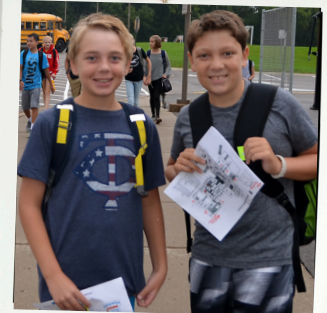




MINNETONKA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Minnetonka Schools welcomes you to **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Grades 6-8 | Course Catalog





"Middle school staff in Minnetonka have created a model middle-level program for students, one that challenges students academically, yet promotes social and emotional growth of students through strong partnerships with parents."

— Dr. Dave Peterson
Peterson Educational Leadership LLC

Dear Parents

Welcome to Minnetonka Middle Schools! We are proud of our outstanding educational program supported by a close sense of community that inspires in every student a passion to excel.

There are three essential characteristics of high-performing middle schools: a rigorous **academic program** that encourages students to exceed their own expectations; a strong **family-like community** that ensures every student makes new friends and experiences a sense of belonging and support; and finally, a **diverse curriculum** that allows students to wonder, discover, create and envision a future with a wide variety of potential interests.

Ask any middle school student what is most important about middle school and you will hear “friends.” But as parents and educators, we know there is so much more. Our young teens will grow as much during middle school as they did from infancy through the toddler years—physically, emotionally and intellectually. Our middle school staff loves this age group! The quirky humor, the occasional clumsiness and the insatiable desire to “know it all” all present opportunities to connect with and inspire students in unique ways. We are here to stretch their minds and their hearts.

In Minnetonka, we are proud to offer a wide variety of learning opportunities for middle school students. We continue to expand our curriculum, create more options for students and enhance the rigor across the curriculum with increased support for students. Our focus remains on providing world-class excellence in academics, activities, arts and service learning to all our students.

Middle school provides students a rich opportunity to explore their interests before entering high school. As you review our middle school offerings, we hope you will find many opportunities for both academic challenge and discovery woven together by a network of supportive and inspirational relationships.

Sincerely,



Pete Dymit
Principal
Minnetonka Middle School East
(952) 401-5200



Freya Schirmacher
Principal
Minnetonka Middle School West
(952) 401-5300

Middle School

District:
Minnetonka Public Schools #276

Contact:
Minnetonka Middle School East
17000 Lake Street Extension
Minnetonka, MN 55345
952.401.5200

Minnetonka Middle School West
6421 Hazeltine Boulevard
Excelsior, MN 55331
952.401.5300

Enrollment Office
Minnetonka District Service Center
5621 Country Road 101
Minnetonka, MN 55345
952.401.5000
Open Enrollment: Apply by January 15

Technology assistance via Family Help Desk, including log in, MYSSO & Skyward
family.helpdesk@minnetonkaschools.org
or 952-401-5123

School Colors: Blue, white and black

Mascot: The Skippers

Student Hours: 9:15 a.m.-3:55 p.m.

Office Hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Website: www.minnetonkaschools.org



Niche.com ranks Minnetonka Middle School East and West among the top middle schools in Minnesota based on statistical data and community reviews.

Wonder

MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS ARE FULL OF WONDER AND DISCOVERY. ENTHUSIASTIC AND HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS, TECHNOLOGY, NEW CHOICES AND FLEXIBILITY OFFER EACH STUDENT THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE HIS OR HER HIGHEST ASPIRATIONS.

ACADEMICS

Minnetonka Middle Schools emphasize rigor, support, choice and flexibility for middle school students. We offer our students a broad range of curricular experiences including world language, fine arts, drama, family and consumer science, computer science and STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering, Math—courses. We also provide courses to challenge highly motivated students, including honors classes in language arts, science, social studies and accelerated math.

SERVICE

In Minnetonka Schools, our mission is to ensure that our students achieve their highest aspirations while serving the greater good. Each year, middle school students demonstrate their commitment to community through volunteer service, many earning Gold, Silver or Bronze honors through the President's Volunteer Service Award program. Middle school students can also earn recognition through the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—many earning state-level honors. Visit www.tonkaserves.org for volunteer opportunities.





TECHNOLOGY

Minnetonka is a national leader in classroom technology use, providing students with innovative learning opportunities. Minnetonka has hosted two national technology site visits and continues to receive recognition from the National School Board Association. Minnetonka was selected for an Apple Distinguished Program award, recognizing exemplary implementation of a technology initiative. Technology in Minnetonka Middle Schools includes:

- **iPads**—All students in grades 6– 8 are issued an iPad for educational use as part of a 1:1 iPad program. The program uses digital curriculum materials, student collaboration tools and individualized instruction in all subject areas to enhance student learning. Minnetonka’s middle schools have robust wireless networks to support the iPad program. Parents are encouraged to purchase iPad insurance (learn more at www.minnetonkaschools.org/iPad).
- **Digital Citizenship**—Minnetonka Schools is committed to partnering with families to help students maintain a healthy balance with technology and make good choices. For helpful resources, please visit <http://bit.ly/TonkaDigitalHealth>.
- **Security Rating**—The District has received an A security rating from a recent, independent IT security audit.
- **Single Sign-On (SSO) for Web-based Resources**—Students can access classroom and e-learning resources anywhere, anytime. Simply click the **MY SSO** link at the top of any school district webpage, then log in. Students can access 100% of District applications:
 - Schoology:** Provides classroom assignments, formative and summative grades throughout the quarter, announcements, resources and study tools
 - Skyward:** Provides final quarter grades and an array of relevant research tools and apps
- **SMART Boards**—large interactive touch-screen white boards that allow teachers to display information from a computer to the class. Class lessons and notes can be captured and posted to the Internet.
- **Sound Field Solutions**—Voice distribution system that gently amplifies a teacher’s voice through speakers mounted in each corner of the classroom. The systems result in improved student learning, greater attention, fewer discipline incidents and less vocal fatigue and teacher absenteeism.
- **Study Island**—a web-based, self-paced preparation tool covering all of the Minnesota Academic Standards tested on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA).

In addition, middle school students have the opportunity to use a wide range of technology-based learning tools, including augmented reality (AR) which refers to computer-generated simulations that let you move around in the real world, and virtual reality (VR) that is entirely self contained.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Brains and bodies undergo rapid development during middle school years. Our health and physical education curricula ensure all students learn essential life fitness habits and skills for making healthy decisions. Healthy choices and regular physical activity are essential to fueling the brain for high levels of academic achievement.

Discover

MINNETONKA MIDDLE SCHOOLS PROVIDE THE TOOLS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO INSPIRE STUDENTS TO DISCOVER THEIR ABILITIES, TALENTS AND PASSIONS. OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF ARE EXPERTS IN CONNECTING WITH AND INSPIRING STUDENTS TO EXPLORE NEW OPPORTUNITIES. EACH STUDENT IS ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN AT LEAST ONE CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY. RESEARCH IS CLEAR THAT STUDENTS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM DO BETTER IN SCHOOL. CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES ARE ALSO A GREAT PLACE TO MAKE FRIENDS.

TRANSITIONING INTO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Minnetonka schools provide several support activities that ease transitions between schools. Our middle school principals and counseling staff visit fifth-grade classrooms. The Fifth Grade Finale at each middle school and Fifth Grade Track and Field Day bring students from feeder schools together through social activities.

Sixth grade is designed to transition students into middle school. Most sixth-grade classrooms are in close proximity to the school media center and other sixth-grade classes. Students should have no fear of getting lost in our schools.



At all grade levels, students enroll in classes that best support learning, academic success and interests. Teachers work with students on organization, responsibility for school work and study habits necessary for future success.

Students who move to the community during the school year receive additional transition support. Our staff will identify a student with similar interests to serve as a friend during the transition.

Eighth grade provides another important milestone as students prepare for high school. In February, high school staff and student leaders begin working with eighth grade students to ensure a smooth transition into high school.

CAREER EXPLORATION

Middle school is a good time to begin exploring possibilities for future careers. Our middle level counseling curriculum includes goal setting and career exploration. In addition, classroom teachers will open the doors to related career opportunities within each subject area.

Minnetonka middle schools use Naviance Student to focus on learning styles in sixth grade, strength identification and exploration in seventh grade, and career and post-secondary exploration in eighth grade. We also work closely with eighth graders to help them make informed, personalized choices as they transition to Minnetonka High School.

EXPLORE ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Enrichment activities meet before or after school. Some last a few weeks, others last the whole year. Visit the activities page of our website at least once each quarter to discover new opportunities. Just be sure to try something each year.

STAY ACTIVE WITH ATHLETICS

Middle school athletics effectively balance the goals of teamwork, participation, skill development, competition, wellness and sportsmanship. Students have the opportunity to compete against metro-area conference schools in cross-country running, tennis, volleyball, wrestling, cross-country skiing, golf, and track and field.

Minnetonka Community Education and community youth sports organizations also run a broad range of recreational and competitive youth sports programs, including: basketball, soccer, lacrosse, sailing, skating, wrestling and more. Google "Minnetonka" "youth" and your sport of interest to learn more.

In Minnesota, seventh and eighth grade student athletes may participate on high school teams such as cross country running, dance, swimming/diving, tennis, gymnastics, and wrestling among other interscholastic sports. Visit the high school activities website for tryout and eligibility information.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Drama Club
- Jazz Band
- Knowledge Bowl
- Math Team
- Musical Theatre
- Science Olympiad
- Speech Team
- Student Leadership
- Technovation
- Yearbook

see each school's Activities website for more...

Support

CHILD-CENTERED CULTURE

Minnetonka middle schools truly offer a child-centered culture that looks out for every student. Teachers and school staff are ever-present, making sure each child is taken care of socially, emotionally and academically. There is strong adult presence in the hallways at all times, from staff members talking to students during passing time to Friendly Presence parent volunteers helping with lockers and questions. Middle school brings a new level of freedom and responsibility. Minnetonka teachers guide students on how to live up to high standards of academic and behavioral excellence. We are proud that our students rise to the challenge!

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Middle school counselors provide assistance to all students in the areas of academic, social and emotional support, crisis intervention and prevention, consultation about student needs, proactive developmental guidance, educational planning, student placement and scheduling, transitioning, support groups and referrals to outside agencies. School counselors are assigned to a grade-level and stay with that group of students all three years of middle school.

