

Course Description Guide

2024-2025



WHITEFISH BAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

AN EXCEPTIONAL PLACE TO LEARN

1144 E. Henry Clay Street
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
414.963.6800

Rev. 11/17/23

Table of Contents

Course Selection Form	4
6th Grade Course Descriptions.....	5
Core Academic Course Descriptions.....	5
English Language Arts (ELA).....	5
Math 6	5
6th Grade Integrated Science and Social Studies (ISS).....	5
Physical Education	5
Choosing a World Language	6
French.....	6
German	6
Spanish	6
Exploratory Wheel	7
Art 6.....	7
Design and Modeling	7
Health	7
Digital Business.....	7
Music Courses and Study Hall	8
General Music 6	8
Band	8
Choir.....	8
Orchestra	8
Study Hall.....	8
6 TH Grade Support Services.....	8
Math Intervention	8
Reading Intervention	8
Academic Support Study Hall.....	8
Course Selection Form	9
7th Grade Course Descriptions.....	10
Core Academic Course Descriptions.....	10
English Language Arts (ELA) 7.....	10
Math 7	10
7 th Grade Integrated Science and Social Studies (ISS).....	10
Physical Education	10
Exploratory Wheel	11

Art 7.....	11
Green Architecture	11
Computer Science Discoveries.....	11
Theatrics: An Introduction to Drama	11
Elective Courses	12
Band	12
Choir.....	12
Orchestra	12
Study Hall.....	12
French.....	12
German	12
Spanish	12
7th Grade Support Services	12
Math Intervention	12
Reading Intervention	12
Academic Support Study Hall.....	12
Course Selection Form	13
8th Grade Course Descriptions.....	14
English Language Arts (ELA) 8.....	14
Math 8	14
Algebra	14
Science 8	14
U.S. History 8.....	15
Health & Physical Education	15
Health 8	15
Physical Education 8	15
Elective Courses	16
Band	16
Choir.....	16
Orchestra	16
French.....	16
German	16
Spanish	16
Elective Courses	16
Design Challenge	16
Medical Detectives*	16

Fitness & Conditioning	16
Hands-on-Drumming.....	17
Guitar.....	17
Leadership Skills	17
Creative Publications: Writing and Art*	17
Pop Art	17
2D Art:.....	17
Painting, Print Making & Computer Imaging*	17
3D Techniques:.....	17
Ceramics & Sculpture*	17
Ceramics.....	17
Business Ventures	17
Exploring the Art of Acting.....	17
World Cultures	17
Digital Music.....	18
Class Piano	18
Automation & Robotics.....	18
Computer Science for Innovators and Makers	18
Science of Technology	18
Printmaking	18
Ukulele	18
Jazz Improvisation.....	18
Study Hall.....	18
8 th Grade Support Services	19
Math Intervention	19
Reading Intervention	19
Academic Support	19
Study Hall.....	19

Course Selection

Course descriptions can be found on our website:

<https://www.wfbschools.com/schools/middle/academics/academicprogramming.cfm>

All 6th grade students have three periods per day for elective classes. All students take the Exploratory Wheel (Art, Design and Modeling, Health, and Digital Business) during one of these periods. Another period is for every other day Physical Education, opposite of a World Language (German, Spanish, or French). The final period is reserved for music (Band, Choir, or Orchestra, or a combination of two of these ensembles). There is an option for a daily Study Hall instead of music, but this is not recommended for most students. *Students in Study Hall must take one quarter of General Music.*

Please choose one of the following courses.

- French
- Spanish
- German

Please choose one of the following courses. *Applicable fee

- Band* (every day) - \$8.00 fee
- Choir (every day)
- Orchestra* (every day) - \$8.00 fee
- Band & Choir* (alternating days) \$8.00 fee
- Band & Orchestra* (alternating days) \$8.00 fee per course
- Choir & Orchestra* (alternating days) \$8.00 fee
- Study Hall & General Music (every day)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please know that if your student receives intervention or Special Education services they may not be able to have all choices available.

6th Grade Course Descriptions

Educational program planning is a joint task shared by students, parents, and school personnel. It is imperative that the course selection process be taken seriously as student choice determines section numbers and corresponding class sizes. Once established, students' course selections/schedules may be changed with staff approval only. Student, parent, counselor, teacher and administrator input may be taken into consideration in responding to schedule change requests.

If you have any questions regarding your child's educational program, please feel free to contact your child's school counselor.

