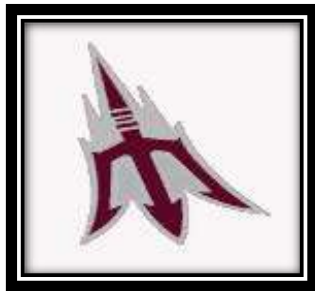


# Waterford School District



## Middle School Course Catalog

**2023-2024**

Mason Middle School

Pierce Middle School

## ***Welcome to Waterford Middle Schools***

Our middle schools are located in Waterford, Michigan, and are home to approximately 2,000 students. Students, parents, and staff work together in a student-centered environment promoting academics, self-esteem, exploration, and nurturing lifelong learning. A supportive climate encourages healthy risk takers and fosters responsible citizenship. High value is placed on curiosity, creativity, cooperative learning, and principled decision-making. Integral to our positive school culture is the high level of parent volunteerism enjoyed throughout the school year.

As an active learning center, our school day begins well before the first hour and often ends during the evening hours. Sporting events, club meetings, drama, and musical performances represent a few of the before and after school activities where students are involved. Teachers provide additional support and encouragement for students during this time.

In our middle schools we take special pride in the importance of celebrations and in nurturing a positive school climate. Formal and informal recognitions take place in our school throughout the year to honor individual and collective achievements. Recognizing the successes of students through awards, school achievement, and being a positive, helpful member of the school has a far-reaching and lasting, positive impact on the students, parents, and staff.

It is our pleasure and honor to welcome you and your family to middle school.

Sincerely,

The Administration and Staff of Mason Middle School and Pierce Middle School



## **WATERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT VISION:**

*Inspired, Educated, and Empowered to Thrive!*

**Mr. Scott Lindberg, Superintendent**

**Mrs. Lisa Eldredge, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning**

**Ms. Sandra Elka, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations**

### **MASON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Radhika Isaac, Principal

Cliff Snitgen, Assistant Principal

Jeffrey Jayson, Athletic Manager

3835 West Walton Boulevard

Waterford, MI 48329

Phone 248-674-2281

Fax: 248-673-3718

#### **Counselor Assignments by Student Last Name**

A-La: Shelly Cendrowski

Le-Z: Beth Shannahan

Intervention Counselor: David Mells

### **PIERCE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Yvonne Dixon, Principal

Kyle Schultz, Assistant Principal

Jeff Stevenson & Joe Brown, Athletic Managers

5145 Hatchery Road

Waterford, MI 48329

Phone: 248-674-0331

Fax: 248-674-4222

#### **Counselor Assignments by Student Last Name**

A-G & Sq-Z: Jeffrey Tunnicliff

H-Sp: Annette Noble

## **Table of Contents**

| <b>Course Title</b>                      | <b>Page Number</b>  |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b><i>Sixth Grade Courses</i></b>        | <b><i>7-11</i></b>  |
| Advanced Language Arts 6                 | 7                   |
| Language Arts 6                          | 7                   |
| Advanced Math 6                          | 7                   |
| Math 6                                   | 8                   |
| Science 6                                | 8                   |
| Social Studies 6                         | 8                   |
| Anchor Program 6                         | 8                   |
| Art 6                                    | 8                   |
| Band 6                                   | 9                   |
| Chorus 6                                 | 9                   |
| Computers 6                              | 9                   |
| English Language Development 6           | 9                   |
| English Language Development - Newcomers | 9                   |
| Life Skills 6                            | 9                   |
| Literacy Lab 6                           | 9                   |
| Math Lab 6                               | 10                  |
| Music 6                                  | 10                  |
| Orchestra 6                              | 10                  |
| Physical Education/Health 6              | 10                  |
| Technology 6                             | 10                  |
| World Language 6                         | 10                  |
| **Humanities Enrichment 6                | 11                  |
| **Math/Science Enrichment 6              | 11                  |
| <b><i>Seventh Grade Courses</i></b>      | <b><i>11-16</i></b> |
| Advanced Language Arts 7                 | 11                  |
| Language Arts 7                          | 12                  |
| Advanced Math 7                          | 12                  |
| Mathematics 7                            | 12                  |
| Science 7                                | 12                  |
| Social Studies 7                         | 13                  |
| Anchor Program 7                         | 13                  |
| Art 7                                    | 13                  |
| Band 7                                   | 13                  |
| Chorus 7                                 | 13                  |
| Computers 7                              | 14                  |
| English Language Development 7           | 14                  |
| English Language Development - Newcomers | 14                  |
| Life Skills 7                            | 14                  |
| Literacy Lab 7                           | 14                  |
| Math Lab 7                               | 14                  |
| Orchestra 7                              | 14                  |
| Physical Education 7                     | 15                  |
| Publications 7                           | 15                  |
| Speech and Drama                         | 15                  |
| Technology 7                             | 15                  |
| World Language 7                         | 15                  |
| **Humanities Enrichment 7                | 16                  |
| **Math/Science Enrichment 7              | 16                  |