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

MME

Dawn Bruesehoff
(952) 401-5212

Tara Kamann
(952) 401-5211

Matt Lichty
(952) 401-5215

Lindsay Stashek
(952) 401-5213

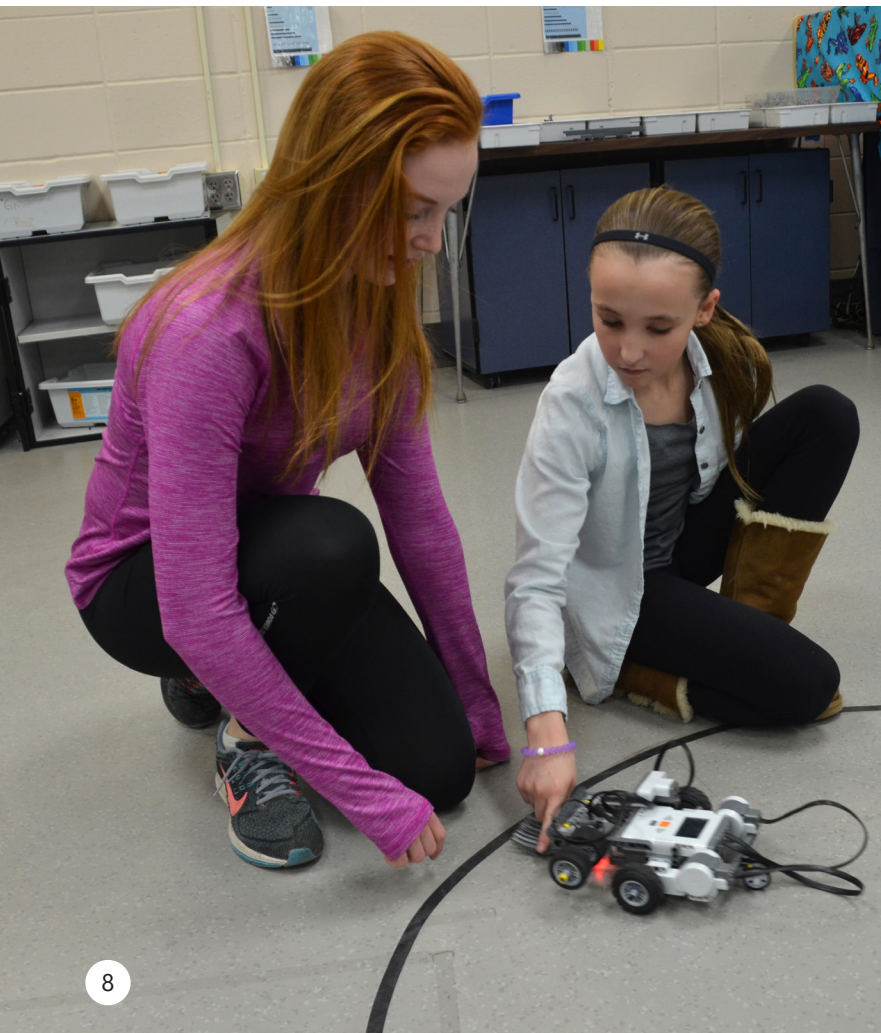
MMW

Neil Dejewski
(952) 401-5315

Paula Erbsch
(952) 401-5316

Laura Rosati
(952) 401-5314

Farrah Jennings
(952) 401-5300



"As middle school counselors, we wear a variety of hats from comforter to cheerleader to mentor as we support students through their three years in our school. Watching students grow makes our career rewarding and fulfilling every day."

– Lindsay Stashek,
MME Counselor

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Minnetonka middle schools provide collaborative/consultative support in general education classrooms, co-teaching, supplemental instructional support in a special education classroom and core instruction in a special education classroom to best meet students' needs as prescribed by the Individual Education Plan (IEP). Special care is provided in the transition from elementary to middle school special education services and for the middle school to high school transition. Additional rigorous remedial supports have been incorporated into the middle school program. These supports will be structured to provide students with targeted academic instruction.

ADVANCED LEARNING

Advanced Learning services support the intellectual, social and emotional needs of high-ability students. In addition to honors courses, advanced students may be enrolled in Seminar (6, 7 or 8), which provides students consistent opportunities to collaborate with intellectual peers while developing critical and creative thinking skills. Learning experiences are designed to be challenging, high-interest, and open-ended. Advanced students are also encouraged to participate in co-curricular academic competitions.

ELL (ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER)

Our middle schools provide appropriate learning experiences for every ELL (English Language Learner) student with consideration for first language levels and English abilities in academic and social contexts. ELL teachers work to meet each student's specific needs as they achieve English proficiency.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Students whose parents are involved in their education do better in school. During middle school years, students experience the paradox of needing their parents close, but often not wanting their parents around. There are many ways parents can remain active in school while honoring the teen's quest for independence. The Middle School East PTA and Middle School West PTO focus on parent education and supporting school programs. Middle school years are critically important in guiding young teens to make healthy choices. Parents are invited to take full advantage of resources and networking opportunities provided through the PTA/PTO. Volunteers are also needed to support many school activities and increase the adult presence in our schools. Please continue to be involved. A link to each school's PTA/PTO website can be found under the "Parents" tab on each middle school homepage.



Excel

MINNETONKA STUDENTS PURSUE THEIR PASSIONS THROUGH A VARIETY OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS. AS INDIVIDUAL LEARNERS, STUDENTS MAY QUALIFY FOR CHALLENGING COURSEWORK BASED ON THEIR INTEREST AND ABILITY. ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO LEARN BEYOND THE CONFINES OF TRADITIONAL GRADE LEVELS AND CLASSROOM WORK RAISES THEIR EXPECTATIONS AND INSPIRES THEM TO EXCEL.

FINE ARTS

The Minnetonka School District is committed to offering world-class fine arts programming to all students. Our middle schools provide elective options to increase student knowledge and appreciation of the fine arts. Through performance and presentation (display/exhibit) opportunities that expand each year, students can explore and pursue potential talents in band, orchestra, choir, classroom/general music, drama and studio art. Students who wish to play an instrument and develop vocal talents are encouraged to join morning choir in addition to registering for band or orchestra. Small group and individual lessons are available to help students excel in vocal and instrumental music.

WORLD LANGUAGES

In addition to our Language Immersion Program detailed on pages 12-13, Minnetonka offers introductory world language courses beginning in seventh grade. Students have the chance to explore a world language for one quarter. Students may choose to study French, German or Spanish before making the decision to take a full-year of a world language as an eighth grader or delay world language until high school. Colleges typically require two years of world language. If students only expect to take two years of a language, they should wait until high school. If the goal is fluency and they plan to take four or five years of a language before college, students should choose to take a full-year of a world language in eighth grade.

Seventh grade Immersion students in our Immersion program may choose a quarter-long Culture and Arts course in their target language or select an introduction to a third language.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS (STEM)

From the first year of middle school, we ignite students' passion for STEM through the sixth grade STEM course, which provides students with highly interactive, hands-on, group activities built around STEM concepts. Each activity is designed to emphasize collaborative learning, critical and analytical thinking, problem solving, creativity and effective experimental design. Through these activities students grow in confidence and curiosity while gaining critical 21st Century skills. Students will have computer programming experiences embedded in both STEM in sixth grade and Tech Ed in seventh grade through our LEGO Robotics and application development units as well as opportunities to select other computer science electives.

HONORS & ACCELERATED SCIENCE

To meet the needs of budding scientists, Minnetonka offer both honors level science as well as our innovative Accelerated Science sequence.

The **Honors Science** course is offered in seventh and eighth grades. It provides highly motivated and knowledgeable students with a science experience built on complex activities and assignments, in-depth conversations with peers and teachers, rigorous content and high expectations.

Our **Accelerated Science Sequence** is a three-year program. It begins in sixth grade and is targeted to meet the distinct needs of the top 11 percent of science students. This profile of student has an advanced level of content knowledge, is innately curious and passionate about science, and is able to quickly comprehend and apply science concepts.

To leverage these unique skills, our Accelerated Science sequence covers three years of middle school science curriculum (physical, life, earth) in two years by compacting the essential concepts from each content area. The curriculum focuses on inquiry and project-based learning and includes an introduction to chemistry and physics (matter, elements, compounds, energy, waves, forces, motion), cell biology, living organisms, ecology, earth composition and structure, earth hydrosphere and atmosphere and the solar system.

After completing the first two years of the Accelerated Science sequence, students take an Applied Physics and Chemistry course during their eighth-grade year. This course emphasizes research and experimentation methodology through open and guided inquiry. The curriculum focuses on essential content and skills that form the foundation for high school AP Physics and AP Chemistry.

MATHEMATICS PLACEMENT

Students are carefully placed in math levels to ensure they are appropriately challenged. Placement is determined by a student's standardized assessment results and classroom performance. We recognize that students may develop their mathematics passion and strength at different ages. Therefore we provide

opportunities for students to enter advanced math classes throughout middle school.

For students whose assessment data and classroom performance indicate that placement in a higher level math level may be appropriate, there are two opportunities to accelerate through curriculum: By completing an independent study course and passing a final exam, students may test out of Pre-Algebra during the summer before sixth or seventh grade. Students may follow this process to test out of Geometry the summer before ninth grade.

Note: Students may not complete Algebra as an independent study because the concepts of Algebra provide the foundation for all advanced mathematics.

ACCELERATED MATH

Minnetonka students can accelerate in math during elementary or middle school. Our middle schools offer three levels of math at each grade level. Our most advanced math students may begin middle school in Algebra and progress through Geometry and Higher Algebra by eighth grade, laying the foundation to complete AP Calculus AB and BC, and even Multivariable Calculus, in high school. Some students begin in Pre-Algebra and progress through Algebra and Geometry by eighth grade. Most students complete Algebra by eighth grade.

HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS & SOCIAL STUDIES

Honors language arts is available beginning in sixth grade. In eighth grade, students with a passion for global issues and affairs may consider Honors Global Studies, which requires greater depth of knowledge and complexity.

MINNETONKA MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT SPRING 2019

89%

of students proficient in math per MCA results, grade 8 (compared to 56% in the state)

87%

of students proficient in reading per MCA results, grade 8 (compared to 58% in the state)

73%

of students proficient in science per MCA results, grade 8 (compared to 42% in the state)

202

Presidential Academic Excellence Awards Grade 8

Immersion

BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

Minnetonka's Language Immersion Program began in 2007 at all six elementary schools with the goal of providing English-speaking children the opportunity to acquire fluency in a second language. Minnetonka's Middle School Language Immersion Program offers both Spanish Immersion and Chinese Immersion. Minnetonka's program is the largest Immersion program in Minnesota.

The District has seen incredible results from the elementary program and is committed to providing students with opportunities to continue developing their second language fluency throughout middle school and high school. Assessment results reveal that students are being well prepared in both the English language and the Immersion language. It is critical that these skills be expanded to enable students to be highly successful in middle school, high school and college.