Core Academic Course Descriptions

English Language Arts (ELA)	This ELA curriculum is designed around a workshop model to develop proficient and confident readers, writers, speakers and listeners. Based upon the Common Core State Standards and the Partnership in Comprehensive Literacy framework, the curriculum is a rigorous application of knowledge through higher order skills. Organized by thematic units in the categories of community and relationships, folklore and literary tradition, living things, sense of self, inspired by true stories, and genre studies. Each unit: 1) develops students' analysis of literary concepts while applying reading strategies; 2) uses exemplar texts to model writing skills as students write over extended time frames or shorter time frames for a range of discipline specific purposes (to inform, to persuade, to express emotion or to entertain); 3) enables speaking and listening skills to be practiced and honed; 4) provides a rich context to develop students' vocabulary and grammar skills as proven practices suggest. In each unit there are challenging whole class texts, group texts and individual texts. Students are supported as they grow as readers and writers as the course progresses.
Math 6 *\$30.00 workbook fee	The purpose of mathematics education is to build high levels of skills, processes, thinking and problem solving to meet the challenges of an ever-changing society. In Grade 6 Math, instructional time will follow a workshop model and a problem-based core curriculum rooted in content and practice standards to foster learning, achievement, and fluency for all. Students learn by doing math, solving problems in mathematical and real-world contexts, and constructing arguments using precise language. The focus of this year-long course will center around ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics and probability.
6th Grade Integrated Science and Social Studies (ISS)	In our course, students will think outside of their 6th grade experience and learn to explore the world like historians, scientists, and social scientists. They will think divergently, taking productive risks through an inquiry process. They will think beyond the walls of our classroom, acquiring skills that can be transferred to a variety of contexts. They will communicate their thinking clearly, and be able to reflect critically on the thinking of others. Our units of study are guided by a driving question and are thematic instead of driven by a timeline or a textbook. Science and Social Studies learning is embedded within the overarching question.
Physical Education	6 th grade Physical Education takes the basic movements, skills and concepts that have been introduced at the elementary school level and progresses toward more complex movements through repetition and sequencing of drills and game play. Sportsmanship, cooperation, and teamwork are stressed at all grades. Units consist of invasion games, net games, fielding and striking games, lifetime fitness, dance, and team-building activities. The curriculum supports improving personal fitness of each student, including health-related physical fitness (aerobic fitness, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, and body composition), as well as sport-related physical fitness (agility, balance, speed, power, and coordination). Fitness assessments are used throughout the year to assess and educate students on their levels of health-related physical fitness. Students will have multiple opportunities to self-monitor and reflect on scores to help maintain or improve their fitness levels.

Choosing a World Language

Students may wish to discuss the following questions with their parents.

Personal interest: Am I especially attracted to one of the languages or to the cultures of the people who use it?

Travel interests: Do I have a special interest in traveling where one of these languages is spoken?

Vocational interests: Is knowledge of one of these languages helpful in the career(s) I am considering?

Opportunities for practice: Is there someone with whom I could practice one of these languages? (not necessary)

Family heritage: Am I interested in speaking the language of my relatives or ancestors?

Studying a different language broadens one's view of the world and makes other languages easier to learn. There is also a strong correlation between foreign language study and better performance in other subject areas and on college entrance exams.

Language	Where Spoken	Vocational Use	Other Considerations
French	France, Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Monaco, much of Africa, French Guyana, Parts of SE Asia, Islands in the Caribbean Sea and Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans	International Business / Relations, Travel, Technology, Literature, Visual Arts, Film, Music, Dance, Fashion, Teaching, History, Pharmaceuticals, Medicine, Peace Corps, etc.	Spoken In Quebec, Canada and in areas of New England and Louisiana Use of French expressions in English literature and conversation
German	Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg and in communities in South America, the US, etc.	Science and Technology, Medicine, Literature, International Business, Teaching, Travel, Military, Visual Arts, Publishing, History, Music, Engineering, Pharmaceuticals, etc.	Local German heritage and culture (Family, restaurants, etc.) German-speaking communities In US (Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Iowa, etc.)
Spanish	Spain, Mexico, most countries in South and Central America, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and other Caribbean Islands, and in communities in the US	Health Care, Peace Corps, Government Agencies, Teaching, Law Enforcement, Agriculture, Travel, International Business, Archeology, Visual Arts, Modern Literature, etc.	Spoken by many people in the US, in large cities like Milwaukee and in farming areas. Opportunities to hear Spanish on radio and TV, and in Mexican restaurants

World Language 6	This is the first part of the three levels, which begins in sixth grade and continues through eighth grade.
French German Spanish	Together, the three levels are comparable to the high school level 1 course and are usually recognized by colleges and universities. Any student who plans on taking a world language in the middle school must begin in 6th grade. All five components of language study are included: listening, speaking, reading, writing and culture.

Exploratory Wheel

All 6th grade students will rotate through the following four one-quarter exploratory courses:

- Art
- Design and Modeling
- Health
- Digital Business

Art 6	<p>In this class, students explore a variety of media and techniques including drawing, painting, graphics, and sculpture. Emphasis is on the development of self-expression, self-esteem, perceptual awareness, creative potential, and aesthetic appreciation. Students will explore a right-hemispheric approach to art, learning how to enhance and trust their visual perception and translate that into visual representation. Units may include contour drawing with pencil and pen, painting in acrylics, relief printmaking and plaster or paper mache sculpture.</p>
Design and Modeling	<p>In Design & Modeling students learn and practice the Design Process. Students will learn sketching methods for communicating design ideas. Students will create a solid model using 3D modeling through a computer-aided design (CAD) application. Students will fabricate their design solutions for testing by using various materials, tools and maybe even 3D printers. Their final project is to use what they've learned to design a prototype of a therapeutic toy for a child's therapeutic goal.</p>
Health	<p>This class is designed to empower today's adolescents with necessary information needed to make informed, healthy decisions and choices that will enable them to confidently navigate the ever changing and complex health issues we face today. Health class will focus on four components; mental, emotional, social and physical health. Core concepts include: self-image and self-esteem, emotions and behaviors, effective communication, decision making and problem solving, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, stress management, nutrition, and Human Growth and Development.</p>
Digital Business	<p>In this course, you will explore creative and innovative ways to use technology in answering questions, completing projects, and solving problems, while also learning how to effectively communicate those results. You will use the Google Suite and other technologies to analyze, evaluate, and use information from a variety of sources. Responsible and respectful digital citizenship will be taught using internet resources and other technologies. Students will develop keyboarding skills, an understanding of the nature and operation of technology systems, and the ability to troubleshoot when necessary. This course will also introduce you to financial literacy and provide practical money management skills. Units that will be explored in this nine week exploratory include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keyboarding • Google Suites • Personal Finance • Digital Citizenship