| Course Title                                                                 | Page Number         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i><b>Eighth Grade Courses</b></i>                                           | <i><b>16-22</b></i> |
| Language Arts I                                                              | 16                  |
| Language Arts 8                                                              | 17                  |
| Algebra I                                                                    | 17                  |
| Geometry                                                                     | 17                  |
| Mathematics 8                                                                | 17                  |
| Science 8                                                                    | 18                  |
| Social Studies 8                                                             | 18                  |
| Advanced Art 8                                                               | 18                  |
| Anchor Program 8                                                             | 18                  |
| Aquaponics 8 – Pierce Campus                                                 | 19                  |
| Art 8                                                                        | 19                  |
| Band 8                                                                       | 19                  |
| Chorale 8                                                                    | 19                  |
| Computer Application 8                                                       | 19                  |
| English Language Development 8                                               | 20                  |
| English Language Development - Newcomers                                     | 20                  |
| Life Skills 8                                                                | 20                  |
| Literacy Lab 8                                                               | 20                  |
| Math Lab 8                                                                   | 20                  |
| Orchestra 8                                                                  | 20                  |
| Physical Education 8                                                         | 20                  |
| Publications 8                                                               | 21                  |
| Technology 8                                                                 | 21                  |
| **Humanities Enrichment 8                                                    | 21                  |
| **Math/Science Enrichment 8                                                  | 21                  |
| <i><b>High School Credit Courses</b></i>                                     |                     |
| Health                                                                       | 21                  |
| Personal Fitness                                                             | 22                  |
| Spanish I                                                                    | 22                  |
| French I                                                                     | 22                  |
| Language Arts I                                                              | 16                  |
| Algebra I                                                                    | 17                  |
| Geometry                                                                     | 17                  |
| **Indicates core related electives based upon enrollment/schedules           |                     |
| Waterford School District: Grading for Learning Procedures and Grading Scale | 23                  |



## ***Michigan Career Pathways***



Arts and Communications: careers related to humanities and performing, visual, literary and media arts. These include architecture; graphic, interior, and fashion design; writing; film; fine arts; journalism; languages; media; advertising; and public relations.



Business, Management, Marketing and Technology: careers related to the business environment. These include entrepreneurship, sales, marketing, computer/information systems, finance, accounting, personnel, economics and management.



Engineering/Manufacturing and Industrial Technology: careers related to technologies necessary to design, develop, install and maintain physical systems. These include engineering, manufacturing, construction, service and related technologies.



Health Sciences: careers related to the promotion of health and treatment of disease. These include research, prevention, treatment and related health technologies.



Human Services: careers related to economic, political and social systems. These include education, government, law and law enforcement, leisure and recreation, military, religion, child care, social services and personal services.



Natural Resources and Agriscience: careers related to agriculture, the environment and natural resources. These include agricultural sciences, earth sciences, environmental sciences, fisheries, forestry, horticulture and wildlife.