LANGUAGE IMMERSION AND THE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT

Minnetonka's Middle School Language Immersion Program was specifically designed to meet the needs of the middle school student. While encouraging students to continue in the Language Immersion program, the middle school program provides opportunities to expand friendships and peer groups through class scheduling, field trips and project-based learning opportunities whenever possible, and access to honors level classes. This is essential to early adolescent social and emotional development.



MINNETONKA Language Immersion

In all three grades, students have elective opportunities and follow a class schedule that will prepare them to transition to high school.

Minnetonka also offers students choice in continuing their Immersion language learning or, perhaps, starting a third language during middle school. While we encourage all Immersion students to work toward second-language adult fluency, we recognize that choice is part of the middle school experience and our model can accommodate various options for students.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FLEX-SCHEDULE MODEL

Minnetonka's Middle School Language Immersion Program uses a flex-schedule model that maximizes the overall middle school experience and extends language learning.

The benefits of the flex-schedule model include continued language development with a focus on writing, reading, speaking and listening; full access to other course options (including honors courses, support programs and all electives); and a common schedule relative to English language students.

CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT IMMERSION LOOKS LIKE AFTER MIDDLE SCHOOL?

Visit minnetonkaschools.org/immersion and navigate to the "Language Immersion (9-12)" page to view courses and learn more.

IMMERSION CURRICULAR AREAS

In sixth grade, students enroll in Immersion Social Studies paired with Immersion Language Arts for the entire year. Aligned with state standards, social studies expands students' understanding of history by exploring the geography and historical developments of people, places and patterns of life from a combination of ancient civilizations and Minnesota history. Immersion Language Arts improves students' reading, writing, speaking and listening skills in the target language.

In seventh grade, Immersion Social Studies is again paired with Immersion Language Arts for the entire year. Students may choose to take either a quarter-long Spanish or Chinese Culture and Arts course, or begin a new world language.

Eighth grade students have the following options:

- Maximize Immersion learning by continuing in both Immersion Social Studies and Immersion World Language with a focus on literature.
- Enroll in either the Immersion Social Studies or Immersion World Language course only.
- Begin level one of a new world language.

STUDENTS MAY CHOOSE FROM THREE PATHS

Students may select one of three paths based on their language ability, commitment and personal goals: Advanced, Intermediate/Advanced and Intermediate. Each path prepares students to take the Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Culture course in either ninth or tenth grade. Students may select other AP and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses in high school. Each path also provides a variety of international study experiences, including study abroad opportunities during spring break of the eighth grade year.

Advanced Path: This path is for students who wish to make the most of their Language Immersion education, reaching the highest fluency level offered by Minnetonka Public Schools. Students interested in taking AP and IB courses and pursuing the IB Bilingual Diploma in high school should consider this path.

Intermediate/Advanced Path: This path focuses on Immersion Language Arts. In seventh grade, students may take an optional, one-quarter Immersion Culture & Arts elective. Eighth grade Immersion Social Studies is not required. Students can still pursue AP/IB courses and the IB Bilingual Diploma in high school.

Intermediate Path: This path is for students who want to continue their Immersion Language studies and take AP/IB courses later in high school.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LANGUAGE IMMERSION PATHS	
Advanced Path	
Grade 6	• Immersion Social Studies and Immersion Language Arts for 85 minutes
Grade 7	• Immersion Social Studies and Immersion Language Arts for 85 minutes • Immersion Culture & Arts Elective (one-quarter)
Grade 8	• Immersion Social Studies for 55 minutes • Immersion Language Arts for 55 minutes
Intermediate/Advanced Path	
Grade 6	• Immersion Social Studies and Immersion Language Arts for 85 minutes
Grade 7	• Immersion Social Studies and Immersion Language Arts for 85 minutes • Immersion Culture & Arts Elective (one-quarter, optional)
Grade 8	• Immersion Language Arts for 55 minutes
Intermediate Path	
Grade 6	• Immersion Social Studies and Immersion Language Arts for 85 minutes
Grade 7	• Immersion Social Studies and Immersion Language Arts for 85 minutes
Grade 8	• Immersion Language Arts for 55 minutes

Honors/Accelerated Course Placement

Placement Standards

The Director of Advanced Learning Programs and the Director of Assessment, in collaboration with school principals, determine student course placement based on the following standards:

Placement criteria are meaningful:

- Criteria identify students based on skills and knowledge that are central to success in the course.

Placement criteria are non-arbitrary:

- One “cut point” alone does not preclude a student from participation. There is a range where other factors can be considered.

Placement processes are equitable:

- Students are placed following the same criteria regardless of school, teacher or parent advocacy.

Placement processes are transparent:

- The process is clear, coherent, readily available and understandable to parents.

Placement Process

The Director of Advanced Learning Programs and the Director of Assessment analyze data and recommend student placement through multiple paths:

1. Students with data meeting honors/accelerated criteria are automatically placed in an advanced course. **Exception:** A parent request for non-honors/accelerated placement is honored.
2. Students with data that is close to meeting criteria undergo an automatic File Review. The District gathers expanded data and sends it to the principal along with recommendations. Expanded data may include NWEA/MCA history and classroom assessment history.
3. Placement is communicated to parents by school staff after file reviews are complete. After placement is communicated in mid-July, questions may be directed to the school principal.
4. Students placed in an honors or accelerated class will have the opportunity to continue in honors class—from quarter to quarter and from year to year—if they have consistently maintained at least a B- average in each quarter.

GRADE 6 QUALIFYING PLACEMENT CRITERIA

Pre-Algebra 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 of the last 3 NWEA math assessment scores at the 90th percentile or higher <i>and</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • successful completion of Grade 5 accelerated math OR successful completion of assigned summer study materials
Algebra 6 <i>Historically, approx. 7-9% of sixth graders are placed in Algebra 6</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWEA RIT score of 248 or greater in fall of Grade 5, exceptional achievement in Accelerated Math 5, and passing score of 85% on Pre-Algebra final exam in May or Aug. <i>or</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWEA RIT score of 260 or greater in spring of Grade 5, exceptional achievement in Accelerated Math 5, and passing score of 85% on Pre-Algebra final exam in August
Honors Language Arts 6 <i>Historically, approx. 17-22% of sixth graders are placed in Honors Language Arts 6</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 of the last 3 NWEA Reading scores at the 95th percentile <i>and</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exemplary scores on the Grade 5 summative writing assessment (taken in March)
Accelerated Science 6 <i>Historically, approx. 11-12% of sixth graders are placed in Accelerated Science 6</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At or above 95th percentile on spring of Grade 5 NWEA Science Assessment or exceptional performance on the Grade 5 MCA Science assessment, and at or above 95th percentile on recent NWEA Reading and Math assessments
Honors Humanities 6 <i>Approximately 7-9% of sixth graders will be placed in Honors Humanities 6</i> <i>This integrated, 2-period, social studies and language arts course is taught in English. (Immersion students have an Immersion Social Studies and Immersion Language Arts block in 6th grade.)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent history of 98th -99th percentile NWEA Reading scores <i>and/or</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 99th percentile on verbal aptitude assessment (data obtained from past testing) <i>and</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong performance on the Grade 5 District writing assessment

GRADE 7 QUALIFYING PLACEMENT CRITERIA

Algebra 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of Pre-Algebra 6 <i>or</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptional performance in Math 6 and 95th percentile on spring of Grade 6 NWEA Math assessment and score at least 85% on Pre-Algebra final in August
Geometry 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of Algebra 6
Honors Language Arts 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of Honors Language Arts 6 <i>or</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 6 students with 2 of the last 3 NWEA Reading scores at the 90th percentile and exemplary scores on the sixth grade summative writing assessment (taken in March)
Honors Science 7 (Life Science)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of Science 6, at or above the 90th percentile on the NWEA Science assessment, at or above the 90th percentile on NWEA Math and Reading
Honors Humanities 7 <i>Approximately 7-9% of seventh graders will be placed in Honors Humanities 7</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of Honors Humanities 6 <i>or</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent history of 98th -99th percentile NWEA Reading scores <i>and/or</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 99th percentile on verbal aptitude assessment (data obtained from past testing) <i>and</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong performance on the Grade 6 District writing assessment
Accelerated Science 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of Accelerated Science 6 <i>or</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 99th percentile on Spring of Grade 6 NWEA Science Assessment and exceptional performance in Science 6, and 95th percentile on recent NWEA Reading and Math assessments

GRADE 8 QUALIFYING PLACEMENT CRITERIA

Geometry 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of Algebra 7
Higher Algebra 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of Geometry 7
Honors Language Arts 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of Honors Language Arts 7 <i>or</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 7 students with 2 of the last 3 NWEA Reading scores at the 90th percentile and exemplary scores on the seventh grade District writing assessment (taken in March)
Honors Science 8 (Earth Science)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of Honors Science 7 <i>or</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptional performance in Science 7, and 90th percentile on recent NWEA Science, Math and Reading assessments
Accelerated Science 8 (Applied Physics and Chemistry)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of Accelerated Science 7 <i>or</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptional performance in Science 7, 99th percentile on spring Grade 7 NWEA Science assessment, and 95th percentile on recent NWEA Reading and Math assessments
Honors Global Studies 8 (Includes Immersion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exemplary score on the Global Studies District writing assessment <i>and</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 of the last 2 NWEA or MCA Reading scores at the 95th percentile or higher

6th GRADE

LANGUAGE ARTS



SOCIAL STUDIES



Immersion Pathway



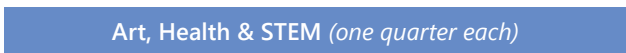
MATH*



SCIENCE



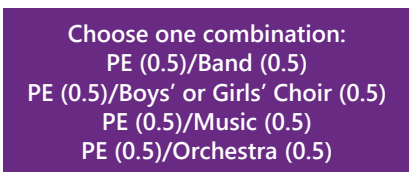
SCHEDULED ELECTIVES



CHOICE ELECTIVE 1 (one quarter)



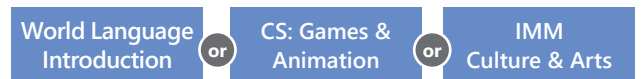
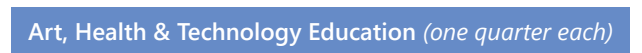
CHOICE ELECTIVE 2



7th GRADE



Immersion Pathway

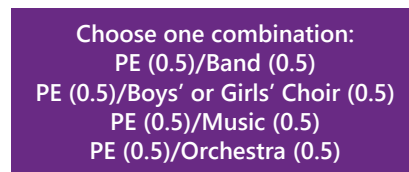


French, German or Spanish

Immersion

IMM Culture & Arts

Chinese or Spanish



NOTES

*Minnesota state law requires all students to complete Algebra by eighth grade.

