what scientists do, and why science is important in daily life is the major goal of science instruction. In the course of sixth grade science, students will learn about the earth's structure, rocks and minerals, changes that can occur on earth, and our solar system. They will also do an overview of the human body systems. This will include a unit on human growth and development with special attention given to changes experienced by young adolescents. We will also explore the fundamentals of genetics/heredity. Information related to physical science concepts may be incorporated when applicable. Throughout the year, students will be asked to read, discuss, and take notes over given chapters. There will also be many experiments, projects, and hands-on experiences that reinforce the concepts being taught.

Textbooks and Materials: *Texts will be issued to each student.

Inside Earth (Prentice Hall – Science Explorer)

Astronomy (Prentice Hall – Science Explorer)

From Bacteria to Plants (Prentice Hall – Science Explorer)

Human Biology & Health (Prentice Hall – Science Explorer)

Cells and Heredity (Prentice Hall – Science Explorer)

Units/Course of Study:

1. Layers of the Earth
2. Plate tectonics
3. Earthquakes
4. Volcanoes
5. Rocks
6. Astronomy (sun, earth, moon)
7. Microscopes
8. Cell structure (plant and animal)
9. Body systems (skeletal, muscular, integumentary, nervous, endocrine, reproductive)
10. Human growth and development
11. Genetics/heredity

6th Social Studies

Course Description: The sixth grade geography course focuses on the Nebraska Standards for Geography. The core of the sixth grade geography course is Teacher Curriculum Institute's (TCI's) *Geography Alive!: Regions and People* program. The pacing and planning of units serve as a guideline to use in preparing daily lessons designed to meet the Nebraska Standards for Geography.

Textbooks and Materials:

Geography Alive! (Regions and People)
Angel Website

Units/Course of Study:

1. A Geographer's World
2. Europe and Russia
3. Monsoon Asia
4. Southwest Asia and Central Asia
5. Africa
6. Canada and the United States
7. Latin America
8. Oceania and Antarctica



Exploratory



6th Math Plus Program

Course Description: The focus of this course is to develop a more complete understanding and use of mathematics involving number sense, geometry, data/probability and algebra concepts. Students will solve problems involving all operations with the use of rational numbers. Through problem solving, students will compute fluently and accurately using appropriate strategies and tools.

Textbooks and Materials:

Prentice Hall Mathematics, Course 1, (2010)

Textbooks will be assigned to students. Online text and resources are also available.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Number Sense: positive decimals and fractions (manipulatives)
2. Geometry: perimeter and area of polygons, area and circumference of circles
3. Data/Probability: experimental probability, gather data (pictograph, line plot)
4. Algebra: expressions, one-step (whole number) equations

6th Language Arts Plus Program

Course Description:

During this nine-week class we will focus on the process of writing and performing skits and plays. You will learn to work collaboratively and cooperatively with classmates while learning to construct a plot, write dialogue, and tell a story through action. The writing process using revision will be emphasized.

Textbooks and Materials:

Examples of various skits and plays.

6th Science Plus Program

Course Description: Nine-week class includes the study of weather and the earth's atmosphere. We'll also focus on how we can predict and prepare for the extreme conditions that often confront us.

Textbooks and Materials:

Internet other supplemental materials

6th Social Studies Plus Program

Course Description: Students will be studying different cultures throughout the world.

Textbooks and Materials:

Library materials
Online resources
Presentations / Projects

Units/Course of Study:

1. Define / Describe Culture
2. Students cultural heritage
3. Different cultures (compare/contrast)
4. Comparing cultures from different regions

6th Choir

Course Description: During the course of this semester students will:

1. Sing a variety of songs with different styles
2. Demonstrate proper practices of ensemble singing
3. Demonstrate mastery of music through performance
4. Practice and demonstrate basic ear training skills

6th General Music

Course description:

Music takes many forms. All too often student's perceptions of music are limited to what is currently being played on the radio as a form of entertainment. This course is designed to introduce and acquaint students with a wide variety of musical styles and help them to gain a greater understanding of how music affect the listener and may be utilized as a form of communication.

Textbooks and Materials:

(No textbooks are issued.)
Audio recordings of a variety of music genres.
Videos (eg. Sound of Music and Music Man)
The Mozart Effect by Don Campbell

Units/Courses of Study:

1. The effects of music (physically, mentally, academically, behaviorally, socially, and spiritually)
2. Exposure to a variety of music genres – including musicals
3. Basic music theory

6th Exploratory Family and Consumer Science

Course Description:

This 9-week, problem and project-based learning course, introduces students to the Nebraska Career Education Model and life-skills needed through the transition of adolescence and adulthood. The goal is to help students take personal responsibility in and understand the work of the family and begin to examine the interconnections of family, career and community. Students will begin to develop and practice independent living skills and beginning career development skills. Students will have the opportunity to attain the Babysitter Training Online Certification through the American Red Cross in this course. The skills students learn in this introductory Family & Consumer Sciences course will help them now and in the future be strong leaders, students, citizens, individuals, family members, and workers for our society.

Optional Class Fee: Student can pay a \$25 fee if students want to complete the Online American Red Cross Babysitting Training.

Textbooks and Materials:

Nebraska Career Connections (<http://www.nebraskacareerconnections.org/>)

American Red Cross Babysitting Training Online Curriculum

Adventures in Food & Nutrition, (Goodheart Wilcox)

Discovering Life Skills, (Glencoe)

Units/Course of Study:

1. Careers: Students will demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed to pursue appropriate school and career options. Key topics include career exploration and goal setting.
2. Personal Development: Students will explore personal development milestones & skills in interpersonal relationship development. Key topics include personal development, social development, communication, and problem solving.
3. Independent Living Skills: Students will demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed and expected of healthy, responsible citizens. Key topics include health and nutrition guidelines, clothing care, and time management.
4. Family Living Skills: Students will demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed for building and maintaining strong, sustainable families for society. Key topics include family assets, family traditions, family roles, and babysitting skills.