Music Courses and Study Hall *Applicable fee

General Music 6	In General Music, students gain skills necessary to understand, appreciate and create music. Units of study include style, rhythm, music history and composition. Each unit includes multiple concepts focusing on the six student music standards singing/performing on instruments; improvising melodies, variations and accompaniments; reading and notating music; evaluating music and music performances; and understanding music in relation to history and culture. Midi computer stations, keyboards, and a variety of rhythm instruments are used as tools to help students understand the concepts of how music is constructed.
Band *\$8.00 fee	This year long class provides the opportunity for students to study instrumental music with public performances as an end result. The literature used exposes the students to a variety of forms and styles, as well as instruction in musical elements. Concert etiquette is also stressed.
Choir	This year long class provides the opportunity for students to study vocal music with public performance as an end result. The literature used exposes the students to a variety of song forms and musical styles in two parts, as well as instruction in musical elements. Concert etiquette is stressed.
Orchestra *\$8.00 fee	This year long class provides the opportunity for the continuation of stringed instrument instruction focusing on the developing young musician. The literature used will expose students to varied forms and styles, techniques and musical elements. Concerts will be performed throughout the year with an emphasis on the performer and audience concert etiquette.
Study Hall	Students who do not select a music course will have a daily study hall. Students in Study Hall must take one quarter of General Music.

6TH Grade Support Services

Whitefish Bay Middle School provides a variety of support systems for students' academic success. These programs are designed to assist students in developing basic skills and productive work habits to better meet the expectations of our academic curriculum.

Math Intervention	Math Intervention is a supplementary class for students in need of basic factual and functional math skills. Students receive specific interventions targeting discrete skills and strengthening foundational operations. Students are placed in the course following a team review of standardized achievement test scores, math diagnostic scores, and grade level academic progress.
Reading Intervention	Reading intervention is a supplementary class for students needing specialized help with reading skills. Students receive small group reading comprehension instruction in content area material as well as literature. Also included are vocabulary development, fluency practice, word attack skills instruction and practice, and test taking strategies and preparation work. Students are placed in the course following a review of reading specialist administered test scores and grade level academic progress.
Academic Support Study Hall	Academic Support Study Hall is intended for students who have transitioned out of an intensive intervention as an intermittent step to continue to build and strengthen grade-level expectations. It is also for students in need of targeted supports in areas such as organization, time management, quality work completion, and planning. Students practice strategies with guidance, building to self-monitoring and independence. Supports are gradually removed as students strengthen skills and are able to apply them independently. The objective of this support is to prevent the need for higher levels of intervention.

Course Selection

Course descriptions can be found on our website:

<https://www.wfbschools.com/schools/middle/academics/academicprogramming.cfm>

All 7th grade students have three periods per day for elective classes. All students take the Exploratory Wheel (Green Architecture, Art, Computer Science Discoveries, and Theatrics: An Introduction to Drama) during one of these periods. Another period is for every other day Physical Education, opposite a World Language (German, Spanish, or French). Students are required to take the same language they took in 6th grade. The final period is reserved for music (Band, Choir, or Orchestra, or a combination of two of these ensembles). There is an option for a daily Study Hall instead of music, but this is not recommended for most students.

Please choose one of the following courses. *Applicable fee

- Band* (every day) \$8.00 fee
- Choir (every day)
- Orchestra* (every day) \$8.00 fee
- Band & Choir* (alternating days) \$8.00 fee
- Band & Orchestra* (alternating days) \$8.00 fee per course
- Choir & Orchestra* (alternating days) \$8.00 fee
- Study Hall (every day)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please know that if your student receives intervention or Special Education services they may not be able to have all choices available.

7th Grade Course Descriptions

Educational program planning is a joint task shared by students, parents, and school personnel. It is imperative that the course selection process be taken seriously as student choice determines section numbers and corresponding class sizes. Once established, students' course selections/schedules may be changed with staff approval only. Student, parent, counselor, teacher and administrator input may be taken into consideration in responding to schedule change requests.

If you have any questions regarding your child's educational program, please feel free to contact your child's school counselor.