Targeted support options for grades 6, 7 and 8 are scheduled by school staff based on standardized assessment data and teacher input: Reading Skills (Comp LA), Math Skills (Comp Math), Study Skills.

8th GRADE

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts **or** Honors Language Arts

SOCIAL STUDIES

Global Studies **or** Honors Global Studies

Immersion Pathway

IMM Global Studies **or** IMM Honors Global Studies

MATH*

Algebra **or** Geometry **or** Higher Algebra

SCIENCE

Earth Science **or** Honors Earth Science **or** Accel Science
Applied Physics & Chemistry

SCHEDULED

Advisory

CHOICE ELECTIVE 1

Elective Pathway (1 semester, every other day [0.25])

Art and Design	Current Health
3D Art and Design	Advanced Robotics
Drawing & Painting	Computer Science 8
Drama	Computer Science 8 Advanced
Culinary Innovations	Woods
Food and Culture	
Creative Writing	

Select four top choices and two alternates.



CHOICE ELECTIVE 2

Choose one combination (every other day, full year)

- PE (0.5)/Band (0.5)
- PE (0.5)/Boys' or Girls' Choir (0.5)
- PE (0.5)/Music (0.5)
- PE (0.5)/Orchestra (0.5)

The Minnetonka Middle School day consists of six, 55-minute periods. We have an A/B day schedule, meaning music and physical education courses are taken on opposite days. Most classes have approximately 28 students. All students have a choice of electives and follow a class schedule preparing them for high school structure.

World Language Pathway (all year, every day)

French **or** German **or** Spanish

Immersion Pathway

IMM LA Chinese **or** IMM LA Spanish



Choose one combination:

- PE (0.5)/Band (0.5)
- PE (0.5)/Boys' or Girls' Choir (0.5)
- PE (0.5)/Music (0.5)
- PE (0.5)/Orchestra (0.5)
- PE (0.25)/Band (0.5)/Elective (0.25)
- PE (0.25)/Boys' or Girls' Choir (0.5)/Elective (0.25)
- PE (0.25)/Music (0.5)/Elective (0.25)
- PE (0.25)/Orchestra (0.5)/Elective (0.25)

If choosing the elective option, select one top choice and two alternates from the Elective Pathway list (above left).

6th Grade Course Descriptions

LANGUAGE ARTS 6

(Every day, all year)

Language Arts will provide students a solid foundation in reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing. Students will study the characteristics of various genres through reading and writing. Key texts include short stories, novels, non-fiction pieces and poetry. Writing assignments will focus on students writing well-developed, single paragraphs with an emphasis on structure and supporting details. Vocabulary development will focus on word meanings, antonyms and synonyms.

HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS 6*

(Every day, all year)

Honors Language Arts is an opportunity for students who are strong readers and writers and are eager to explore language arts in depth. This course will provide students a solid foundation in reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing. Students will apply their knowledge in a variety of ways and will work more independently, often at a faster pace than in Language Arts. Students will study the characteristics of various genres through key texts at challenging Lexile levels. Writing assignments will focus on well-developed paragraphs and multi-paragraph compositions, developing independent revision skills through the process of their writing. Vocabulary development will focus on word meanings, antonyms and synonyms, as well as sentence application and parts of speech.

MATH 6

(Every day, all year)

Topics in Math 6 include number theory, understanding rational numbers, rational number computation, ratios, percents, two- and three-dimensional geometry and measurement, probability, statistics and introducing algebraic concepts.

PRE-ALGEBRA 6*

(Every day, all year)

Topics in Pre-Algebra include an extension of algebraic concepts taught in Math 6. These topics include similarity, proportional reasoning, integers, three-dimensional geometry and measurement, probability and expected value, measures of central tendency, solving linear equations and data variability.

ALGEBRA 6*

(Every day, all year)

Topics in Algebra include data handling, linear relationships, exponential relationships, quadratic relationships, solving linear equations and inequalities, solving with absolute value, solving systems of equations, solving quadratic equations, properties of radicals, properties of exponents and polynomial expressions.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

(Every day, all year)

Physical Science is a course that focuses on concepts in physics and chemistry. Students will learn and implement the scientific method as they explore and experiment. The study of matter focuses on states of matter, atoms, elements, compounds and mixtures. The study of waves is introduced through

the investigation of light and sound. Lastly, students will study concepts of forces, motion and energy while spotlighting Newton's Laws of Motion.

ACCELERATED SCIENCE 6*

(Every day, all year)

Accelerated Science 6 is the first course in a three-year program. Students in the Accelerated Science Program will accelerate through three years of science content (Physical Science, Life Science and Earth Science) by the end of seventh grade. During their eighth grade year, students take an Applied Physics and Chemistry course. The Accelerated Science Program targets students who have demonstrated exceptional scientific reasoning and a wide knowledge of general science concepts. Due to rigorous content and pacing, in addition to science skills, students must achieve at a highly advanced level in both math and reading in order to be eligible for placement in this program.

SOCIAL STUDIES

(Every day, all year)

Students expand their understanding of history by exploring the geography and historical developments of people, places and patterns of life from a combination of ancient civilizations and Minnesota history. Students analyze the interaction among the various cultures, emphasizing their contributions to society.

HONORS HUMANITIES 6*

(Every day, all year)

Honors Humanities 6 is a two-period course that integrates advanced curriculum in social studies (ancient civilizations and Minnesota history) and language arts. This course is designed to meet the unique needs of exceptional readers and critical thinkers. Students will be encouraged to pose questions about the world as they engage in learning through history, literature and philosophy. They will be instructed to apply the knowledge they gain, making contemporary connections to historic philosophies and themes. Over time, students will develop a critical and dynamic world view that provides deeper understanding, respect for alternative perspectives and skills for leadership.

IMMERSION SOCIAL STUDIES: CHINESE

(All year, paired with Immersion Language Arts)

Students expand their understanding of history by exploring the geography and historical developments of people, places and patterns of life from a combination of ancient civilizations and Minnesota history. Students analyze the interaction among the various cultures, emphasizing their contributions to society.

IMMERSION SOCIAL STUDIES: SPANISH

(All year, paired with Immersion Language Arts)

Students expand their understanding of history by exploring the geography and historical developments of people, places and patterns of life from a combination of ancient civilizations and Minnesota history. Students analyze the interaction among the various cultures, emphasizing their contributions to society.

IMMERSION LANGUAGE ARTS: CHINESE

(All year, paired with Immersion Social Studies)

Immersion Language Arts will provide students a continuation of their language work from elementary school, improving their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Students will study various genres through reading and writing.

IMMERSION LANGUAGE ARTS: SPANISH

(All year, paired with Immersion Social Studies)

Immersion Language Arts will provide students a continuation of their language work from elementary school, improving their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Students will study various genres through reading and writing.

ART

(Every day, one quarter, required)

This course encompasses broad visual art experiences. The course is designed to build knowledge of artists and art history, to create an awareness of visual art within their world and to develop techniques for creating and understanding artworks. To accomplish this, students will experience using a variety of art mediums which will include drawing, painting and sculpting.

HEALTH

(Every day, one quarter, required)

This course will empower students to make healthy life-long decisions that influence self, family and community. Students will be provided opportunities to explore personal, community and global health issues in a positive, supportive environment. Students will analyze the influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology and other factors on health behaviors. Students will demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health. Additionally, students will demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and avoid health risks.

STEM

(Every day, one quarter, required)

STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The foundation of this course will be highly interactive group activities built around STEM concepts. Group activities may include Robotics, Computer Aided Design, or building physical structures among other hands on activities. Each activity is designed to emphasize collaborative learning, critical and analytical thinking, creative thinking, problem solving and experimental design. Through participation in STEM course activities, students will practice many of the critical skills needed for 21st Century careers.

**See honors/accelerated course placement on pg. 14*

LIFE ESSENTIALS

(Every day, one quarter)

In Life Essentials, students will learn how to be lifelong learners who are empowered to make healthy decisions regarding nutrition, fitness and lifestyle. Students will demonstrate culinary techniques in various small group cooking labs. This course will feature global learning, opportunities for creativity and collaboration.

COMPUTER SCIENCE FOUNDATIONS

(Every day, one quarter)

"Computer Science opens more doors for our students than any other discipline in today's world. (Code.org)." This class will provide students a foundation of computer science with a heavy emphasis on programming. Students will get an opportunity to program for games, animation and apps. They will learn the important role hardware plays through a unit in physical computing using Micro:bits. Finally they will begin to build a computer science e-Portfolio. Students will love the problem solving, project-based approach to this class, in which mistakes are seen as an avenue for learning, and grading rubrics are written in such a way that allows all skill levels to find success.

SEMINAR 6

Seminar 6 is designed to fully engage gifted learners in rigorous, high-interest, open-ended learning experiences which develop critical and creative thinking skills. Through Seminar 6, students regularly connect and collaborate with intellectual peers in a setting which supports cognitive and personal challenge. Students identified to receive advanced learning services participate in Seminar 6 throughout the school year.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

(Every other day, all year)

This course is designed to enhance students' interest and participation in lifetime fitness activities and a variety of lifetime sports. Opportunities will be provided for participation in individual, dual and team sports and activities. Throughout the course, emphasis will be placed on fundamentals, rules, strategies and individual physical fitness.

BAND

(Every other day, all year)

In this course, a variety of musical literature will be studied and students will have multiple performance experiences throughout the year. The fundamentals of instrumental musicianship will be reviewed and emphasized throughout the course. Students will develop their note reading and rhythmic skills while focusing on tone production and instrument technique. In addition to the large group rehearsal every other day, students will also receive several small-group lessons each quarter. Assessments will include both formative and summative performance skill assessments and some written assessments. If a student hasn't participated in band before but would like to start, please call the middle school so they may share suggestions for a successful first experience.

MUSIC

(Every other day, all year)

Music is an exciting course that will explore the world of music through musical theater, multicultural music, composers, playing a variety of instruments, singing and performance. Examples of units include Lines to Lyrics, Music of the Theater, Boomwhackers, Percussion, Intro to Keyboard and Mozart to Metallica.