6th Keyboarding

Course Description:

Keyboarding 6 is a required course designed to teach students touch typing skills. Lessons are devoted to learning the keyboard and its functions, proper technique, proofreading, and speed/accuracy development.

Developing a good foundation of keyboarding skills is important for students in order to develop speed and accuracy which will be important to students in their school careers and future employment.

6th Physical Education

Course Description:

Sixth grade PE focuses on knowledge of physical activities and the benefits of movement and being physically fit. Skills are emphasized that enhance balance, eye-hand coordination, eye-foot coordination, flexibility, proper biomechanics, cardiovascular endurance and core strength. Social aspects of teamwork, sportsmanship, respect and responsibility are reinforced throughout the various activities. PE 6 continues the students' focus on fitness and the benefits of healthy living.

Textbooks and Materials: Proper Athletic Shoes are required. Activity log sheets will be distributed by the instructor. There is no textbook.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Total body fitness
 - a. Health & Wellness
 - b. Cardiovascular fitness & endurance
 - c. Core Strength
 - d. Flexibility
2. Team Sports
 - a. Volleyball
 - b. Football
 - c. Basketball
 - d. Soccer
 - e. Softball
3. Individual Sports
 - a. Aspects of Track and Field
 - b. Racket sports--badminton, tennis, etc.

6th Health/Careers

Course Description: The focus of 6th grade health is what it takes to be physically fit, mentally sound, and socially acceptable for a lifetime. The main topics of study in 6th grade health are as follows.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Wellness
2. Decision Making
3. Stress Management
4. Consumer Skills
5. Mental and Emotional Health
6. Character
7. Refusal Skills
8. Nutrition
9. The importance of physical activity
10. Personal Care

6th Art

Course Description:

In sixth grade art, students will create artwork and explore a variety of methods and media used to create art. Students will learn about Color Theory and use that knowledge as a foundation for their projects. They will learn about different cultures, artists and styles and experiment with different mediums including painting, drawing and collage. Art class helps develop self-esteem and self-expression, as well as appreciation for the work of others. It also develops critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Textbooks and Materials: All materials will be provided by the school.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Mandala - painting project
2. Collage
3. Contour Line Drawing

6th Band

Course Description:

Sixth grade band is a continuation from 5th grade band where the focus is on the primary skills necessary to advance and perform as a member of the Waverly Band program. Class is for students in their second year of instrumental music or by permission of directors. The class performs at three concerts during the course of the school year. The class meets daily for 42 minutes. Students in instrumental music are part of a special family/community within the school, "The Band Family." They will learn skills necessary to succeed in life in addition to making great music. These skills are: communication, trust, responsibility, caring, and pride. Leadership skills are taught within the instrumental music class as well.

6th Industrial Technology

Course Description:

Industrial Technology / Tech Lab 6 is an exploratory class where students work with a partner in a module workstation for a period of 13 days. Students will work with the computer, software, equipment, and student activity guide exploring the industrial areas of transportation, manufacturing, construction and communication. Students will complete three of twelve modules workstations for 6th grade. As students work in the completion of this class they will demonstrate the allocation of time, space and materials to complete a task. Students will follow written and oral directions as they apply basic reading, writing, arithmetic, speaking and listening skills to send, receive, and process information.

Textbooks and Materials:

1. Computer, equipment and student activity guide supplied by school for each module workstation.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Module's student Activities.
2. Module's study question and student journals
3. Module vocabulary and crossword puzzle.
4. Module pretest and posttest.



7th Grade



7th Math (Course 2)

Course Description: The focus of this course is to review addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, fractions and decimals. It expands skills in ratios, proportions, and percentages. Students will also work with computation of integers and solving equations. Problem solving is reinforced throughout the year.

Textbooks and Materials:

Prentice Hall Mathematics, Course 2, (2010)

Textbooks will be assigned to students. Online text and resources are also available.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Number Sense: operations with positive and negative rational numbers, including classifying numbers, GCF, LCM, estimation, computation, percentages, and scientific notation
2. Geometry: similar figures, distance between points, area of trapezoids, circles and circumference of circles, and transformations
3. Data/Probability: interpret graphs, mean, median, mode range, stem-and-leaf plots, probability of independent and compound events, compare and contrast theoretical and experimental probabilities
4. Algebra: describe and create algebraic expressions, use of variables, inequalities, model a variety of relationships, solve one and two-step equations

7th Pre-Algebra

Course Description: The focus of the course is on properties of numbers, value, number sense, computation, and use of variables in expressions and equations. The students will solve problems using various methods, which will lead to the solving of variable expressions and graphing solutions. Using Algebra to solve problems is part of the course.

Textbooks and Materials: Prentice Hall Mathematics, Pre-Algebra, (2010)

Textbooks will be assigned to students. Online text and resources are also available.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Number Sense: operations with real numbers, GCF, LCM, estimation, computation, percentages, ratios and proportions, absolute value, and scientific notation
2. Geometry: parallel lines, transversals and related angles, interior angles of triangle, scale factors, surface area, Pythagorean theorem, relationships of perimeter, area, and volume
3. Data/Probability: box and whisker plots, measure of central tendency, circle graphs, box plots, complementary events, independent and compound events
4. Algebra: algebraic expressions and inequalities, one, two and multi-step variable equations and inequalities and slope

7th Reading

Course Description:

This Reading Class utilizes a three-pronged approach: vocabulary skills, reading skills, and individual student reading of books. Vocabulary word families are introduced, practiced, and tested. Reading skills are taught by using non-fiction articles; plays; short stories; and specific skill assignments, such as: main idea, organization, analysis and others. Individual student reading goals are established each quarter based on Accelerated Reader guidelines, teacher recommendation, and teacher observation.

