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## Lakeshore Middle School

### REQUIRED 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COURSES

#### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Students will study thematic literary units incorporating reading skills, process writing, grammar, and usage. Listening and speaking techniques will also be incorporated. The Reader's & Writer's Workshop format is used to engage students in various units of study: narrative poetry, argument, literary essay, compare/contrast, and op-ed.

#### MATHEMATICS

**Introduction to Algebra:** The Introduction to Algebra curriculum will encourage students to learn mathematics by using and connecting mathematical ideas to the world beyond the classroom, and by actively engaging students in the understanding of math. Introduction to Algebra will continue to focus on the four major content strands: *numbers, geometry, algebra, and statistics/probability*, with a major emphasis on algebra. The algebra component will include a continued exploration of linear functions as well as non-linear functions.

**Algebra: (This course is worth 1 high school credit)**

Algebra is a yearlong course that is required for all students graduating in 2011 and beyond.

**First Semester:** Algebra builds upon knowledge to recognize and solve mathematical and real-world problems involving linear relationships and to make sense of and move fluently between the graphic, numeric, symbolic, and verbal representations of these patterns. Algebra builds on the approach to the study of functions and representations begun in the middle grades. This is done by broadening the study of linear relationships to include piecewise functions, absolute value equations, systems of equations with two and three unknowns, formalized function notation, and linear regression and correlation.

**Second Semester:** The second half of the year will build upon knowledge of linear patterns of change and familiarity with nonlinear patterns such as exponential and quadratic. The knowledge of exponential and quadratic function families is extended and deepened by including topics such as rules of exponentiation, operations and factoring polynomials, and standard and vertex forms for quadratic equations. Students will also develop their knowledge of power functions and the applications they model. Finally, Algebra expands the number domain from real to complex numbers. Algebra is a requirement for graduation and preparation for their high school math proficiency test. A scientific calculator or a graphing calculator is required.

**Geometry: (This course is worth 1 high school credit)**

Geometry is a yearlong course that is required for all students graduating in 2011 and beyond.

**First Semester:** The first semester of the year focuses on logical thinking and proof, foundations of Euclidean Geometry, and properties of triangles and quadrilaterals.

**Second Semester:** The second semester of the year focuses on properties of polygons, area and volume of two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures, and applications of Geometry.

#### SCIENCE

Eighth grade Science is an introductory physics course that teaches the middle school physics components of the Michigan Science Standards. This course lays the foundations for all the sciences taken in High School. Students will conceptually explore Newton's Laws of Motion, Electricity, Waves, Sound, Light and Optics. Teachers and students will take an inquiry-based approach to learning and concepts. This inquiry-based approach will be built upon a foundation of labs, hands-on activities, and scientifically researched reading and vocabulary strategies.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies includes the study of history, geography, civics, economics, and decision making with regards to public issues and citizen involvement. The era of history to be studied begins with the Revolutionary War and analyzes events and evaluates decisions in the United States through Industrialization.

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVE CHOICES

STUDENTS WILL CHOOSE TWO CREDITS (FOUR SEMESTERS) OF ELECTIVES FOR THE YEAR

### MUSIC

A middle school music student is expected to demonstrate maturity, self-discipline, and the ability to work independently and cooperatively in large group settings. **Students who select a music program are expected to complete the full year (two semesters) of music.**

**Band:** Band is for students with previous band training and includes several performances throughout the year, including Band Festival, and seasonal concerts. Students are expected to practice at home. Students have the opportunity to participate in Solo and Ensemble, and play many types of music, Music theory, more advanced performance techniques, and high-level musicianship continues to be developed.

**Choir:** Choir is open to any eighth grader. Students will explore music of various cultures and genres including folk, jazz, classical, sacred, and pop. Students will continue to develop music literacy, and an age-appropriate tone while singing more advanced repertoire. Participation in all daytime and evening performances is an expectation of the course. Eighth grade choir students will have the opportunity to work with clinicians from around the state and participate in the District Choral Festival.

**Orchestra:** Orchestra meets daily for the entire academic year. It is a continuation of Seventh Grade Orchestra and consists of students who have completed the Seventh Grade Orchestra class or by permission of the instructor. The Eighth Grade Orchestra studies more advanced key signatures and rhythm, bowings, high positions, tuning and vibrato. A wide variety of orchestral repertoire is played using these skills. Requirements include home practice and attendance at evening performance events throughout the year. Students will have an opportunity to participate in the District and potential State Festivals.