ORCHESTRA

(Every other day, all year)

In this course, a variety of orchestral literature will be studied and students will have multiple performance experiences throughout the year. The fundamentals of instrumental musicianship will be reviewed and emphasized throughout the course. Students will develop their note reading and rhythmic skills while focusing on tone production and bowing technique. In addition to the large group rehearsal every other day, students will also receive several small-group lessons each quarter. Assessments will include both formative and summative performance skill assessment and some written assessment. If a student hasn't participated in orchestra before but would like to start, please call the middle school so they may share suggestions for a successful first experience.

CHOIR

(Every other day, all day)

Choir is an upbeat course where students work together as a team to develop their singing skills. Choir members will work on vocal technique, rehearsal skills and be given a well-rounded background in music fundamentals. Each student will develop independent singing and reading skills to attain a high level of musicianship and confidence. If possible, students may be placed in a boys-only or girls-only choir to enhance the opportunities for developing voices. There will be opportunities for performances throughout the year, including field trips.



"In Language Arts class we learn about different types of writing and that's how I discovered that I really enjoy writing poems."

– Brooke, grade 6

6th Grade course descriptions, continued

READING WORKSHOP/COMP LA

(Every other day)

Reading Skills is a course for students who are not projected to pass the MCA Reading test, who have a history of struggling in reading comprehension, test-taking and/or low grades in core areas due to reading difficulties. Students qualify and are assigned to this every other day course based on standardized and informal reading assessments. Students will be recommended for this course by administration and will take this course in place of physical education or music.

MATH BOOST/COMP MATH

(Every other day)

Math Skills is a course for students who are not projected to pass the MCA Math test, who have a history of struggling in math and/or who have identified gaps in their math knowledge based on formal and informal classroom assessments. Students who qualify will be assigned to this every other day course based on standardized assessments (MCA and NWEA) and informal assessments (classroom formative and summative assessments and observations). The course will provide students specific, targeted support following an Rtl model, which will align course objectives to each student's specific needs. This "second period" of math will accomplish two things:

- Prepare students for successful completion of the MCA State assessment in their junior year, which will allow them to be on track to meet the state standards for graduation.
- Support students by offering meaningful help in basic math skills not previously mastered, as well as support topics students are covering in their math course. Students will be recommended for this course by administration and will take this course in place of physical education or music.

STUDY SKILLS

(Every other day)

Study Skills is a course designed for students who need additional support in mastering foundational success skills. The course will focus on effectively using an electronic planning tool (choice of apps to fit individual style), textbook reading strategies, test-taking strategies, study techniques and organizational skills. Students will be recommended for this course by administration and will take this course in place of physical education or music.

ELL SUPPORT CLASS

ELL Support Class is a structured and supportive environment for learning and practicing academic English in the language domains of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Designed as a resource for English Learners (ELs), this class provides language support in the content areas of language arts, math, science and social studies. Students receive direct instruction in grammar, vocabulary, literacy and critical thinking skills in a small group setting. Additional support is provided with pre-teaching, re-teaching, test review and small group testing.

ELL LANGUAGE ARTS

As a content area course, ELL Language Arts promotes the development of both social language and academic literacy skills for English Learners (ELs) through the language domains of listening, speaking, reading, writing and viewing. Reading instruction focuses on fiction and nonfiction texts in a variety of forms and purposes, with grammar embedded in instruction. Robust vocabulary learning focuses on Sadlier Oxford word lists, text specific words, and Greek and Latin roots and affixes. Students use technology to develop, enhance and communicate their ideas in this small group setting.

7th Grade Course Descriptions

LANGUAGE ARTS 7

(Every day, all year)

Language Arts will provide students a solid foundation in reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing. Students will study the characteristics of various genres through reading and writing. Key texts include short stories, novels, non-fiction pieces and poetry. Writing assignments will focus on students writing well-developed compositions in different styles and genres. Vocabulary development and grammar study will include rules as well as patterns.

HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS 7*

(Every day, all year)

Honors Language Arts is an opportunity for students who are strong readers and writers and are eager to explore language arts in depth. This course will provide students a solid foundation in reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing. Students will apply their knowledge in a variety of ways and will work more independently, often at a faster pace than in Language Arts. Students will study the characteristics of various genres through key texts at challenging Lexile levels. Writing assignments will focus on students writing well developed multi-paragraph compositions and developing independent revision skills through the process of their writing. Vocabulary development and grammar study will include rules as well as patterns.

PRE-ALGEBRA 7

(Every day, all year)

Topics in Pre-Algebra include an extension of algebraic concepts taught in Math 6. These topics include similarity, proportional reasoning, integers, three-dimensional geometry and measurement, probability and expected value, measures of central tendency, solving linear equations and data variability.

ALGEBRA 7*

(Every day, all year)

Prerequisite: B- or higher in Pre-Algebra.

Topics in Algebra include data handling, linear relationships, exponential relationships, quadratic relationships, solving linear equations and inequalities, solving with absolute value, solving systems of equations, solving quadratic equations, properties of radicals, properties of exponents and polynomial expressions.

*Note: students can move from Math 6 in sixth grade to Algebra in seventh grade. The student must successfully complete the criteria outlined on pp. 10-11.

GEOMETRY 7*

(Every day, all year)

Prerequisite: B- or higher in Algebra 6.

This course will help the student better understand the nature of a mathematical system. Intuitive, inductive and deductive reasoning are used to develop the geometry of planes and space. Students will write

formal proofs as they develop these types of reasoning. Topics studied include congruent triangles, angle relationships, parallel lines and planes, similarity, circles, area and volume.

LIFE SCIENCE 7

(Every day, all year)

In Life Science students will study ideas such as cells, genetics, ecology and living organisms. Students will learn and use scientific procedures, the metric system, scientific tools and the scientific method. All students will be offered challenging learning experiences and all will be actively involved in their learning.

HONORS SCIENCE 7 (LIFE SCIENCE)*

(Every day, all year)

In Honors Life Science students will study ideas such as cells, genetics, ecology and living organisms. Students in this course will complete complex activities and assignments which may require more time and effort than is expected in the general Life Science course. Students taking this course must be self-motivated, willing to accept the rigorous expectations and able to read and comprehend advanced non-fiction material.

ACCELERATED SCIENCE 7*

(Every day, all year)

Students who were previously enrolled in Accelerated Science 6 will continue to accelerate through three years of science content (Physical Science, Life Science and Earth Science) and complete it by the end of seventh grade. During their eighth grade year, students take an Applied Physics and Chemistry course. The Accelerated Science Program targets students who have demonstrated exceptional scientific reasoning and a wide knowledge of general science concepts. Due to rigorous content and pacing, in addition to science skills, students must achieve at a highly advanced level in both math and reading in order to be eligible for placement in this program.

U.S. HISTORY

(Every day, all year)

In this course, students will examine people, issues and events of significance to this nation's history from 1800 to the current era of globalization. They will analyze the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and Supreme Court decisions and determine the impact on the American people, economy and governance structure. Students study civics and economic principles in depth, drawing connections between these disciplines and history to explain the impact of various policies on how people lived, worked and functioned in society. They create and use detailed maps of places in the United States and conduct historical inquiry on a topic in the nation's history.

HONORS HUMANITIES 7*

(Every day, all year)

Honors Humanities 7 is a two-period course that integrates advanced curriculum in social studies (US History) and language arts. This course is designed to meet the unique needs of exceptional readers and critical thinkers. Students will be encouraged to pose questions about the world as they engage in learning through history, literature and philosophy. They will be instructed to apply the knowledge they gain, making contemporary connections to historic philosophies and themes. Over time, students will develop a critical and dynamic world view that provides deeper understanding, respect for alternative perspectives and skills for leadership.

IMMERSION U.S. HISTORY: CHINESE

(All year, paired with Immersion Language Arts)

In this course, students will examine people, issues and events of significance to this nation's history from 1800 to the current era of globalization. They will analyze the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and Supreme Court decisions and determine the impact on the American people, economy and governance structure. Students study civics and economic principles in depth, drawing connections between these disciplines and history to explain the impact of various policies on how people lived, worked and functioned in society. They create and use detailed maps of places in the United States and conduct historical inquiry on a topic in the nation's history. This course will be taught fully in the target language.

IMMERSION U.S. HISTORY: SPANISH

(All year, paired with Immersion Language Arts)

In this course, students will examine people, issues and events of significance to this nation's history from 1800 to the current era of globalization. They will analyze the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and Supreme Court decisions and determine the impact on the American people, economy and governance structure. Students study civics and economic principles in depth, drawing connections between these disciplines and history to explain the impact of various policies on how people lived, worked and functioned in society. They create and use detailed maps of places in the United States and conduct historical inquiry on a topic in the nation's history. This course will be taught fully in the target language.

IMMERSION LANGUAGE ARTS: CHINESE

(All year, paired with Immersion U.S. History)

Immersion Language Arts will provide students a continuation of their language work and focus on improving their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Students will study various genres through reading and writing.

*See honors/accelerated course placement on pg. 15

7th Grade course descriptions, continued

IMMERSION LANGUAGE ARTS: SPANISH

(All year, paired with Immersion U.S. History)

Immersion Language Arts will provide students a continuation of their language work and focus on improving their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Students will study various genres through reading and writing.

HEALTH

(Every day, one quarter)

Health is designed to help students gain the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to remain safe and healthy (physically, emotionally, socially, etc.) throughout their lives. Students will participate in American Red Cross CPR training with certification available. Additionally, students will be exposed to the risks and consequences of chemical use, the characteristics of healthy relationships, the reproductive system and disease prevention. Application of decision-making skills and knowledge will be stressed to encourage health promotion and life-long health.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

(Every day, one quarter)

This course is a combination of engineering design and robotics. It will encourage students to explore the world of product development through researching existing products and creating their own designs based on ergonomic data and survey input. The design unit culminates in students creating 3-D models of their product. The robot unit uses LEGO Mindstorms programming to deliver hands-on math and science experiments with the robots. Students learn group skills while working in both the design and robot units.

ART

(Every day, one quarter)

This course encompasses broad visual art experiences. The course is designed to build knowledge of artists and art history, to create an awareness of visual art within their world and to develop techniques for creating and understanding artworks. To accomplish this, students will experience using a variety of art mediums which will include drawing, painting and sculpting.

FRENCH: INTRODUCTION

(Every day, one quarter)

Students in this French course will study basic vocabulary, grammar and culture. The intent of this course is to introduce students to the type of rigor and commitment that will be required in the yearlong eighth grade French course. Students will begin to communicate in French and appreciate the French culture. The language will be taught through listening, speaking, reading and writing. An important component in the classroom is the teacher's use of

the second language to enhance the development of good listening skills and pronunciation. Upon successful completion of this introductory course, students may continue in French: Level 1 in eighth grade.