Textbooks and Materials:

1. Words on the Vine (Instructional Fair-TS Dension)
2. Vocabulary Development Using Roots and Riddles (Frank Schaffer Publications, Inc.)
3. Read for Real (Zaner-Bloser, Inc.)
4. Accelerated Reader books

Units/Course of Study:

1. 20 vocabulary stem units: aqua/hydra, geo/ter, cycl/orb, chron/temp and others.
2. Skills: comprehension, main idea/supporting details, vocabulary, organizational elements, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.
3. Biographies: Mahatma Gandhi, Maya Lin, Arthur Ashe, Rachel Carson, and others.
4. Plays: Fly Away Home, The Yearling, The Mighty, and Driving Miss Daisy.
5. Short stories: The Lorax and Rikki-tikki-tavi.
6. Accelerated Reader books

7th Science

Course Description: The focus of this course is to introduce and develop an understanding of physical science. Topics studied include: the scientific method, measurement, forms of energy, properties and changes in properties of matter, and the relationship between force and motion.

Textbooks and Materials:

Holt Science and Technology, Physical Science (2007)

Units/Course of Study:

1. Lab safety
2. Metric System of Measurement
3. Scientific Method
4. Forms of Energy: kinetic energy, potential energy, chemical energy, heat energy, electrical energy, sound energy, light energy, mechanical energy, nuclear energy, gravitational potential energy, spring/elastic potential energy, energy conversions, and energy transfer(conduction, convection, and radiation).
5. Properties and Changes in Properties of Matter: structure of matter, states of matter, change of state, physical properties of matter, chemical properties of matter, physical change, chemical change, and classification of matter.
6. Forces and Motion: force, balanced forces, unbalanced forces, motion, speed, velocity, acceleration, Newton's laws of motion, and gravity.

7th English

Course Description: The main focus of 7th grade English is exposure to fiction and its elements as well as the six traits of writing. The purpose of this class is to give the students an introduction to topics that will be covered in future required English classes. Writing assignments will also be incorporated in all areas of study. We will pay particular attention to the descriptive mode of writing, as we will be taking a mock State Writing Test, which will analyze the students' ability to implement that mode.

Textbooks and Materials:

Holt McDougal Literature (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
Write Source: Writing and Grammar (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Patterson
A Christmas Carol (Adapted) by Charles Dickens
Children of the River by Linda Crew

Units/Course of Study:

1. Parts of Speech, Grammar, Punctuation (then integrated throughout year)
2. Folklore (folktales, legends, myths, fables) -Narrative Writing Mode
3. Fiction (plot elements, conflict, characterization, literary devices, theme) -Narrative Writing Mode
4. Bridge to Terabithia -Response to Literature Writing
5. A Christmas Carol -Expository Writing Mode
6. Six-Traits Writing -Descriptive Writing Mode
7. Children of the River -Persuasive Writing Mode
8. Poetry -Writing Poetry

7th Social Studies

Course Description: World History. This two semester course introduces world history from the Stone Age through the ancient time period to the late Middle Ages. As students explore the great early civilizations, they will discover the ways that ancient cultures continue to influence the modern world.

Textbooks and Materials: History Alive! The Ancient World and History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond. Textbooks and online textbooks will not be assigned to students.

Units/Course of Study:

1. From Hunters and Gatherers to Farmers
2. Ancient Sumer and Mesopotamia
3. Ancient Egypt
4. The Origins of Judaism and the Persian Empire
5. Ancient Greece and the Rise of Democracy
6. Alexander the Great and the Legacy of Ancient Greece
7. The Roman Republic
8. The Roman Empire and the Origins of Christianity
9. Feudalism and Life in the Middle Ages
10. Byzantine Empire and the Origins of Islam
11. The Renaissance and its Leading Figures



Exploratory



7th Math Plus Program

Course Description: The focus of this course is to review addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, fractions and decimals. It expands skills in ratios, proportions, and percentages. Students will also work with computation of integers and solving equations. Problem solving is reinforced throughout the year.

Textbooks and Materials:

Prentice Hall Mathematics, Course 2, (2010)

Textbooks will be assigned to students. Online text and resources are also available.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Number Sense: operations with positive and negative rational numbers, including classifying numbers, GCF, LCM, estimation, computation, percentages, and scientific notation
2. Geometry: similar figures, distance between points, area of trapezoids, circles and circumference of circles, and transformations
3. Data/Probability: interpret graphs, mean, median, mode range, stem-and-leaf plots, probability of independent and compound events, compare and contrast theoretical and experimental probabilities
4. Algebra: describe and create algebraic expressions, use of variables, inequalities, model a variety of relationships, solve one and two-step equations

7th Science Plus Program

Course Description: The focus of this course is Space Exploration. We study the solar system, planets, moons, stars, galaxies, asteroids, meteors, comets, history of space exploration, space probes, rockets, and people in space.