Core Academic Course Descriptions

English Language Arts (ELA) 7	<p>This ELA curriculum is designed around a workshop model to develop proficient and confident readers, writers, speakers and listeners. Based upon the Common Core State Standards and the Partnership in Comprehensive Literacy framework, the curriculum is a rigorous application of knowledge through higher order skills. Organized by thematic units in the categories of community and relationships, literary tradition, living things, sense of self, inspired by true stories, and genre studies. Each unit: 1) develops students' analysis of literary concepts while applying reading strategies; 2) uses exemplar texts to model writing skills as students write over extended time frames or shorter time frames for a range of discipline specific purposes (to inform, to persuade, to express emotion or to entertain); 3) enables speaking and listening skills to be practiced and honed; 4) provides a rich context to develop students' vocabulary and grammar skills as proven practices suggest. In each unit there are challenging whole class mentor texts, small group literature discussion texts, and individual texts. Students are supported as they grow as readers and writers as the course progresses.</p>
Math 7 *\$30.00 Workbook fee	<p>The purpose of mathematics education is to build the high levels of mathematical skills, processes, thinking, and problem solving necessary to meet the challenge of a changing technological society. In Math 7, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and drawing inferences about populations based on samples.</p> <p>Students who successfully master concepts covered in this course and meet criteria for acceleration will be placed in Algebra in the following year. Assessments included in the review process include the Wisconsin Forward Exam, Algebra aptitude, and historical performance on the universal screener. An additional component considered is a disposition to learn survey.</p>
7 th Grade Integrated Science and Social Studies (ISS)	<p>The Seventh Grade Integrated Science and Social Studies course is designed and aligned with the 7 Thriving Dispositions as it presents the basic science and social studies concepts. It allows students to develop their argumentation from evidence skills through both traditional and non-traditional venues. Science content includes units in Earth Science, with a focus on the role of convection in Earth systems; Physical Science, focused on energy; in Biology, we include the cell, cell organization, functions in body systems, and populations as they relate to disease. Finally, in Chemistry, we cover the basics of properties and chemical reactions. Human Geography uses an inquiry structure to explore case studies through document-based questions, supporting the development of historical analysis skills. In exploring the diversity of the planet and the characteristics of specific places, students will confront these questions: Why are people and cultures different from one another? What are the processes that are working to connect and differentiate places? What motivates people's behaviors, and what are the impacts of those behaviors on social and natural environments at different scales? After learning concepts in Science and Human Geography, students engage in projects that draw connections between the two subject areas.</p>
Physical Education	<p>7th grade Physical Education builds more complex skills and knowledge from 6th grade with an increased amount of game play. Greater knowledge of game play strategy in activities is taught throughout invasion games, net games, and fielding and striking games units. Lifetime fitness units includes a variety of health-enhancing activities for students to experience using the fitness room. Sportsmanship, cooperation, and teamwork are stressed at all grades. The curriculum supports improving personal fitness of each student, including health-related physical fitness (aerobic fitness, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, and body composition), as well as sport-related physical fitness (agility, balance, speed, power, and coordination). Fitness assessments are used throughout the year to assess and educate students on their levels of health-related physical fitness. Students will have multiple opportunities to self-monitor and reflect on scores to help maintain or improve their fitness levels.</p>

Exploratory Wheel

All seventh graders will rotate through the following 4 one-quarter exploratory courses:

- Art 7
- Green Architecture
- Computer Science Discoveries
- Theatrics: An Introduction to Drama

Art 7	Students continue the development of creative and critical thinking skills learned in sixth grade with the same emphasis on self-expression, self-esteem, perceptual awareness, creative potential, and aesthetic appreciation. Students are encouraged to discover their own personal style with more intensity of project length. Using right-brain techniques learned in sixth grade, students build upon all their drawing and painting skills and techniques. The elements of art and principles of design are reinforced and exposure to art history is included. The use of a personal sketchbook encourages drawing practice and promotes imaginative expression.
Green Architecture *\$5.00 fee	Architecture is the art and science of designing buildings. Students will learn about planning residential spaces, the different systems in a home, how to read the symbols found in architectural plans, and how to draw to scale. Students will learn about what it means to build "green" by exploring the newest features in energy and environmental design. Students will learn how to design their own floor plans and to use 3D Modeling software to develop high-quality architectural designs on a computer.
Computer Science Discoveries	Computer Science Discoveries is an introductory computer science course that takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as problem solving, programming, physical computing, user centered design, and data, while inspiring students as they build their own websites. We begin learning HTML and CSS coding languages through code.org , developed by the creators of the <i>hour of code</i> . Units that will be explored in this nine week exploratory include: Problem Solving, Physical Computing, Digital Citizenship and Web Development.
Theatrics: An Introduction to Drama	In this exploratory, nine-week course, you will be introduced to effective communication skills and the theatrical arts. We will explore the fundamental tools used in verbal and nonverbal communication as well as the many different components of drama. We will explore improvisation, character development and blocking, scene development, and what happens behind the scenes in technical theater. Throughout the class, you will explore their creativity, work with problem solving, improve their interpersonal communication skills, develop self-confidence, control their time management, practice leadership, improve their memory skills, and discover sensitivity for the human experience.

Elective Courses *Applicable fee

Band *\$8.00 fee	Band provides the opportunity for students to study instrumental music with public performance as an end result. The literature used exposes the students to a variety of musical elements. Concert etiquette is also stressed. This is a full year course.
Choir	Choir provides the opportunity for students to study vocal music with public performance as an end result. The literature used exposes the student to a variety of song forms and musical styles in three parts, as well as instruction in musical elements. Concert etiquette is stressed. This is a full year course.
Orchestra *\$8.00 fee	Orchestra provides the opportunity for students to study orchestral music and further develop performance skills. Emphasis is on advanced precision and musicianship. Solo and small ensemble participation is encouraged. Concerts of varied musical forms and styles are presented to the public. Based on teacher availability, small group lessons are occasionally provided. This is a full year course.
Study Hall	Students who do not select three elective courses will have a daily study hall. Those students who need extra support with academic classes are encouraged to select a study hall.
World Language French German Spanish	This is the second part of the three levels which begins in 6 th grade and continues through 8 th grade. Together, the 6 th through 8 th grade courses are comparable to the high school level 1 courses and are usually recognized as such by colleges and universities. Any student who plans to take a world language in the middle school must begin in 6th grade unless they pass a proficiency test. All five components of language study are included: listening, speaking, reading, writing and culture.