GERMAN: INTRODUCTION

(Every day, one quarter)

Students in this German course will study basic vocabulary, grammar and culture. The intent of this course is to introduce students to the type of rigor and commitment that will be required in the yearlong eighth grade German course. Students will begin to communicate in German and appreciate the German culture. The language will be taught through listening, speaking, reading and writing. An important component in the classroom is the teacher's use of the second language to enhance the development of good listening skills and pronunciation. Upon successful completion of this introductory course, students may continue in German: Level 1 in eighth grade.

SPANISH: INTRODUCTION

(Every day, one quarter)

Students in this Spanish course will study basic vocabulary, grammar and culture. The intent of this course is to introduce students to the type of rigor and commitment that will be required in the yearlong eighth grade Spanish course. Students will begin to communicate in Spanish and appreciate the Spanish culture. The language will be taught through listening, speaking, reading and writing. An important component in the classroom is the teacher's use of the second language to enhance the development of good listening skills and pronunciation. Upon successful completion of this introductory course, students may continue in Spanish: Level 1 in eighth grade.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: GAMES & ANIMATION

(Every day, one quarter)

In CS7, students will build on their programming experience as they program animations, interactive art and games in Code.org's Game Lab. Game Lab allows kids to toggle between blocks and text based programming beginning to bridge the gap between concept and the importance of syntax. Students gain a whole new appreciation for apps and games they play as they learn the inner workings of what it takes to create them. During this course, students will add to their Computer Science portfolio by learning CSS which contributes to a more visually appealing site. Students will leave this course with a personal portfolio website demonstrating their programming skills and can be added to in subsequent CS courses.

IMMERSION CHINESE – CULTURE AND ARTS

(Every day, one quarter)

This quarter-long course is offered only to Chinese Immersion students. The course will focus on specific aspects of Chinese culture and arts as well as historically significant events. The goal of this course

is to continue preparing students to be successful on the Chinese AP Language Exam which they will have the opportunity to take at the end of their ninth grade year.

IMMERSION SPANISH – CULTURE AND ARTS

(Every day, one quarter)

This quarter-long course is offered only to Spanish Immersion students. The course will focus on specific aspects of Spanish culture and arts as well as historically significant events. The goal of this course is to continue preparing students to be successful on the Spanish AP Language Exam which they will have the opportunity to take at the end of their ninth grade year.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

(Every other day, all year)

This course is designed to enhance students' interest and participation in lifetime fitness activities and a variety of lifetime sports. Opportunities will be provided for participation in individual, dual and team sports and activities. Throughout the course, emphasis will be placed on fundamentals, rules, strategies and individual physical fitness.

BAND

(Every other day, all year)

In this course, a variety of music literature will be studied and all students will have multiple performance experiences each year. In the first year, the fundamentals of instrumental musicianship will be reviewed and emphasized. Instructional methods will include standard ensemble rehearsal techniques, cooperative learning and aural training. Assessments will include both formative and summative performance skill assessments, quarterly music playing exams and some written assessments. During year two, advanced instrumental musicianship will be the focus and emphasis will be placed on reflective individual learning. Instructional methods will include standard ensemble rehearsal techniques, cooperative learning and aural training. Assessments will include both formative and summative performance skill assessments, quarterly music playing exams and some written assessments.

CHOIR

(Every other day, all year)

In this ensemble-based course, students work together as a team to develop their vocal skills. Choir members will work on proper vocal technique, rehearsal skills and will be given a well-rounded background in music fundamentals. Each student will develop independent singing and reading skills to attain a high level of musicianship and confidence. If possible, students may be placed in a boys-only or girls-only choir to enhance the opportunities for developing voices. There will be several opportunities for performances each year, including field trips for all singers.

7th Grade course descriptions, continued

MUSIC

(Every other day, all year)

Music offers each student an opportunity to play guitar as well as a variety of other instruments. Students will explore music from early America to Rock and Roll. Examples of units include Pulse to Pitch, Composition Creation, Introduction to Guitar, Contemporary American Composers, Rock and Roll, The Roots, West African Drumming, Keyboards and Music and Media.

ORCHESTRA

(Every other day, all year)

In this course, students will build on previous skills learned in orchestra. Students will have multiple performance experiences each year, including a field trip in February. Using a variety of musical literature, the fundamentals of instrumental musicianship will be reviewed and emphasized throughout the course. In seventh grade, students will continue to develop their rhythmic skills while focusing on intonation, tone production and bowing techniques. They will also have an introduction to more advanced techniques, such as shifting and vibrato. In addition to the large group rehearsal every other day, students will also receive several small-group lessons each quarter. Assessments will include both formative and summative performance skill assessments and some written assessments.

SEMINAR 7

Seminar 7 is designed to fully engage gifted learners in rigorous, high-interest, open-ended learning experiences which develop critical and creative thinking skills. Through Seminar 7, students regularly connect and collaborate with intellectual peers in a setting which supports cognitive and personal challenge. Students identified to receive advanced learning services participate in Seminar 7 throughout the school year.

READING WORKSHOP/COMP LA

(Every other day)

Reading Skills is a course for students who are not projected to pass the MCA Reading test, who have a history of struggling in reading comprehension, test-taking and/or low grades in core areas due to reading difficulties. Students qualify and are assigned to this every other day course based on standardized and informal reading assessments. Students will be recommended for this course by administration and will take this course in place of physical education or music.

MATH BOOST/COMP MATH

(Every other day)

Math Skills is a course for students who are not projected to pass the MCA Math test, who have a history of struggling in math and/or who have identified gaps in their math knowledge based on formal and informal classroom assessments. Students who qualify will be assigned to this every other day course based on standardized assessments (MCA and NWEA)

and informal assessments (classroom formative and summative assessments and observations). The course will provide students specific, targeted support following an RtI model, which will align course objectives to each student's specific needs. This "second period" of math will:

- Prepare students for successful completion of the MCA State assessment in their junior year, which will allow them to be on track to meet the State standards for graduation.
- Support students by offering immediate, appropriate and meaningful targeted help that aligns with the math course/homework they are currently completing.
- Students will be recommended for this course by administration and will take this course in place of physical education or music.

STUDY SKILLS

(Every other day)

Study Skills is a course designed for students who need additional support in mastering foundational success skills. The course will focus on effectively using an electronic planning tool (choice of apps to fit individual style), textbook reading strategies, test-taking strategies, study techniques and organizational skills. Students will be recommended for this course by administration and will take this course in place of physical education or music.

ELL SUPPORT CLASS

ELL Support Class is a structured and supportive environment for learning and practicing academic English in the language domains of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Designed as a resource for English Learners (ELs), this class provides language support in the content areas of language arts, math, science and social studies. Students receive direct instruction in grammar, vocabulary, literacy and critical thinking skills in a small group setting. Additional support is provided with pre-teaching, re-teaching, test review and small group testing.

ELL LANGUAGE ARTS

As a content area course, ELL Language Arts promotes the development of both social language and academic literacy skills for English Learners (ELs) through the language domains of listening, speaking, reading, writing and viewing. Reading instruction focuses on fiction and nonfiction texts in a variety of forms and purposes, with grammar embedded in instruction. Robust vocabulary learning focuses on Sadlier Oxford word lists, text specific words, and Greek and Latin roots and affixes. Students use technology to develop, enhance and communicate their ideas in this small group setting.



"I love middle school because you get to change classes every hour and spend time with friends. And I just love the atmosphere. Everyone is so nice!"

– Maile, grade 8

8th Grade Course Descriptions

LANGUAGE ARTS 8

(Every day, all year)

Language Arts will provide students a solid foundation in reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing. Students will study the characteristics of various genres through reading and writing. Key texts include short stories, novels, non-fiction pieces and poetry. Writing assignments will focus on students writing well developed paragraphs and multi-paragraph compositions. Vocabulary development and grammar study will include rules as well as patterns.

HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS 8*

(Every day, all year)

Honors Language Arts is an opportunity for students who are strong readers and writers and are eager to explore language arts in depth. This course will provide students a solid foundation in reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing. Students will apply their knowledge in a variety of ways and will work more independently, often at a faster pace than in Language Arts. Students will study the characteristics of various genres through key texts at challenging Lexile levels. Writing assignments will focus on students writing well developed multi-paragraph compositions and developing independent revision skills through the process of their writing. Vocabulary development and grammar study will include rules as well as patterns.

ALGEBRA 8

(Every day, all year)

Prerequisite: B- or higher in Pre-Algebra and math teacher recommendation

Topics in Algebra include data handling, linear relationships, exponential relationships, quadratic relationships, solving linear equations and inequalities, solving with absolute value, solving systems of equations, solving quadratic equations, Pythagorean Theorem, properties of radicals, properties of exponents and polynomial expressions.

GEOMETRY 8*

(Every day, all year)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 7

This course will help students better understand the nature of a mathematical system. Intuitive, inductive and deductive reasoning are used to develop the geometry of planes and space. Students will write formal proofs as they develop these types of reasoning. Topics studied include congruent triangles, angle relationships, parallel lines and planes, similarity, circles, area and volume.

HIGHER ALGEBRA 8*

(Every day, all year)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Geometry 7

The course reviews and extends basic concepts learned in previous algebra courses. Topics covered in the first semester will include properties of the real number system, matrices, equations, inequalities, factoring, functions and graphing. Second semester topics

include irrational numbers, the complex number system, conic sections, logarithms, exponential functions, combinations and permutations.

EARTH SCIENCE 8

(Every day, all year)

In Earth Science students will study topics in geology, astronomy and meteorology. Students will learn and use scientific procedures, the metric system, scientific tools and the scientific method. All students will be offered challenging learning experiences and all will be actively involved in their learning.

HONORS SCIENCE 8 (EARTH SCIENCE)*

(Every day, all year)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Honors Science 7

In Honors Earth Science students will study the structure and composition of the Earth, the Earth's hydrosphere and atmosphere, the solar system and cosmology. Students who elect to take Honors Earth Science should be self-motivated, willing to accept the rigorous expectations of the course and able to read and comprehend advanced level non-fiction material. Students in Honors Earth Science will complete complex activities and assignments which may require more time and effort and must maintain at least a B-average each quarter.