Textbooks and Materials:

Holt Science and Technology, Astronomy (2005)

Units/Course of Study:

1. Heliocentric versus Geocentric models of our solar system
2. Planets
3. Moons
4. Stars
5. Galaxies
6. Small Bodies in the Solar System: comets, asteroids, meteors
7. History of Space Exploration
8. Space Probes and Rockets
9. Famous People in Space
10. Space Tourism

7th Language Arts Plus Program

Course Description: Research Paper

This nine weeks course focuses on assisting students to learn how to write an explanatory, analytical or persuasive research paper. The focus will be on teaching students organizational patterns, as well as how to develop an outline and thesis statement. Teaching students how to do research and then read and paraphrase for writing will also be emphasized. Revision techniques, including the use of technology, will be presented.

Textbooks and Materials:

1. Nebraska State Department of Education Writing Standards
2. How to Write a Great Research Paper-Middle School
3. Modern Language Association Guide (MLA)-Bibliography

Units/Course of Study:

1. Review of writing standards
2. Development of outline and thesis statement
3. Practice of paraphrasing
4. Strategies to taking notes
5. Exposure to Internet search strategies
6. Step-by-step approach for writing a research paper
7. Effective research paper introduction and conclusion
8. Methods for creating a bibliography
9. Revision techniques
10. Use of technology to create a finished written paper

7th Social Studies Plus Program

Course Description:

Eastern Civilizations. In this nine week course , students will explore the great early civilizations of India and China. They will unlock the secrets of those ancient cultures that continue to influence world events today.

Textbooks and Materials:

History Alive! The Ancient World and History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond
Textbooks and online textbooks will not be assigned to students.

Units/Course of Study:

1. The ancient Indus River Valley civilization
2. The Origins and Beliefs of Hinduism
3. The Origins and Beliefs of Buddhism
4. The Shang Dynasty
5. Ancient Chinese Philosophies
6. The Han Dynasty

7th Introduction to Family and Consumer Science

Course Description:

This 9-week, problem and project-based learning course, introduces students to specific pathways related to FCS in the Nebraska Career Education Model and life-skills need through the transition of adolescence and adulthood. The goal is to give students career and life-skill based challenges to complete individually and in groups. Through completing these challenges, students will authentically practice career and life-ready skills, understanding their interrelationships. Students will use scientific principles to modify food products for healthy living and master independent clothing care and construction skills to individually create a product. The skills students learn in this Family & Consumer Sciences course will help them now and in the future be strong leaders, students, citizens, individuals, family members, and workers for our society.

Class Fee: \$5 (covers lab materials students consume and/or take home)

Textbooks and Materials:

Nebraska Career Connections (<http://www.nebraskacareerconnections.org/>)

ServSafe Materials

On Cooking-A Textbook of Culinary Fundamentals (Labensky, Hause, & Martel)

Discovering Life Skills, (Glencoe)

Units/Course of Study:

1. Careers: Students will demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed to pursue appropriate school and career options. Key topics include career fields, clusters, pathways, pathway skills, and requirements.
2. Relating with Others: Students will explore skills in interpersonal relationship development. Key topics include: adolescent changes, societal influences on relationships, & roles and responsibilities in various relationships.
3. Food Preparation Skills: Students will acquire fundamental food preparation skills for a healthy lifestyle. Key topics include food safety and sanitation, food preparation skills, and food science principles.
4. Clothing Construction: Students will demonstrate skills in clothing care & construction. Key topics include care & use of tools and equipment for clothing construction and basic construction techniques.

7th Choir

Course Description: During the course of this quarter, students will listen to a variety of music styles, compose an original work with the use of Garage Band and study the history of Rock and Roll.

In addition, during the course of this class students will:

1. Sing a variety of songs with different styles
2. Demonstrate proper practices of ensemble singing
3. Demonstrate mastery of music through performance
4. Practice and demonstrate basic ear training skills

Units/Course of Study:

1. Notebook
2. Folder

7th Physical Education

Course Description:

Seventh grade PE focuses on knowledge of physical activities and the benefits of movement and being physically fit. Skills are emphasized that enhance balance, eye-hand coordination, eye-foot coordination, flexibility, proper biomechanics, cardiovascular endurance and core strength. Social aspects of teamwork, sportsmanship, respect and responsibility are reinforced throughout the various activities. PE 7 continues the students' focus on fitness and the benefits of healthy living.

Textbooks and Materials: Proper Athletic Shoes are required. All students will be required to change into proper exercise attire (shorts or sweats, T-shirts, etc.) Activity log sheets will be distributed by the instructor. There is no textbook.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Total body fitness
 - a. Health & Wellness
 - b. Cardiovascular fitness & endurance
 - c. Core Strength
 - d. Flexibility
 - e. Power and Explosive movements
 - f. Introduction to Strength Training using weights
2. Team Sports
 - a. Volleyball
 - b. Football
 - c. Basketball
 - d. Soccer
 - e. Softball
3. Individual Sports
 - a. Aspects of Track and Field
 - b. Racket sports--badminton, tennis, etc.

7th Keyboarding

Course Description:

Keyboarding 7 is a required course designed to build upon skills learned in Keyboarding 6. Lessons are devoted to improving touch-typing skill and accuracy, formatting paragraphs, formatting business letters, learning proofreader's marks, and increasing speed/accuracy.

Improvement of keyboard speed and accuracy along with formatting skills is important for students to be more efficient in their computer use.