7th Grade Support Services

Whitefish Bay Middle School provides a variety of support systems for students' academic success. These programs are designed to assist students in developing basic skills and productive work habits to better meet the expectations of our academic curriculum.

Math Intervention	Math Intervention is a supplementary class for students in need of basic factual and functional math skills. Students receive specific interventions targeting discrete skills and strengthening foundational operations. Students are placed in the course following a team review of standardized achievement test scores, math diagnostic scores, and grade level academic progress.
Reading Intervention	Reading intervention is a supplementary class for students needing specialized help with reading skills. Students receive small group reading comprehension instruction in content area material as well as literature. Also included are vocabulary development, fluency practice, word attack skills instruction and practice, and test taking strategies and preparation work. Students are placed in the course following a review of reading specialist administered test scores and grade level academic progress.
Academic Support Study Hall	Academic Support Study Hall is intended for students who have transitioned out of an intensive intervention as an intermittent step to continue to build and strengthen grade-level expectations. It is also for students in need of targeted supports in areas such as organization, time management, quality work completion, and planning. Students practice strategies with guidance, building to self-monitoring and independence. Supports are gradually removed as students strengthen skills and are able to apply them independently. The objective of this support is to prevent the need for higher levels of intervention.

Course Selection

Course descriptions can be found on our website: <https://www.wfbschools.com/schools/middle/academics/academicprogramming.cfm>

All 8th grade students have twelve (12) quarters of elective courses. Two (2) quarters are reserved for Physical Education and one (1) quarter is for Health. The other nine (9) quarters are open for student choice. Please choose the options below to total nine (9) quarters. Also, please list alternate choices below, as scheduling conflicts may occur. *No alternates needed for French, Spanish, German, Band, Choir, Orchestra.* PLEASE MAKE SELECTIONS CAREFULLY. Once schedules have been made, they may not be able to be altered. Please know that if your student receives intervention or Special Education services they may not be able to have all choices available.

ELECTIVE OPTIONS – Total # of quarters must equal 9 *Applicable fee

World Language & Culture

- French (4 qtrs)
- Spanish (4 qtrs)
- German (4 qtrs)
- World Cultures (1 qtr)

Performing Arts

- Band* (4 qtrs) \$9.00 fee
- Choir (4 qtrs)
- Orchestra* (4 qtrs) \$8.00 fee
- Band & Choir* (4 qtrs) \$9.00 fee
- Band & Orchestra* (4 qtrs) \$9.00/\$8.00 fees
- Choir & Orchestra* (4 qtrs) \$8.00 fee
- Ukulele (1 qtr)
- Jazz Improvisation (1 qtr)
- Guitar (1 qtr)
- Exploring the Art of Acting (1 qtr)
- Drumming (1 qtr)
- Class Piano (1 qtr)
- Digital Music (1 qtr)

Creative Art

- Pop Art* (1 qtr) \$20.00 fee
- 2D Art Techniques* (1 qtr) \$20.00 fee
- 3D Art Techniques* (1 qtr) \$15.00 fee
- Ceramics* (1 qtr) \$15.00 fee
- Creative Publications - Writing (1 qtr)
- Creative Publications – Art* (1 qtr) \$20.00 fee
- Printmaking (1 qtr)

Engineering Design & Biomedical Science

- Science of Technology (1 qtr) \$25.00 fee
- Medical Detectives* (1 qtr) \$25.00 fee
- Design Challenge* (1 qtr) \$25.00 fee

Computer Science & Business

- Business Ventures (1 qtr)
- Automation & Robotics (1 qtr)
- Computer Science for Innovators and Makers (1 qtr)

Other

- Leadership Skills (1 qtr)
- Fitness & Conditioning (1 qtr)
- Study Hall (One) (1 qtr)
- Study Hall (Two) (1 qtr) *No more than 2 study halls per year.*

ALTERNATIVES - Select FOUR additional 1-quarter courses from the Elective Options Section as alternates.

You MUST select four DIFFERENT courses.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

8th Grade Course Descriptions

Educational program planning is a joint task shared by students, parents, and school personnel. It is imperative that the course selection process be taken seriously as student choice determines section numbers and corresponding class sizes. Once established, students' course selections/schedules may be changed with staff approval only. Student, parent, counselor, teacher and administrator input may be taken into consideration in responding to schedule change requests.

If you have any questions regarding your child's educational program, please feel free to contact your child's school counselor.