## **6th Grade Course Descriptions**

### **REQUIRED COURSE INFORMATION**

All 6th grade students are required to take the following courses for the entire year:

- Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Science

Every attempt is made to schedule all 6th grade students into Physical Education (semester class).

Students are automatically assigned to the following core courses:

| <b>Advanced Language Arts 6</b> | <b>Year</b> |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
|---------------------------------|-------------|

*\*Administrative Permission Required*

Students in this course will move at an accelerated pace to gain proficiency in a combination of sixth and seventh grade standards. Students will improve their reading comprehension and writing skills as they build a foundational understanding of the three major genres of narrative, informational, and argumentative reading and writing. Students will read in a variety of contexts: whole-class texts, independent reading, and small discussion groups. Students in the accelerated courses should expect to encounter texts that are more complex than those in the regular grade-level class; additionally, they should expect to move at a faster pace.

| <b>Language Arts 6</b> | <b>Year</b> |
|------------------------|-------------|
|------------------------|-------------|

Students will explore the connections between reading and writing. Students will improve their reading comprehension and writing skills as they gain proficiency in the three major genres of narrative, informational, and argumentative reading and writing. Sixth grade students will focus on building a solid foundational understanding of each of the major genres including their components and organizational structures. Students will read in a variety of contexts including whole-class texts and independent reading.

| <b>Advanced Math 6</b> | <b>Year</b> |
|------------------------|-------------|
|------------------------|-------------|

*\*Administrative Permission Required*

Students will connect the mathematics that they learn to real world situations. Students develop computation and problem solving skills. The emphasis is on the topics of numerical expressions and factors, fractions and decimals, ratios and rates, integers and the coordinate plane, algebraic expressions and properties, one-step equations, statistical measures, data displays, area and surface area and volume, rational numbers, two-step equations, proportions, and percentages.

| <b>Math 6</b> | <b>Year</b> |
|---------------|-------------|
|---------------|-------------|

Students will connect the mathematics that they learn to real world situations. Students develop computation and problem solving skills. The emphasis is on the topics of numerical expressions and factors, fractions and decimals, ratios and rates, integers and the coordinate plane, algebraic expressions and properties, one-step equations, statistical measures, data displays, area and surface area and volume.

| <b>Science 6</b> | <b>Year</b> |
|------------------|-------------|
|------------------|-------------|

Sixth Grade Science students will use Science and Engineering Practices to investigate Driving Questions and how they are related to selected Physical Science, Chemical Science, Life Science and Earth Science concepts. Students build their science literacy by studying the units listed below:

- Can I Believe my Eyes? (PS)
- How Can I Smell Things from a Distance? (IC)
- Where have all the Creatures Gone? (LS)
- How Does Water Shape My World? (ES)

| <b>Social Studies 6</b> | <b>Year</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------|
|-------------------------|-------------|

Students focus on Geography Tools and Concepts, Eastern Hemisphere, Western Hemisphere, Economics and Government. Citizenship, social studies skills, current events and other important topics are integrated throughout the year.

## **ADDITIONAL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

| <b>Anchor Program 6</b> | <b>Semester</b> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
|-------------------------|-----------------|

*\*Application Only*

This program is offered for students who are interested in acting as a positive role model to a peer with special needs. Anchors are assigned a “buddy” and are expected to act as a positive role model, friend, and a helper to that student. Anchors provide the “buddies” with authentic social experiences and expose the “buddies” to functions and social manners that exist within the general population. Anchors are given the opportunity to attend field trips and special classroom functions with their “buddy”. Anchor meetings are held on a weekly to bi-weekly basis. Anchor meetings are mandatory, due to specialized training needed in assisting students with special needs.

| <b>Art 6</b> | <b>Semester</b> |
|--------------|-----------------|
|--------------|-----------------|

This semester-long course is an introduction to art. Students will be exposed to multiple basic skills, techniques and the elements/principles of design. They will begin to develop an understanding of techniques through the investigation of an assortment of artistic media.