7th Health/Careers

Course Description: The focus of 7th grade health is what it takes to be physically fit, mentally sound, and socially acceptable for a lifetime. The main topics of study is 7th grade health are as follows.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Goals (Short-term, intermediate, and long-term goals)/D.A.P.P.S or S.M.AR.T. (Rules of writing goals)
2. Stress stressor, time management & relaxation
3. Body Image and self-esteem
4. Lifetime Sports and Physical Fitness (What sports or activities can be done for a lifetime? No team sports!)
5. Fitness Equipment and Clothing (What clothes should you wear in extreme weather, hot and cold?)
Injury Prevention and First Aid (P.R.I.C.E. formula)
6. Pathogens/ Skin Cancer
7. Alcohol Usage (Blood alcohol content, binge drinking, cirrhosis, addiction, alcoholism, tolerance)
8. Tobacco (Nicotine, tar, carbon monoxide, secondhand smoke, side stream smoke)
9. Drugs (Prescription medicines, Over-the-counter medicines, Drug misuse, Drug abuse)
10. Noise Induced Hearing Loss

7th Art

Course Description:

Seventh grade art students will create artwork and explore a variety of methods and media used to create art. Students will learn about Elements of Art and Principles of Design and use that knowledge as a foundation for their projects, as well as building on knowledge of Color Theory. Students will learn about different cultures, artists and styles and experiment with different mediums including painting, drawing and mixed media. Art class helps develops self-esteem and self-expression, as well as appreciation for the work of others. It also develops critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Textbooks and Materials: All materials will be provided by the school.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Paper Batik - Mixed Media
2. One-Point Perspective
3. Starry Night Interpretation

7th Industrial Technology

Course Description:

Industrial Technology / Tech Lab 7 is a continuation of 6th grade exploratory Tech lab class. Tech lab 7 students will complete three different industrial modules then what was done as 6th graders. This will ensure that all students have had the opportunity to explore and complete half of the twelve industrial modules available. Students will work hands on with the computer, software, equipment, and student activity guide exploring the industrial areas of transportation, manufacturing, construction and communication. As students work through the module workstations, students will use skills to Interact as a group to make informed decisions. Students will apply a problem solving approach to solve product problems and identify current and future careers paths and opportunities related to industrial technology.

Textbooks and Materials:

1. Computer, equipment and student activity guide supplied by school for each module workstation.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Module's student Activities.
2. Module's study questions and student journals
3. Module vocabulary and crossword puzzle.
4. Module pretest and posttest.

7th Band

Course Description:

Seventh grade band is for students in their third year of instrumental music or by permission of director. During the seventh grade band is the transition year from class time focus of bookwork to more sheet music. This transition includes the first opportunity for instrumental music students to audition for the MS Jazz band, participate in band contests/festivals, as well as participate in honor bands. During the year the class has performance assessments on scales as well as the music the group is working on in class. The seventh grade band performs at three concerts, and two contests/festivals per year. One of the festivals includes a solo/small group experience as well. Students have the opportunity to participate in two honor bands throughout the year. Students in instrumental music are part of a special family/community within the school, "The Band Family." They will learn skills necessary to succeed in life in addition to making great music. These skills are: communication, trust, responsibility, caring, and pride. Leadership skills are taught within the instrumental music class as well.



8th Grade



8th Math (Pre-Algebra)

Course Description: The focus of the course is on properties of numbers, value, number sense, computation, and use of variables in expressions and equations. The students will solve problems using various methods, which will lead to the solving of variable expressions and graphing solutions. Using Algebra to solve problems is part of the course.

Textbooks and Materials:

Prentice Hall Mathematics, Pre-Algebra, (2010)

Textbooks will be assigned to students. Online text and resources are also available.

Units/Course of Study:

Number Sense: operations with real numbers, GCF, LCM, estimation, computation, percentages, ratios and proportions, absolute value, and scientific notation

Geometry: parallel lines, transversals and related angles, interior angles of triangle, scale factors, surface area, Pythagorean theorem, relationships of perimeter, area, and volume

Data/Probability: box and whisker plots, measure of central tendency, circle graphs, box plots, complementary events, independent and compound events

Algebra: algebraic expressions and inequalities, one, two and multi-step variable equations and inequalities and slope

8th Math (Algebra)

Course Description: The focus of this course is to use variable expressions and equations to solve problems. The study continues with graphing linear equations and solving problems through the use of Algebra and graphing their solutions with the ability to interpret the graph and data. The focus includes identifying systems, functions, and relationships in order to solve problems so that one element is a function of another.

Textbooks and Materials:

Prentice Hall Mathematics, Algebra, (2010)

Textbooks will be assigned to students. Online text and resources are also available.

Units/Course of Study:

Number Sense: operations with real numbers, GCF, LCM, estimation, computation, percentages, ratios and proportions, absolute value, exponential functions and scientific notation

Geometry: parallel lines, transversals and related angles, interior angles of triangle, scale factors, surface area, Pythagorean theorem, relationships of perimeter, area, and volume

Data/Probability: box and whisker plots, measure of central tendency, circle graphs, box plots, complementary events, independent and compound events

Algebra: algebraic expressions and inequalities, one, two and multi-step variable equations and inequalities, solve and graph linear inequalities, systems of linear equations and inequalities

8th Literacy

Course Description: Literacy is a semester long class in eighth grade. The class will help students learn, practice, and apply reading comprehension strategies and skills. Students will also focus on vocabulary development and reading fluency.

Textbooks and Materials:

Read For Real (Zaner-Blosner, Inc.)