Core Academic Course Descriptions:

<p>English Language Arts (ELA) 8</p>	<p>This ELA curriculum is designed around a workshop model to develop proficient and confident readers, writers, speakers and listeners. Based upon the Common Core State Standards and the Partnership in Comprehensive Literacy framework, the curriculum is a rigorous application of knowledge through higher order skills. Organized by thematic units in the categories of community and relationships, folklore and literary tradition, living things, sense of self, inspired by true stories, and genre studies. Each unit: 1) develops students' analysis of literary concepts while applying reading strategies; 2) uses exemplar texts to model writing skills as students write over extended time frames or shorter time frames for a range of discipline specific purposes (to inform, to persuade, to express emotion or to entertain); 3) enables speaking and listening skills to be practiced and honed; 4) provides a rich context to develop students' vocabulary and grammar skills as proven practices suggest. In each unit there are challenging whole class texts, group texts and individual texts. Students are supported as they grow as readers and writers as the course progresses.</p>
<p>Math 8 *\$30.00 Workbook fee</p> <p>-or-</p> <p>Algebra *\$30.00 Workbook fee</p>	<p>Math 8 focuses on developing students as mathematical thinkers. Both algebra and geometry concepts are covered. Algebra concepts include: solving multi-step equations, graphing and writing linear equations, foundations of functions, exponents, and systems of linear equations. Geometry concepts include using area and volume formulas, congruent and similar figures, transformations, triangles, the Pythagorean Theorem, and special angle pairs. Collaboration, perseverance, math reasoning, and problem solving skills are developed and strengthened throughout the year.</p> <p>The middle school Algebra course parallels the Algebra 1 course at the high school. Students who successfully complete this course receive a statement on their high school transcript stating such completion, but do not receive high school credit. Students who successfully master concepts covered in this course will be placed in Geometry the following year. Algebra is the first course in abstract mathematics and the initial step in the regular sequence of high school mathematics. It provides the student with fundamental tools to explore mathematical concepts, search for patterns, and solve problems. Topics include the study of linear, exponential, quadratic and rational functions. Students will be encouraged to comprehend algebraic concepts, to make conjectures while persevering through challenging problems, and to develop a conceptual understanding of mathematics. Major concepts are balanced with procedural skill knowledge (simplifying expressions, solving equations and inequalities, translating mathematical sentences, graphing, and solving systems of equations) A graphing calculator is required for this course, which allows students to more thoroughly investigate the mathematics being learned. Preferred model: TI-84+.</p>
<p>Science 8</p>	<p>Eighth grade science consists of four major units. Earth Science explores plate tectonics and resulting landforms. Life Science is an overview of genetics, and explores the themes of reproduction, heredity of traits, and natural selection. The Physics unit examines forces and motion, including Newton's Laws of Motion. Chemistry focuses on the chemical process in living things. Students learn about photosynthesis and cellular respiration, while also developing a basic understanding of the periodic table and chemical equations.</p> <p>Students will develop and apply the scientific knowledge, skills, and attitudes that enable them to make informed use of science concepts. They will engage in important scientific practices such as asking questions, planning and carrying out investigations, class discussion, developing and using models, and analyzing and interpreting data. Students will construct and defend explanations, and engage in arguments based on evidence from the classroom lab experience and other activities and readings. Activities are designed to activate prior knowledge, generate questions, and develop an extensive understanding of science concepts.</p>

U.S. History 8	<p>The goal of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive examination of United States History from pre-colonial times through Reconstruction. More importantly, the end goal of this course is to provide students with the ability to successfully use Cornell notes, interpret primary source materials recognizing their content, main ideas, and limited perspectives. Students will also support generalizations with specific evidence and present information in a clear and credible fashion. Finally, it is the goal of the course to have students become productive citizens who can think critically about issues, construct an informed opinion, and defend an argument.</p> <p>This semester course is organized into units based on history time periods. There are eleven units which include, but are not limited to: Settlement and Colonization, the Road to Revolution, Launching a New Government, Westward Expansion, Sectionalism & Civil War, and Reconstruction. Some units will include a project or simulation; all will use primary sources and be writing intensive.</p>
----------------	---

Health & Physical Education

<p>Health 8 Meets daily for one quarter.</p>	<p>Eighth grade health is required of all students and is taught every day for one quarter. Students will build on knowledge and information introduced in 6th grade and dive deeper into the major health issues teens face today and the risk factors involved in these areas.</p> <p>Focus areas include the Physical, Mental and Social/Emotional components of health. Students will be taught the health-related skills and knowledge to live a healthy and productive life.</p> <p>Units of study include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mental health - Stress, sleep, depression and other mental health issues facing teens - Social / Emotional health - Building safe and healthy relationships, bullying prevention - Physical health and wellness - Nutrition, Lifestyle disease - Understanding your body – Human Growth and Development - Injury Prevention and Safety - Making safe and drug-free decisions
<p>Physical Education 8 Meets daily for two quarters a year. One quarter will consist of mostly indoor activities, while the other quarter will focus on outdoor activities.</p>	<p>Student self-selected activities, from those taught in previous grades, will guide the students' experience in 8th grade Physical Education with the addition of heart rate monitors to help students understand intensity levels during activity. Choices will include lifetime activities, invasion games, net games, and striking and fielding games. Additional lifetime fitness activities introduced are golf, archery, and one wall handball.</p> <p>Sportsmanship, cooperation, and teamwork are stressed at all grades. A portion of each class is devoted to individual fitness. The curriculum enhances lifetime personal physical fitness and engages students to learn more about how to improve health-related physical fitness (aerobic fitness, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, and body composition), as well as sport-related physical fitness (agility, balance, speed, power, and coordination). Fitness assessments are used throughout the year to assess and educate students on their levels of health-related physical fitness. 8th grade students will develop a workout plan to address areas of fitness to improve or maintain based on the results of their assessments.</p>