| <b>Band 6</b> | <b>Year</b> |
|---------------|-------------|
|---------------|-------------|

This course provides the opportunity for the student to select and learn to play a brass or wind instrument. Students will develop rehearsal skills, technical skills, proper tone, and play as a balanced ensemble. Students are required to rent or own an instrument and to perform in two concerts throughout the year. If a student is unable to rent or own an instrument, all efforts will be made to assist in locating one to use if the class is selected.

| <b>Chorus 6</b> | <b>Semester or Year</b> |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
|-----------------|-------------------------|

Students who like to sing will explore musical concepts through active participation in a chorus. Opportunities for playing instruments, movement, listening and creating music will be offered. Students will learn to read and write music with an introduction to the musical keyboard/synthesizer.

| <b>Computers 6</b> | <b>Semester</b> |
|--------------------|-----------------|
|--------------------|-----------------|

Students will become more effective and efficient computer users by developing and practicing proper touch-typing and basic keyboarding skills using Micro-Type Multimedia software. They will also learn basic computer terminology and operation.

| <b>English Language Development 6</b> | <b>Year</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
|---------------------------------------|-------------|

*\*Administrative Permission Required – please consult with ELD staff*

This course is designed for English Learners and will focus on skill development related to listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English. Instruction will align to WIDA ELP (English Language Proficiency) standards and will be differentiated according to WIDA ELP levels.

| <b>English Language Development - Newcomers</b> | <b>Year</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|

*\*Administrative Permission Required – please consult with ELD staff*

This course is for students who are newest to the United States and/or in the earliest stages of learning English. Social and instructional language will be the focus as students increase their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.

| <b>Life Skills 6</b> | <b>Semester or Year</b> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
|----------------------|-------------------------|

Students will develop awareness of the need to become responsible individuals. The program focuses on how self-awareness relates to decisions made in relationships, family life, babysitting and nutrition.

| <b>Literacy Lab 6</b> | <b>Semester or Year</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
|-----------------------|-------------------------|

*\*Administrative Permission Required*

This program is designed to improve student's literacy strategies. Students work on fluency, vocabulary, grammar, writing, and comprehension skills based on their need. The length of this course, semester or year, varies with each student.

**Math Lab 6****Semester**

*\*Administrative Permission Required*

Students will build confidence in mathematical skills and receive support to help them achieve success in their core math course.

**Music 6****Semester**

Students will explore musical concepts through singing, playing instruments and composing simple melodies. Students will learn to read and write music and perform choral singing.

**Orchestra 6****Year**

This course provides the opportunity for the student to select and learn a string instrument: violin, viola, cello or string bass. Students will develop rehearsal skills, technical skills, proper tone and play together as an ensemble. Students are required to rent or own an instrument and to perform in concerts throughout the year. If a student is unable to rent or own an instrument, all efforts will be made to assist in locating one to use if the class is selected.

**Physical Education/Health 6****Semester**

Students will be introduced to various components of health and fitness. Physical education will focus on physical fitness components to develop and maintain cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility. Students will also participate in a health program. This will cover the different aspects of physical, mental/emotional, and social health. These aspects along with the fitness components will improve each student's overall well-being.

**Technology 6****Semester**

Students will be introduced to all three areas of technology and explore its evolution. This includes sketching, drawing, designing, and constructing using computer software to problem solve. Student projects include balloon cars, transportation technology, animation, pop bottle rockets, hot air balloons, prosthetic limbs, and many more. Students will use hand tools, hot glue guns, craft knives and various building materials to complete projects.

**World Language 6****Semester**

Students gain knowledge of various topics including the alphabet, basic greetings, numbers, days of the week, months, and classroom vocabulary and commands. Various cultural aspects are introduced, including holidays and festivals.

***\*\*Additional core related electives will be added as enrollment dictates. Students will be assigned to these classes as needed to complete their schedule.***

---

**Humanities Enrichment 6****Semester**

Students will engage in meaningful, inquiry-based activities related to English Language Arts and social studies content. This may include but is not limited to extensions of ELA and social studies topics in the required course, problem-based learning, collaborative projects, creative presentations in multi-media formats, and/or enrichment opportunities to connect with the greater community.