Units/Course of Study:

1. Comprehension Strategies will include: previewing a selection, activating prior knowledge, setting a purpose with the reading, making connections, interacting with the text, clarifying understanding, recalling information, evaluating and responding to the text.
2. Comprehension Skills will include: recalling information, identifying the main idea and supporting details, and searching a passage in order to find information.
3. Comprehension Skills /Organization of Elements: Students will identify and understand the various patterns of ideas that are embedded in the structure of the text including: cause/effect, compare/contrast, problem/solution, question/answer, sequence of events.
4. Comprehension Skills/Application: Student will compare and relate information and ideas, and make connections with the reading in the following ways: analogy, inference, generalization, forming an opinion, drawing a logical conclusion, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.
5. Vocabulary Development: Students will practice understanding words and their meanings by applying the following vocabulary strategies: antonyms, synonyms, homonyms, word roots and affixes, analogies, words with multiple meanings, figurative language, reference skills, context clues, word origins, compound words, time order words, abbreviations, and parts of speech and meaning.
6. Reading Fluency: Students will develop reading fluency through oral reading practice, and through presentations.

8th English

Course Description: English 8 will be doing a significant amount of writing, grammar, and vocabulary. We will also concentrate on broadening understanding of diverse literature. All of these techniques will serve the purpose of improving reading and writing skills. Another focus for the year is developing research technique and citation method.

Textbooks and Materials:

Prentice Hall Literature-Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes
Prentice Hall Writing and Grammar-Communication in Action

Units/Course of Study:

1. SAT Vocabulary lists. There are a total of 15 vocabulary lists we will learn throughout the year. There will be a quiz over spelling and definition for each list.
2. Parts of Speech. This is in conjunction with the vocabulary lists. All 8 parts of speech are covered along with using words correctly (an adjective describes a noun).
3. Science Fair Research Paper. This is a 2-2 ½ page research paper about the science fair research project. We start from scratch on research, formatting, and essentially typing their paper in MLA format.
4. 6 Traits of Writing. The 6 traits are organization, word choice, ideas, voice, sentence fluency, and conventions. Each of these will be studied and practiced in-depth while preparing for the State Writing Test.
5. District reading assessment (literary terms, genre). The district C.R.A.'s will be taken in preparation for the State Reading Test. Each CRA covers various reading topics such as literary terms, genre, problem solving, and critical thinking.
6. Literature. Various parts of literature include "Flowers For Algernon" and "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" are read along with other stories or excerpts.
7. Poetry. Students learn about different forms of poetry before writing their own. Each student writes and presents their own original work.

8th Science

Course Description: This 8th grade course is Life Science. Life Science is the study of living things and how they interact with the environment. Students will learn the differences between plant and animal cells. Students will also understand how viruses and bacteria play an important role in their lives. In units of diversity students will learn about arthropods, sponges, worms, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and plants. How all organisms interact and adapt to their environment will be taught in our Ecology unit.

Textbooks and Materials: Life Science

Prentice Hall

Textbooks will not be assigned to students

Units/Course of Study:

1. Scientific Method/ Science Fair
2. Cell parts
3. Virus, Bacteria, Protist and Fungi
4. Sponges, Cnidarians, Worms, Mollusks, Arthropods and Echinoderms
5. Fish, Amphibians, Reptiles
6. Birds, Mammals and Plants
7. Ecology, Biomes and Evolution

8th Social Studies

Course Description: This American History course is a survey of American History beginning in the 1450s with the colonization of the Americas and ending in 1865 with the Civil War. This course is designed to help students understand how and why particular events and patterns of events occurred in our society. The purpose of this course is to provide students with a historical background of the 21st Century. This course will enable students to understand the geographic, political and economic developments that affect current events.

Textbooks and Materials:

History Alive! The United States Through Industrialism

Hardbound and Online Textbooks available

Units/Course of Study:

1. Our Colonial Heritage
2. Revolution in the Colonies
3. Forming A New Nation
4. Launching a New Republic
5. An Expanding Nation
6. Americas in the Mid-1800s
7. The Union Challenged
8. Migration and Industry



Exploratory



8th Math Plus Program

Course Description:

Pre-Algebra: The focus of the course is on properties of numbers, value, number sense, computation, and use of variables in expressions and equations. The students will solve problems using various methods, which will lead to the solving of variable expressions and graphing solutions. Using Algebra to solve problems is part of the course.

Algebra: The focus of this course is to use variable expressions and equations to solve problems. The study continues with graphing linear equations and solving problems through the use of Algebra and graphing their solutions with the ability to interpret the graph and data. The focus includes identifying systems, functions, and relationships in order to solve problems so that one element is a function of another.

Textbooks and Materials:

Prentice Hall Mathematics, Algebra, (2010)

Textbooks will be assigned to students. Online text and resources are also available.

Units/Course of Study:

Pre-Algebra:

1. Number Sense: operations with real numbers, GCF, LCM, estimation, computation, percentages, ratios and proportions, absolute value, and scientific notation
2. Geometry: parallel lines, transversals and related angles, interior angles of triangle, scale factors, surface area, Pythagorean theorem, relationships of perimeter, area, and volume
3. Data/Probability: box and whisker plots, measure of central tendency, circle graphs, box plots, complementary events, independent and compound events
4. Algebra: algebraic expressions and inequalities, one, two and multi-step variable equations and inequalities and slope

Algebra:

1. Number Sense: operations with real numbers, GCF, LCM, estimation, computation, percentages, ratios and proportions, absolute value, exponential functions and scientific notation
2. Geometry: parallel lines, transversals and related angles, interior angles of triangle, scale factors, surface area, Pythagorean theorem, relationships of perimeter, area, and volume
3. Data/Probability: box and whisker plots, measure of central tendency, circle graphs, box plots, complementary events, independent and compound events
4. Algebra: algebraic expressions and inequalities, one, two and multi-step variable equations and inequalities, solve and graph linear inequalities, systems of linear equations and inequalities

8th Language Arts Plus Program

Course Description: The English Plus class is a nine-week elective class. The class will reinforce and enhance the following Nebraska Language Arts Standards: reading, writing, speaking and listening, and using multiple literacy.