Elective Courses *Applicable fee

Meets Daily All Year

Band *9.00 fee	Band provides the opportunity for students to study instrumental music with public performance as an end result. The literature used exposes the students to a variety of forms and styles, as well as instruction in music elements. Concert etiquette is stressed.
Choir	Choir provides the opportunity for students to study vocal music with public performance as an end result. The literature used exposes musical styles in three and four parts, as well as instruction in musical elements. Concert etiquette is stressed.
Orchestra *8.00 fee	Orchestra offers continued study for students who desire to advance in ability to play a stringed instrument. Depth of sound and musical expression is seriously pursued for a mature ensemble experience. Based on availability, small group lessons are occasionally provided. Solo and small ensemble performance is encouraged. Several public concerts representing varied musical forms and styles are presented.
World Language French German Spanish	These courses are a continuation of the 7 th grade world language class. Together, the 6 th through 8 th grade courses are comparable to the Level I courses at the high school. They include the five basic language skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing and culture). By satisfactorily completing Levels 1a, 1b and 1c in the middle school, students are able to advance to Level II at the high school. In general, only Levels 1a, 1b and 1c students in middle school will be able to take the 5 th advanced placement (AP) course in their senior year of high school.

Elective Courses *Applicable fee

Meets Daily for One Quarter (9 Weeks)

Design Challenge *\$25.00 fee	Design Challenge builds on the skills students have mastered in their 6th and 7th grade years of the Gateway to Technology curriculum. The hands-on projects they produce emphasize the design process and teamwork, all while serving the community. To accomplish challenges, students use 3D modeling programs, various materials, and a full array of tools and machinery. Each challenge is developed around a community partner and the needs of their clients. Students will travel to 2 different community partner's places of business and receive a challenge for a client. Students will then work in teams to develop a real working solution for their client to use and make their lives better. Community Partners in the past have included: Lakeshore Veterinary Specialists, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, and Columbia St. Mary's Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Institute. For students who want to learn how to use hands-on tools while developing solutions to make the world a better place, this is the class for you!
Medical Detectives *\$25.00 fee	In Medical Detectives, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects, measure and interpret vital signs, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore many of the professions that are available in the medical field today. Highlights of the course are experiencing hands-on labs such as brain dissection and a trip to UW Madison to get real college lab experience while making college and career connections to the curriculum.
Fitness & Conditioning	This class provides exploration and experiences of various physical activities which will enable students to make educated decisions when selecting a personal fitness program for later life. Activities may include: jogging, walking, aerobics, rope jumping, stretching, biking, rowing, aerobic games and resistance training alongside the use of heart rate monitors and various fitness technologies. Students will learn about basic training principles throughout the class. All activities are dependent on the weather and the availability of workout areas. <i>***Students must have permission to go on walking field trips to participate fully in this class.***</i>

Hands-on-Drumming	Students will experience a variety of percussion instruments through hands on experience. Study of world drum instruments, as well as, the creative use of everyday items, such as garbage cans, chairs and music stands will be used to create unique sounds and rhythms. The introduction to reading rhythm notation will be part of the class. Ensemble playing and individual study will allow for student creative expression.
Guitar	This class provides instruction on guitar where flat-picking and finger-picking styles will be explored. Ensemble playing and lifetime musical skills will be emphasized as students learn the basics of playing guitar through music notation, chord symbols, tabs, peer modeling, improvisation and the use of online resources. Guitars will be provided.
Leadership Skills	Are leaders born or created? What makes a leader a good leader? Do you want to know about your leadership potential? Are you interested in being an effective leader or captain? Want to test your problem solving skills? Interested in developing your discussion, debate, and listening skills? Then leadership class is for you! In this course, we will explore the different leadership styles and learn about emotional intelligence and practice public speaking. We will practice teamwork skills in team challenge competitions. We will learn how to delegate, compromise and decide in various role play situations. We will have fun solving simple and complex situations. We will build confidence as we learn about the importance of body language and making good first impressions.
Creative Publications: Writing and Art Art *\$20.00 fee	This is an advanced course that aims to link creative writing and the visual arts. Students who enroll will choose one area to focus on - writing or art. While each group will work independently, learning advanced techniques within their discipline, they will also work with the other group in an effort to create a final project that showcases their collective talents. *You must specify either Creative Publications Writing or Art on registration form.
Pop Art *\$20.00 fee	This is the class for you if you are a pop culture fan. We will be exploring a variety of subject matter, such as: celebrities, cartoons, food and advertising. Besides the use of contemporary images and ideas, we will also be learning about several well-known Pop artists, as we use their techniques in our own creations.
2D Art: *20.00 fee Painting, Print Making & Computer Imaging	Do you like to draw and paint? This is the course where you will learn those tricks and techniques that artists use to make their drawings and paintings better. Everyone is welcome and we will have you creating beautiful artwork in no time.
3D Techniques: Ceramics & Sculpture *\$15.00 fee	This course is perfect for students who do not mind getting a little messy. We explore several different types of sculpture techniques, such as ceramics, plaster and found object construction.
Ceramics *\$15.00 fee	Clay, clay and more clay! We will learn more about a variety of hand building techniques such as slab building, coiling, pinching and many others. Students will create several beautiful fired and glazed items that you can use, give as gifts or just admire.
Business Ventures	The emphasis of Business Ventures will be to give students a broad perspective of the business world through various projects and activities. Students will study the role of business and consumers in our economy and globally. The marketplace of goods and services will be discussed especially from the consumers' viewpoint. Students will explore being an informed consumer, making decisions and knowing their rights and responsibilities. Students will study how businesses are organized and managed. They will also complete a unit on personal finance, investing and budgeting. The Wisconsin Stock Market game is played, giving students real-life experience in one form of investing. Students will finish with an exploration of marketing – how to sell products and services.
Exploring the Art of Acting	In Exploring the Art of Acting, students will have the opportunity to develop the acting skills touched upon during 7 th grade Intro to Theatrics. Throughout the quarter, students will embrace their inner actor by creating amazing characters using their voice, body and mind. To do so, they will take on improvisation, scenes, monologues, and so much more! Throughout this creative and engaging class, students will also utilize cooperative group work skills, problem solving skills, writing and revising skills, divergent thinking skills alongside developing empathy, creativity and a love of the dramatic arts. Every day will be an adventure in the dramatic arts.
World Cultures	Where in the world would you love to travel? What countries would you like to learn more about? Join us in this quarter long class as we investigate what culture is and discover what your personal culture is made up of. Students will explore a country of their choosing and learn about the food, customs, sports, celebrities, history, music, sights and many other aspects. Students will experience the other countries that students choose through a digital conference. Students will also create a world in which they will create all elements of culture and show how elements of culture not only affect a community and a country, but an entire world.