---

**Math/Science Enrichment 6****Semester**

Students will engage in meaningful, inquiry-based activities related to math and science content. This may include but is not limited to extensions of math and science topics in the required course, problem-based learning, collaborative projects, creative presentations in multi-media formats, and/or enrichment opportunities to connect with the greater community.

### **7th Grade Course Descriptions**

#### **REQUIRED COURSE INFORMATION**

All 7th grade students are required to take the following courses for the entire year:

- Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Science

Every attempt is made to schedule all 7th grade students into Physical Education (semester class).

Students are automatically assigned the following core courses:

---

**Advanced Language Arts 7****Year**

*\*Administrative Permission Required*

Students in this course will move at an accelerated pace to gain proficiency in a combination of seventh and eighth grade standards. Students will improve their reading comprehension and writing skills as they gain proficiency in the three major genres of narrative, informational, and argumentative reading and writing. Students will read in a variety of contexts: whole-class texts, independent reading, and small discussion groups. Students in the accelerated courses should expect to encounter texts that are more complex than those in the regular grade-level class; additionally, they should expect to move at a faster pace.

**Language Arts 7****Year**

Students will continue to gain proficiency making connections between reading and writing. Students will improve their reading comprehension and writing skills as they deepen their understanding in the three major genres of narrative, informational, and argumentative reading and writing. Students will read in a variety of contexts including whole-class texts and independent reading.

**Advanced Math 7****Year**

*\*Administrative Permission Required*

Students will connect the mathematics that they learn to real world situations. Students develop computation and problem solving skills in all of the math strands. The emphasis is on the topics of representations and calculations of rates, ratios, proportions, rational numbers, real numbers and roots. In algebra the topics are multiple representations of linear and non-linear relationships, functions, graphs, quadratics, and factoring. Students solve equations, systems and inequalities.

**Mathematics 7****Year**

Students will connect the mathematics that they learn to real world situations. Students develop computation and problem-solving skills in all of the math strands. The emphasis is on the topics of integers and rational numbers. In algebra the topics are proportional and linear relationships, graphs, algebraic properties, expressions, equations, and inequalities. Students move to representations and calculations of rates, ratios, proportions. Students also study circles and area, surface area and volume, statistics and probability.

**Science 7****Year**

Seventh grade science students will use Science and Engineering Practices to investigate Driving Questions and how they are related to selected Physical Science, Chemistry, Earth Science and Life Science concepts. Students build their science literacy by studying the units listed:

- (PS) Why Do Some Things Stop While Others Keep Going?
- (LS) What Is Going On Inside Me?
- (IC) How Do I Make New Stuff From Old Stuff?
- (ES) What Makes the Weather Change?

**Social Studies 7****Year**

Students focus on Ancient History from the beginning of Human Society to 1500. Citizenship, social studies skills, current events and other important topics are integrated throughout the year.

**ADDITIONAL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS****Anchor Program 7****Semester**

*\*Application only*

This program is offered for students who are interested in acting as a positive role model to a peer with special needs. Anchors are assigned a “buddy” and are expected to act as a positive role model, friend, and a helper to that student. Anchors provide the “buddies” with authentic social experiences and expose the “buddies” to functions and social manners that exist within the general population. Anchors are given the opportunity to attend field trips and special classroom functions with their “buddy”. Anchor meetings are held on a weekly to bi-weekly basis. Anchor meetings are mandatory, due to specialized training needed in assisting students with special needs.

**Art 7****Semester**

This semester-long course is an introduction for some and an expansion of knowledge for others. It is designed to provide introductory lessons to new students and expand on previous experiences. Lessons are more complex and are designed to match the development abilities of all seventh grade students. Students will be exposed to basic skills, techniques as well as more abstract concepts.

Students will begin to develop mastery of techniques through the investigation and application of an assortment of artistic mediums.