Textbooks and Materials:

Students will use a variety of language arts materials and resources.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Reading - Students will learn and apply reading skills and strategies to comprehend a text.
2. Writing - Students will learn and apply writing strategies to communicate.
3. Speaking and Listening - Students will learn and apply speaking and listening skills and strategies to communicate.
4. Multiple Literacy - Students will identify, locate and evaluate information.

8th Science Plus Program

Course Description: This 8th grade course is will focus on Human Biology. Human Biology is the study of levels of organization. Students will learn the human body consists of cells, tissues, organs and organ systems, specifically. Students will study 4 specific human body systems. Understanding how these systems work will help students achieve homeostasis.

Textbooks and Materials:

Life Science

Prentice Hall

Textbooks will not be assigned to students.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Digestive system
2. Circulatory system
3. Respiratory system
4. Excretory system

8th Social Studies Plus Program

Course Description: This course is designed to incorporate civics with technology. Students will practice their roles as citizens and participate in the civic service of Public Service Announcements. Utilizing iMovie, students will create short PSAs that teach topics in language arts, math, science and character counts. The purpose of this course is to give students the building blocks of technology using a civics background. Students will be sharing their PSAs with other students during homeroom.

Textbooks and Materials:

Computer
Flip cameras
Civics Textbook

Units/Course of Study:

1. Welcome to Civics
2. What is a PSA
3. Math, language arts, science and character counts iMovie PSAs

8th Choir

Course Description:

During the course of this semester, we will:

1. Sing a variety of songs with different styles.
2. Demonstrate proper practices of ensemble singing:
 - a. Posture
 - b. Vowels and diction
 - c. Breath production
 - d. Team building skills
3. Demonstrate mastery of music through concert performance.
4. Practice and demonstrate basic ear training skills.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Materials provided by teacher

8th Family and Consumer Science and Career Essentials

Course Description:

This semester long (meet every-other day), problem and project-based learning course, focuses on the personal and social needs of middle school learners, providing opportunities for them to explore career clusters while developing foundational knowledge and skills applicable to all career fields. Included are engaging opportunities for students to discover career possibilities and how these possibilities align with their personal goals and interests through the development of a personalized learning plan that will carry through to the high school setting. Students will also gain skills to advocate for oneself in a healthy relationship. Students will experience a financial wellbeing simulation to practice consumer and personal finance skills. The skills students learn in this Family & Consumer Sciences course will help them now and in the future be strong leaders, students, citizens, individuals, family members, and workers for our society.

Class Fee: Student will be responsible for all consumable or take-home project materials.

Textbooks and Materials:

Nebraska Career Connections (<http://www.nebraskacareerconnections.org/>)

Discovering Life Skills, (Glencoe)

Units/Course of Study:

1. Careers: Students will demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed to pursue appropriate school and career options. Key topics include personal interest inventories, career research, postsecondary options, professional dress, personalized learning plan, & Nebraska Career Ready Practices.
2. Relationships: Students will explore skills in interpersonal relationship development. Key topics include: gender roles, signs of affection, personal boundaries, healthy/unhealthy/abusive relationships, sexual behavior & influences, & abstinence.
3. Financial Well-being: Students will examine wise consumer practices to attend to financial well-being. Key topics include: wants vs. needs, comparison shopping, taxes, income/spending/budget, financial institutions, & credit.
4. Career Readiness in Action: Students will demonstrate & reflect upon the NE Career Ready Practices to one FCS Career Module of choice. The FCS Career Modules students may choose from include: Early Childhood, Culinary Arts, Hospitality & Tourism, Entrepreneurship, Environmental Ambassador, Fashion Design, Interior Design, Nutrition & Wellness, Health Science, Teach & Train, & Human Services.

8th Physical Education

Course Description:

Eighth grade PE focuses on knowledge of physical activities and the benefits of movement and being physically fit. Skills are emphasized that enhance balance, eye-hand coordination, eye-foot coordination, flexibility, proper biomechanics, cardiovascular endurance and core strength. Social aspects of teamwork, sportsmanship, respect and responsibility are reinforced throughout the various activities. PE 8 continues the students' focus on fitness and the benefits of healthy living.

Textbooks and Materials: Proper Athletic Shoes are required. All students will be required to change into proper exercise attire (shorts or sweats, T-shirts, etc.) Activity log sheets will be distributed by the instructor. There is no textbook.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Total body fitness
 - a. Health & Wellness
 - b. Cardiovascular fitness & endurance
 - c. Core Strength
 - d. Flexibility
 - e. Power and Explosive movements
 - f. Strength Training using Weights
2. Team Sports
 - a. Volleyball
 - b. Football
 - c. Basketball
 - d. Soccer
 - e. Softball
3. Individual Sports
 - a. aspects of Track and Field
 - b. racket sports--badminton, tennis, etc.

8th Health/Careers

Course Description: The focus of 8th grade health is what it takes to be physically fit, mentally sound, and socially acceptable for a lifetime. The main topics of study is 8th grade health are as follows.

Units/Course of Study:

1. B.M.I. (Body Mass Index) and healthy body fatness
2. Skeletal System (bones, joints, tendons, and ligaments)
3. Muscular System (skeletal muscles, smooth muscles, cardiac muscles, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility)
4. Types of Exercise to Develop Physical Fitness (Isotonic exercise, isometric exercise, isokinetic exercise, anaerobic exercise, and aerobic exercise)
5. Target Heart Rate (Formula for finding your training zone, cardiovascular endurance, anaerobic exercise, and aerobic exercise)
6. Fitness Skills (Agility, balance, coordination, reaction, speed, and power)
7. F.I.T.T. Formula (Formula for creating a workout plan) and Activity Pyramid
8. Nutrition for Life (Food pyramid) (Myplate.gov)
9. Eating Disorders (binge eating disorder, obesity, anorexia, bulimia)
10. Technology in Sports and fitness (How is technology used in sports?)