Digital Music	This course introduces students to making music with digital audio workstations, synthesizers, samplers and other software tools. Students create compositions exploring approaches from popular genres such as hip hop, jazz and electronic dance music, as well as, noise, ambient, experimental and avant-garde. Students learn to make music with contemporary digital technologies and develop critical listening skills informed by a deeper understanding of these technologies, such as garage band.
Class Piano	This course is designed for students who wish to develop basic piano playing skills or expand on their existing skills. Time in class will be spent both on and off the keyboard. While playing, students will be working individually, in small groups and large groups to master the techniques of playing and learn a variety of pieces. Some of these pieces will be assigned while others will be student choice. This program introduces students to the fundamentals of piano playing, including technique, solo repertoire, harmonization, improvisation and music theory.
Automation & Robotics	Get ready to Design, Build, and Program a Robot! You will learn how to use VEX Robotics® programming software (C++) to invent and innovate. You will learn how creative thinking and problem solving can change your world! Automation and Robotics (AR) will allow you to trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as you learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. You will use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.
Computer Science for Innovators and Makers	This class teaches students that programming goes beyond the virtual world into the physical world. Students are challenged to creatively use sensors and actuators to develop systems that interact with their environment. Designing algorithms and using computational thinking practices, they code and upload programs to microcontrollers that perform a variety of authentic tasks. This unit broadens students' understanding of computer science concepts through meaningful applications. Teams select and solve a personally relevant problem related to wearable technology, interactive art, or mechanical devices.
Science of Technology *\$25.00 fee	In Science and Technology, students explore how science impacts the technology of yesterday, today, and the future. Students apply the concepts of physics, chemistry and nanotechnology to STEM activities and projects, including competing in a regional Rube Goldberg competition at the Milwaukee School of Engineering, making ice cream, creating adhesives and discovering the properties of nano-materials.
Printmaking	Printmaking is a course for students who like to experiment and try new things. We will explore some familiar printing techniques such as linoleum, but also try new things like Gelli printing, collagraphs, etching and possibly even screen printing!
Ukulele	This class provides instruction on ukulele where flat-picking styles will be explored. Ensemble playing and lifetime musical skills will be emphasized as students learn the basics of playing ukulele through music notation, chord symbols, tabs, peer modeling, improvisation, and the use of online resources. ukuleles will be provided.
Jazz Improvisation	Learn the basics of Jazz Improvisation in an easy, beginning level. Have fun experiencing Jazz Improvisation whether it's on an instrument or vocal. The added joy of performing at a school concert is a goal. However, no performance is required.
Study Hall	Those students who need extra support with academic classes are encouraged to select a study hall. (Students may sign up for a study hall for one or two quarters that meets daily.)

8th Grade Support Services

Whitefish Bay Middle School provides a variety of support systems for students' academic success. These programs are designed to assist students in developing basic skills and productive work habits to better meet the expectations of our academic curriculum.

Math Intervention	Math Intervention is a supplementary class for students in need of basic factual and functional math skills. Students receive specific interventions targeting discrete skills and strengthening foundational operations. Students are placed in the course following a team review of standardized achievement test scores, math diagnostic scores, and grade level academic progress.
Reading Intervention	Reading intervention is a supplementary class for students needing specialized help with reading skills. Students receive small group reading comprehension instruction in content area material as well as literature. Also included are vocabulary development, fluency practice, word attack skills instruction and practice, and test taking strategies and preparation work. Students are placed in the course following a review of reading specialist administered test scores and grade level academic progress.
Academic Support Study Hall	Academic Support Study Hall is intended for students who have transitioned out of an intensive intervention as an intermittent step to continue to build and strengthen grade-level expectations. It is also for students in need of targeted supports in areas such as organization, time management, quality work completion, and planning. Students practice strategies with guidance, building to self-monitoring and independence. Supports are gradually removed as students strengthen skills and are able to apply them independently. The objective of this support is to prevent the need for higher levels of intervention.