### WORLD LANGUAGES

**Spanish: (This year long course is worth 1 high school credit, two semesters)**

**First Semester:** Students will learn the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In basic social and cultural situations, students will learn how to use the language appropriately, focusing on topics such as greetings, personality traits, school subjects, and hobbies. These situations will form the focal point for developing skills through the study of vocabulary, grammar, dialogues, readings, and hands-on activities. Cultural materials emphasize geography and the way of life of the Spanish-speaking world.

**Second Semester:** In a practical and cultural setting, students will expand upon skills learned in first semester Spanish. Topics will include food, health, leisure activities/sports, and places in town.

**German: (This year long course is worth 1 high school credit, two semesters)**

**First Semester:** While acquiring German vocabulary and basic grammatical structures, students will learn how to function appropriately in basic social and cultural situations. Various situations such as shopping, travel, sports, restaurant visits, family, school, and home form the focal point for developing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.

**Second Semester:** During the second half of the year, students will review and expand upon the listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills acquired. Students will study these skills in practical contexts such as clothing, shopping, helping at home, weather, free time, and food.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH**

### **Advanced Physical Education/Health (one semester, ½ credit in PE)**

Advanced Physical Education is designed to increase fitness levels, enhance students' athletic performance, and instill an understanding of lifelong health and fitness. Students will engage in advanced training that emphasizes strength, power, speed, agility, and conditioning. These elements are crucial for improving physical abilities and reducing the risk of sports-related injuries.

Through participation in competitive games, students will cultivate healthy competition, demonstrate good sportsmanship, and develop teamwork skills. The class also prioritizes the development of personal fitness goals and introduces strategies to achieve these goals, ensuring students are prepared for challenging daily workouts that boost overall fitness and athletic performance. This course ultimately aims to equip students with the confidence and competence needed to maintain good health throughout their lives

### **Eighth grade Physical Education - Fit for Life**

The aim of physical education is to give students the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to continue improving their physical performance and fitness and to realize that attaining and maintaining good health is for a lifetime. Students will be provided with the opportunity to improve their fitness and further develop sport skills to allow them to successfully participate in a wide range of sports, games and fitness activities. This course aims to foster teamwork and sportsmanship and educate students on the importance of maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle.

#### **What I learn in PE to become a Physically Literate individual:**

- To develop a variety of motor skills.
- To apply knowledge related to movement and fitness concepts.
- To develop social skills through movement.
- To develop personal skills, identify personal benefits of movement, and choose to engage in physical activity.

**Health (one semester, ½ high school health credit):** Health class is designed to not only provide knowledge in various health areas, but also to guide students in mastering the skills to use the knowledge they obtain, to create personal meaning of knowledge, and to distinguish between reliable knowledge and knowledge based on bias, misunderstanding or desire for personal gain. To introduce concepts, students will first focus on well-being. In addition, students will study social and emotional health, nutrition, safety, alcohol and drug abuse, personal health and wellness, and reproductive health. Students will write, present ideas to the class, collaborate, set goals, and advocate for themselves. Students should expect to participate fully both mentally and physically and grow as students and human beings.

## **ART**

### **(One semester)**

Eighth grade Art is an advanced one semester course. The class is designed to expand the students' knowledge, abilities, and critical judgment. Students will be introduced to new media and skills with an emphasis on art appreciation.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

### **(One semester)**

This one semester course immerses students into interactive projects that develop innovative and problem-solving skills. Students will follow steps of the engineering Design Process to create personalized projects, which will involve writing code, LEDs, and hands-on constructions.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Special Education teachers and their assistants support students on general education teams. Appropriate accommodations and delivery of services are done through the content of the general education courses in keeping with the students' IEP's. A Directed Study class is often recommended for both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. This class prepares students to develop essential study skills and become responsible for academic work. A variety of skills are taught and incorporated into the student's core subjects. Skills include organization, test taking, time management, writing, vocabulary, and homework strategies.

**CATEGORICAL ASD CLASSROOM:** A classroom designed to provide support for and instruction in the areas of academic, functional, and social/behavioral skills to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder with the outcome of enhancing their educational and functional outcomes.

**CATEGORICAL EI CLASSROOM:** A structured and safe environment for students with behavioral and emotional impairments. This program focuses on academics while using clear routines, individualized reinforcers, and consequences. Direct social skill lessons are also taught to teach appropriate ways to handle difficult situations and/or feelings. The goal of this program is to provide enough social/emotional support to allow students to take part and feel success in general education classrooms.

**CATEGORICAL CI CLASSROOM:** Students with an eligibility of Cognitive Impairment are offered a self-contained program addressing the needs of CI students including academics, self-help and functional skills, and prevocational skills based on the student's individual needs as determined by the IEP team. Inclusion opportunities are offered throughout the day based on the needs of the student. Physical, occupational, and speech and language therapy are available during the day.

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