8th Computer Applications

Course Description:

Computer Applications is designed to teach necessary skills in creating word processing documents, spreadsheets, and presentations. Additionally, computer drawing tools are taught as well as web page design and Internet research.

Learning to use these software tools will be important for students as they need to build a foundation of computer skills to excel in a technology-based society.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Word Processing
2. Excel Spreadsheets
3. PowerPoint
4. Web Design (as time allows)
5. iMovie (as time allows)

8th Art

Course Description:

Art in the eighth grade, at Waverly Middle School, is an elective and a semester long course. During the semester, students will create artwork and explore a variety of methods and media used to create art. Eighth grade art is designed to allow the students to explore art from different cultures and styles and to experiment with different art making processes including painting, drawing, weaving, digital photography and printmaking. In addition, students will continually practice their drawing skills in weekly sketchbook assignments.

Textbooks and Materials: Most materials will be provided by the school. Some projects will require that personal items be brought from home.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Portraits/Shading - Multiple projects
2. Weaving
3. Abstract Art
4. Painting

8th Ceramics

Course Description:

Ceramics in the eighth grade, at Waverly Middle School, is an elective and a semester long course. Ceramic students will learn about the history of ceramics and how clay has shaped cultures throughout history. The class will focus on the processes and techniques involved in forming and decorating clay. The students will learn a variety of hand-building processes; including coil building, and hard and soft slab building. Ceramic students will also experiment with different finishing techniques, such as glazing, painting and sgraffito. The students will also get the opportunity to throw on the potter's wheel.

Textbooks and Materials: There will be a \$15 class fee that will help cover the cost of clay and glaze.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Handbuilding - two projects
2. Coil building - two projects
3. Slab building - two projects
4. Wheel throwing
5. Glazing and finishing projects

8th Woods

Course Description:

Woodworking class will explore the careers, materials, hand tools and products of the woodworking industry. Students will apply their knowledge and skills to the hands on construction of a required and elective project. Students will pay for the project materials used, which will be theirs to take home when completed.

As students work in the completion of this class students will learn to operate tools and equipment in a shop situation appropriately and safely. Students will develop skills related to the craftsmanship and careers of the industry studied.

Textbooks and Materials:

Exploring Woodworking

Units/Course of Study:

1. Careers in Woodworking
2. Wood Industry (materials, conservation, and the manufacture of products)
3. Shop and hand tool safety
4. Woodworking Hand tool identification and procedure.
5. Construction of a required and a elective project

8th Metals

Course Description:

Drafting / Metals class is a general course designed to explore the careers, materials tools and products of the industries. The first quarter Drafting class explores the reading and production of blueprint drawings. Second quarter Metals class explores the layout and fabrication of a sheet metal project. Students will pay for the project materials used in the fabrication of a student project.

As students work through the process of the project construction, they will learn to operate tools and equipment in a shop situation appropriately and safely. Students will learn the application of basic problem solving skills while applying blueprint-reading and measuring techniques in the construction of a completed project.

Textbooks and Materials:

Units/Course of Study

1. Exploring Drafting
2. Exploring metalworking

Units/Course of Study:

1. Careers in Drafting and metals industries.
2. Drafting and metals industry (materials, conservation, and the manufacture of products)
3. Shop and hand tool safety.
4. Drafting / Metalworking Hand tool identification and procedure.
5. Completion of an orthographic drawings packet.
6. Construction of a metals project.

8th Spanish

Course Description: Spanish is a one-quarter class with the alternating quarter being a German class. This class focuses on basic vocabulary and terminology. The objective is to get a strong base of knowledge on the language and culture in preparation for high school.

Textbooks and Materials:

Materials are reprinted from “Exploring Spanish”.

Textbooks will not be assigned to students.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Greetings and Expressions
2. Classroom Objects
3. Numbers
4. Family/home
5. Food
6. Traveling Brochure
7. Weather/seasons
8. Day/week/month
9. Time/colors

8th German

Course Description:

Exploring German is an elective class that offers the student an exciting introduction to the German language and culture. The following are course objectives: to introduce students to current examples and allow students to practice everyday German speech in a realistic way, to provide a background of information about the art, music, and literature of German-speaking countries, and to help students understand and appreciate his/her own language by relating it to German.

Textbooks and Materials: Students will use a variety of resources and materials.

Units/Course of Study:

1. Greetings and Courtesy Terms
2. The Classroom
3. Classroom Directions
4. Numbers
5. Geography
6. House
7. Family
8. Time and Colors

8th Band

Course Description:

Eighth grade band is for students in their fourth year of instrumental music or by permission of director. Class is final preparation for the high school band experience. In the fall, time is spent on marching fundamentals. During the year the class has performance assessments on scales as well as the music the group is working on in class.

The eighth grade band performs at three concerts, Veteran's Day, and three contests/festivals per year. One of festivals includes a solo and small group experience for students as well. Students in eighth grade band have the opportunity to audition/participate in three honor bands throughout the year as well as audition for the MS Jazz band. The class meets daily for 42 minutes. Students in instrumental music are part of a special family/community within the school, "The Band Family." They will learn skills necessary to succeed in life in addition to making great music. These skills are: communication, trust, responsibility, caring, and pride. Leadership skills are taught within the instrumental music class as well.