ACCELERATED SCIENCE 8*

(APPLIED PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY)

(Every day, all year)

Prerequisite: Accelerated Science 6 and 7

This course provides an introduction to the areas of chemistry, physics, and research methodology. The course is taught with an emphasis on open and guided inquiry, and project-based learning. Topics include units of measurement, introductory chemistry, and introductory physics. Measurements include activities on mass, volume, density, temperature, and heat. Chemistry involves topics relating to solubility, atomic structure, chemical reactions, formulas and symbols, naming elements, and compounds. Physics topics include nuclear energy, heat, light, sound, electricity, forces, and motion. Both inductive and deductive activities are used with emphasis on the development and use of higher math skills. In addition, students will develop advanced scientific research skills in guided activities and projects.

GLOBAL STUDIES 8

(Every day, all year)

Students in Global Studies explore the regions of the world using geographic information from print and electronic sources. They analyze important trends in the modern world such as demographic change, shifting trade patterns, and cultural interactions due to globalization. Students participate in civic discussion

on contemporary issues, conduct historical inquiry and study events (political, social and economic) over the last half century that have shaped the contemporary world. They analyze connections between revolutions, independence movements and social transformations, and understand reasons for the creation of modern nation states.

HONORS GLOBAL STUDIES 8*

(Every day, all year)

Students in Honors Global Studies are introduced to the type of rigorous curriculum they can expect to find in the honors and AP courses taught at Minnetonka High School. In addition to the content standards, the course also implements relevant technology and research skills through balanced assessments and differentiated performance tasks. Students should be prepared for significant reading, writing and other course work outside of class time. Students will also be expected to read, study and master the course text in preparation for class lectures, discussions and other activities.

IMMERSION GLOBAL STUDIES: CHINESE

(Every day, all year)

Students in Global Studies explore the regions of the world using geographic information from print and electronic sources. They analyze important trends in the modern world such as demographic change, shifting trade patterns, and cultural interactions due to globalization. Students participate in civic discussion on contemporary issues, conduct historical inquiry and study events (political, social and economic) over the last half century that have shaped the contemporary world. They analyze connections between revolutions, independence movements and social transformations, and understand reasons for the creation of modern nation states. This course will be taught fully in the target language.

IMMERSION GLOBAL STUDIES: SPANISH

(Every day, all year)

Students in Global Studies explore the regions of the world using geographic information from print and electronic sources. They analyze important trends in the modern world such as demographic change, shifting trade patterns, and cultural interactions due to globalization. Students participate in civic discussion on contemporary issues, conduct historical inquiry and study events (political, social and economic) over the last half century that have shaped the contemporary world. They analyze connections between revolutions, independence movements and social transformations, and understand reasons for the creation of modern nation states. This course will be taught fully in the target language.

*See honors/accelerated course placement on pg. 15

IMMERSION LANGUAGE ARTS: CHINESE

(Every day, all year)

Immersion Language Arts will provide students a continuation of their language work and focus on improving their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Students will study various genres through reading and writing and will continue to develop interpersonal, interpretive and presentational communication skills that will prepare them for the high school AP Language and Culture course.

IMMERSION LANGUAGE ARTS: SPANISH

(Every day, all year)

Immersion Language Arts will provide students a continuation of their language work and focus on improving their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Students will study various genres through reading and writing and will continue to develop interpersonal, interpretive and presentational communication skills that will prepare them for the high school AP Language and Culture course.

EMBEDDED HEALTH

Health staff from Minnetonka High School will provide four health lessons designed to cover relevant topics in the lives of teens. The goal of this work involves connecting 8th graders with the community and resources of Minnetonka High School before they arrive on campus for 9th grade. Discussion points include decision making, chemical health, relationships, mental health and positive body image.

FRENCH: LEVEL 1

(Every day, all year)

Students in this course will study practical vocabulary, grammar and culture. It is similar to the Level 1 course taught at the high school level, but without high school credit. One important component in the classroom is the teacher's use of the second language to enhance the development of good listening skills and pronunciation. Students will learn to express themselves and communicate with others on topics closely related to their own experiences and daily life. Students will frequently read and write, relating to the units being studied. French culture will be explored through songs, films and personal experiences. Skits, dialogues, games, partner/group activities, videos and technology supplement the student textbook and foster increased language use and understanding. Upon successful completion of this course, students have the following grade 9 options at Minnetonka High School (MHS):

- B or above: students should go to French II Honors

- B- to C: students should go to French II G
- C- to F: students should repeat French 1 at MHS or choose a new language

GERMAN: LEVEL 1

(Every day, all year)

Students in this course will study basic practical vocabulary, grammar, culture and pronunciation. It is similar to the Level 1 course taught at the high school, but without high school credit. One important component in the classroom is the teacher's use of the second language in order to enhance the development of good listening skills and pronunciation. Students will learn to express themselves and communicate with others on topics closely related to their own experiences and daily life. Students will frequently read and write relating to the units that are being studied. Students will explore culture through songs, useful phrases and videos. Skits, dialogues, games, partner/group activities, videos and technology supplement the student textbook and foster increased language use. Upon successful completion of this course, students have the following options for grade 9 at Minnetonka High School (MHS):

- B- or above: students should go to German II
- C+ or less: students should go to German I
- F: students should repeat German I at MHS or choose a new language

SPANISH: LEVEL 1

(Every day, all year)

Spanish is a fast-paced course where students study basic vocabulary, grammar and culture. It is similar to the Level 1 course taught at the high school, but without high school credit. One important component in the classroom is the teacher's use of the second language in order to enhance the development of good listening skills and pronunciation. Students will learn to express themselves and communicate with others on topics closely related to their own experiences and daily life. Students will frequently read and write related to the units that are being studied. Culture will be explored through songs, movies and personal experiences. Dialogues, games, partner/group activities, videos and technology supplement the student textbook and foster increased language use. Upon successful completion of this course, students have the following options for grade 9 at Minnetonka High School (MHS):

- B or above: students should go to Spanish II Honors
- B- to C: students should go to Spanish II G
- C- to F: students should repeat level 1 at MHS or choose a new language



“With my iPad, I have everything I need in one place. Teachers use it in every single class. Staying organized is easier and I know we learn more that way.”

– Jason, grade 8

8th Grade course descriptions, continued

ART AND DESIGN

(Every other day, one semester)

Art creation will include, but not be limited to, digital media, computer art, design layout and illustration, printmaking, drawing, painting and collage. Students will develop a visual literacy in connection to the elements and principles of design. Through the use of creative problem solving and self-evaluation, students will connect visual artwork with personal, social, cultural and historical context.

3D ART AND DESIGN

(Every other day, one semester)

Through carving, constructing and modeling, students will create original artworks. By using various tools, materials and techniques students will transform 2-dimensional ideas into 3-dimensional form. Students can expect to be drawing throughout this course. By engaging in sculpting students will also examine various cultures and artists using subtractive and additive processes. Media will include but not be limited to clay, wire, paper and a variety of materials.

DRAWING AND PAINTING

(Every other day, one semester)

Students will analyze the use of the elements and principles of visual art in the creation of, presentation of, or response to visual art. Students will demonstrate an understanding of technical drawing and painting skills through the use of various mediums such as charcoal, pastel, acrylic and watercolor. Strong emphasis will be placed on visual expression in relation to experiences, culture and time period.

INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA

(Every other day, one semester)

Drama is a performance-based introductory course where students are exposed to various elements of theatre production. Emphasis will be placed on creative expression and communication through a variety of verbal and non-verbal means. Students will also enhance their "stage presence" and collaboration skills as they explore the nuances of performing with and in front of others. Activities may include voice and movement exercises, theatre games, improvisation and memorization and play reading.

CULINARY INNOVATIONS

(Every other day, one semester)

In this course, students will use their creativity to develop a food company. Students will study marketing, advertising and nutrition surrounding the food industry and will work in small groups to create, prepare and learn how to market healthy snacks. This course incorporates consumerism and entrepreneurship.

FOOD & CULTURE

(Every other day, one semester)

Students will take a journey and explore a variety of cultures from around the world. This course is a great opportunity to expand food preparation skills and increase global awareness. Some of the course topics may include Asian, French, Spanish and Italian cuisines. There will also be a strong focus on kitchen safety. Students will learn about different regions of the world and work in small groups to prepare a variety of ethnic foods.

CREATIVE WRITING

(Every other day, one semester)

Creative Writing is a course for students who have a high interest in stretching their imagination and writing across a variety of genres (e.g., short story, journal, novella, scripts and poetry). The course will give students the opportunity to work individually and in small groups to create and refine their work through the writing process. Students should expect to read selections from a variety of genres as well as writing multiple pieces of various lengths.

CURRENT HEALTH (CHILD CPR/ FIRST AID)

(Every other day, one semester)

The focus of this course is for students to learn and apply health promotion strategies and how to make healthy choices for optimal lifelong health. This course will include an overview of social and emotional learning including QPR, a health seminar (an investigation of a personal health interest) and American Heart Association Infant/Child First Aid/CPR. The student will have opportunities to explore how social and emotional learning can enrich their personal wellbeing. An investigation of a personal health interest will allow each student to further explore a topic of their own interest. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to perform infant/child First Aid/CPR and earn American Heart Association certification.

ADVANCED ROBOTICS

(Every other day, one semester)

Students will continue working with LEGO Mindstorms from their Technology Education class, while developing more advanced programs focusing on engineering concepts. Math and science principles are incorporated in the hands-on activities. Students are expected to work in small groups.

COMPUTER SCIENCE 8

(Every other day, one semester)

In Computer Science 8, students will learn about basic computer science skills through a series of creative projects. Students will work in an environment that allows them to code in either blocks or text, allowing students of all levels and experience to find success. Students will learn to design and code their own simple apps. They will also be introduced to physical computing through a unit using Adafruit's circuit playground - a device that utilizes the same hardware inputs and outputs that are seen in many smart devices.



8th Grade course descriptions, continued

COMPUTER SCIENCE 8 ADVANCED

(Every other day, one semester)

In this course, students will build on previous coding skills to learn how to create more complex programming products. Students will learn about programming languages, and the important idea of syntax, as they learn to program without using blocks in a fully text based environment. Students will problem solve together to write algorithms to solve real world problems. This course is recommended for students who have successfully completed a previous computer science course, or have a significant amount of previous coding experience.

WOODS

(Every other day, one semester)

Students will create a variety of fun projects while learning the basic skills of woodworking tools, machines and materials. Each project will utilize construction techniques. Project planning, drafting and layout skills developed in this course may be used throughout one's life at home, in hobbies and careers. Students will feel a real sense of accomplishment as craftsmanship and precision are the cornerstones of any project. Instructional methods will consist of hands-on lab time including lecture, demonstration, guest speakers and instructional videos. Assessments include project quality, safety habits and tests.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

(Every other day, full year or every other day, one semester)

This course is designed to enhance students' interest and participation in lifetime fitness activities and a variety of lifetime sports. Opportunities will be provided for participation in individual, dual and team sports and activities. Throughout the course emphasis will be placed on fundamentals, rules, strategies and individual physical fitness.

BAND

(Every other day, all year)

In this course, a variety of music literature will be studied and all students will have multiple performance experiences each year. In the first year, the fundamentals of instrumental musicianship will be reviewed and emphasized. Instructional methods will include standard ensemble rehearsal techniques, cooperative learning and aural training. Assessments will include both formative and summative performance skill assessments, quarterly music playing exams and some written assessments. The eighth grade band may also be selected to represent the Minnetonka School District at various community events and contests. Instructional methods will include standard ensemble rehearsal

techniques, cooperative learning and aural training. Assessments will include both formative and summative performance skill assessments, quarterly music playing exams and some written assessments.

CHOIR

(Every other day, all year)

Choir is an ensemble-based course in which students work together as a team to develop their vocal skills. Choir members will work on proper vocal technique, rehearsal skills and will be given a well-rounded background in music fundamentals. Each student will develop independent singing and reading skills to attain a high level of musicianship and confidence. If possible, students may be placed in a boys-only or girls-only choir to enhance the opportunities for developing voices. There will be several opportunities for performances each year, including field trips for all singers.

MUSIC

(Every other day, full year)

Music is a global tour of music and cultures. Students will experience world drumming, guitar, keyboard and composition using music technology. Examples of units include Pulse to Pitch Too, The Culture of World Music, Music Tech Lab (Finale, Podcasting, Photo Story), Classic Rock, Rhythm and Blues, Guitar, Caribbean Drumming and Keyboards.

ORCHESTRA

(Every other day, all year)

In this course, students will build on previous skills learned in orchestra. Students will have multiple performance experiences each year, including a field trip in February. Using a variety of musical literature, the fundamentals of instrumental musicianship will be reviewed and emphasized throughout the course. In eighth grade, students will continue developing rhythmic skills while also focusing on and developing more advanced skills like vibrato and shifting. In addition to the large group rehearsal every other day, students will also receive several small-group lessons each quarter. Assessments will include both formative and summative performance skill assessments and some written assessments.



“My teachers are always available to help and they really work with your strengths and who you are as a student.”

– Olivia, grade 8

8th Grade course descriptions, continued

SEMINAR 8

Seminar 8 is designed to fully engage gifted learners in rigorous, high-interest, open-ended learning experiences which develop critical and creative thinking skills. Through Seminar 8, students regularly connect and collaborate with intellectual peers in a setting which supports cognitive and personal challenge. Students identified to receive advanced learning services participate in Seminar 8 throughout the school year.

READING WORKSHOP/COMP LA

(Every other day)

Reading Skills is a course for students who are not projected to pass the MCA Reading test, who have a history of struggling in reading comprehension, test-taking and/or low grades in core areas due to reading difficulties. Students qualify and are assigned to this every other day course based on standardized and informal reading assessments. Students will be recommended for this course by administration and will take this course in place of physical education or music.

MATH BOOST/COMP MATH

(Every other day)

Math Skills is a course for students who are not projected to pass the MCA Math test, who have a history of struggling in math and/or who have identified gaps in their math knowledge based on formal and informal classroom assessments. Students who qualify will be assigned to this every other day course based on standardized assessments (MCA and NWEA) and informal assessments (classroom formative and summative assessments and observations). The course will provide students specific, targeted support following an RtI model, which will align course objectives to each student's specific needs. This "second period" of math will:

- Prepare students for successful completion of the MCA State assessment in their junior year, which will allow them to be on track to meet the State standards for graduation
- Support students by offering immediate, appropriate and meaningful targeted help that aligns with the math course/homework they are currently completing
- Support students by offering meaningful help in basic math skills not previously mastered, as well as support topics students are covering in their math course. Students will be recommended for this course by administration and will take this course in place of physical education or music.

STUDY SKILLS

(Every other day)

Study Skills is a course designed for students who need additional support in mastering foundational success skills. The course will focus on effectively using an electronic planning tool (choice of apps to fit individual style), textbook reading strategies, test-taking strategies, study techniques and organizational skills. Students will be recommended for this course by administration and will take this course in place of physical education or music.

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How to Speak Like a Skipper



NWEA (a.k.a. Measures of Academic Progress or MAP)

Computer adaptive test administered yearly for grades K–8 in math and reading. Results are used to measure student growth from year to year, to identify interventions or support needed and for placement in honors courses. Note: This measure has a ceiling of eleventh grade achievement according to national norms. Many Minnetonka students reach the ceiling of this test in sixth or seventh grade and growth measures may be less reliable beyond tenth grade achievement levels.

MCA's

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments, administered in spring of each year, grades 3–11. MCA's measure achievement in reading, math, writing and science. Used for school accountability and to indicate if students are on track to pass state required high school graduation tests (MCA-GRAD) in reading, math and writing.

MyMINNETONKA SINGLE SIGN ON

MyMinnetonka Single Sign On (MY SSO) allows you to access your web-based applications from any internet connection using our district network login and password. You will need to enter your individual credentials for each application one time to initiate MY SSO.

SCHOLOGY

The District's web-based e-learning tool that provides teacher classroom webpages, interactive study tools personalized to the class and a document repository for classroom assignments, notes and resources. Students use their computer ID and password to access classroom information anytime, anywhere. Schoology provides formative and summative grades throughout the quarter.

SKYWARD

The District's student information system that holds final quarter grades, attendance, lunch account information, state test scores, and report cards. Parents are mailed log-in information each August. Students are provided their log-in information the first week of school.

ADVISORY

Advisory is a 25-minute period in the day where students are provided an opportunity for academic check-in and social engagement. Students will be assigned an Advisor that is one of the licensed staff members in the school and may, or may not, be one of the student's classroom teachers. During Advisory, students have weekly conferences with the Advisor regarding the current progress in classes, participate in team-building activities, read, work on homework and take part in a variety of other activities throughout the school year.

MAST

Minnetonka Academic Success Time (MAST) is our name for a modified schedule, every Wednesday, that allows time in the afternoon for students to do homework, make up a test, meet with teachers or paraprofessionals for academic assistance, visit a counselor, etc.

STEM

Science Technology Engineering Math—interdisciplinary courses designed to inspire greater interest in fields in which the United States has a shortage of skilled workers.

STUDY ISLAND

Study Island is a web-based instructional tool used to practice and assess student growth in reading, math and eighth grade science. This program utilizes rigorous academic content that is both fun and engaging for middle school students. Study Island is easy to use and available through your student's MY SSO.

TONKA PRIDE

A district-wide committee of parents dedicated to celebrating our students and our schools. Tonka Pride sells spirit wear online at www.tonkapride.com and has a recognition program.

Registration

SCHOOL TOURS

Visiting our school is the best way to know if it is the right fit for your child. Call now to schedule your building tour. Meet a grade-level counselor and receive answers to your questions about middle school in Minnetonka.

Tours are customized for each family based on the interests of each student and typically last 30-45 minutes. To schedule a tour, please contact:

MME

Main Office
952.401.5200

MMW

Main Office
952.401.5300

COMPLETE THE ENROLLMENT PROCESS

For new residents, open enrollment and transfer students ONLY, please contact the District office to receive enrollment instructions.

Visit www.minnetonkaschools.org/enroll to learn more about the enrollment process or to connect with an Enrollment Specialist.

REGISTER FOR CLASSES

In the spring, MME and MMW students have the opportunity to select electives they would like to take. Students who enroll after registration closes will complete elective course registration during the enrollment process. Contact your middle school's Counseling Office with any questions about registration.

MME Counseling Office – 952.401.5209

MMW Counseling Office – 952.401.5311

Immunizations—Minnetonka participates in the No Shots, No School program. Your child's immunization record must be up to date and on file at your child's school before they may attend. Most seventh grade students need new immunizations. Please complete the immunizations and mail the records to school before August 1.

Minnesota Open Enrollment—Minnetonka Public Schools welcome non-resident students through Minnesota's Open Enrollment Program. The application deadline for open enrollment is January 15 of each year. Students who wish to enroll after January 15 should apply for a Non-Resident Agreement the first year and complete an Open Enrollment Application by the following January 15 for continuous enrollment. Once a student enrolls as an Open Enrollment student, he or she has the right to stay in the District through graduation.

For more information on open enrollment, call the District Office at 952.401.5000.



Student Services

HEALTH SERVICES

Minnetonka Schools have licensed school nurses who supervise health office staff. If your child is ever required to take medication while at school, we ask that you follow the policies posted on our website at www.minnetonkaschools.org/health. If your child has allergies or other chronic conditions, please record this important information on the Annual School Health Form included with our registration materials.

TRANSPORTATION

Families within District boundaries are eligible for bus service to Minnetonka Schools. The School District provides transportation at no charge for all students who reside more than two miles from the school. A transportation fee is assessed for bus service to resident students who reside within two miles of their school. Non-resident students may access our bus system through an existing stop within the District. Students must register annually for bus service to and from their middle school.



NUTRITION SERVICES

Minnetonka Public Schools Child Nutrition Services offer a wide variety of healthy breakfast and lunch choices that teach kids how to develop healthy, lifetime eating habits. Current research reinforces the importance of fruits, vegetables and whole grains in the diet. Minnetonka Schools receive fresh bakery products with no trans fats or preservatives. Additionally, the District participates in a federal fresh produce program, helping the District defray costs and offering a wide variety of fruits and vegetables for lunch.

In mid-August, all students receive a food service personal identification number (PIN) and instructions for purchasing meals, making payments and checking balances online.

Visit the District website to:

- view lunch menus
- make payments
- check account balances
- and see other information about Child Nutrition Services

BUILDING HOURS

The student school day is from 9:15 a.m - 3:55 p.m. Doors to the middle schools open at 8:00 a.m. Students are to enter the school via the cafeteria entrance and will be supervised. There are no structured activities for students in the cafeteria before school. Light breakfast or snack items are available. Students may participate in our after-school supervision and homework support time. Students must be registered to access the before and after school supervised sessions. A minimal fee may be charged.

District Service Center

Enrollment Information
5621 County Road 101
Minnetonka, MN 55345
952.401.5000

Office Hours 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
www.minnetonkaschools.org



Minnetonka Middle School East

17000 Lake Street Extension
Minnetonka, MN 55345
952-401-5200

Office Hours 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Minnetonka Middle School West

6421 Hazeltine Blvd.
Excelsior, MN 55331
952-401-5300

Office Hours 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.