**Band 7****Year**

This course provides opportunities such as Solo and Ensemble Festival, Percussion Ensemble, and Middle School honors Band. Symphony Band will also be participating in Band Festival. Required performances include two concerts, a pre-festival performance, Band Festival and the Memorial Day Parade.

**Chorus 7****Semester or Year**

Students who love to sing are encouraged to join in the fun. Performance and singing techniques will be covered through a variety of music. Students will learn to read and sing music involving two-part arrangements and perform in a required formal concert “concert attire required” at the end of the semester.

---

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Computers 7</b> | <b>Semester</b> |
|--------------------|-----------------|

---

Students will be exposed to computer systems and experience a variety of computer applications. Students will learn to create multimedia presentations, to edit and enhance graphics, to use word processing skills, to create a spreadsheet and graph, and basic Internet skills, using Microsoft Office Suite Applications.

---

|                                       |             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>English Language Development 7</b> | <b>Year</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|

---

*\*Administrative Permission Required*

This course is designed for English Learners and will focus on skill development related to listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English. Instruction will align to WIDA ELP (English Language Proficiency) standards and will be differentiated according to WIDA ELP levels.

---

|                                                 |             |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>English Language Development – Newcomers</b> | <b>Year</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|

---

*\*Administrative Permission Required – please consult with ELD staff*

This course is for students who are newest to the United States and/or in the earliest stages of learning English. Social and instructional language will be the focus as students increase their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.

---

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Life Skills 7</b> | <b>Semester</b> |
|----------------------|-----------------|

---

Students will gain knowledge and practical experience in goal-setting, communication, decision-making, consumerism and basic survival skills. Kitchen skills and safety guidelines are examined and expanded as important elements of success in the kitchen.

---

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Literacy Lab 7</b> | <b>Semester</b> |
|-----------------------|-----------------|

---

*\*Administrative Permission Required*

This program is designed to improve student's literacy strategies. Students work on fluency, vocabulary, grammar, writing, and comprehension skills based on their need. The length of this course, semester or year, varies with each student.

---

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Math Lab 7</b> | <b>Semester</b> |
|-------------------|-----------------|

---

*\*Administrative Permission Required*

Students will build confidence in mathematical skills. Students will receive support to help them achieve success in their core math course.

---

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| <b>Orchestra 7</b> | <b>Year</b> |
|--------------------|-------------|

---

This course will introduce vibrato, while focusing on rehearsal skills, technical skills, proper tone and playing together as an ensemble. Students are required to rent or own an instrument and to perform in concerts throughout the year. If a student is unable to rent or own an instrument, all efforts will be made to assist in locating one to use if the class is selected.

**Physical Education 7****Semester**

Students will continue learning how to develop and maintain cardiovascular endurance, increase strength, flexibility and agility. Various activities such as soccer, volleyball, basketball, and team handball are incorporated to help improve the students' progress and level of physical fitness.

**Publications 7****Semester**

Students will be actively engaged in daily writing. They will have response prompts, along with the expectation for authoring an article for the school newspaper or other media. Students will brainstorm their own article topics and then take them through the writing process, culminating in them being featured in school publications.

**Speech and Drama****Semester**

Students can let their imaginations soar, allowing them to explore their creativity and learn the tools they need to express their thoughts and ideas. The speech and drama course will focus primarily on developing on-going confidence, self-esteem and strengthen verbal communication skills.

**Technology 7****Semester**

Students are further introduced to the systems model approach for problem solving. They will also become more familiar with, and use a design portfolio that will allow them to problem solve using the design loop. Projects range from boats, bridges, earthquake towers, DC-powered planes, electronics, slot cars, and many more. Students will use hand and power tools, hot wire cutters, software, and various building materials to complete their projects.

**World Language 7****Semester**

Students will discover how to introduce themselves, talk about likes and dislikes as well as daily activities and needs. It is a program that centers on the students and their daily lives. The students learn conversational skills.

*\*Not a prerequisite for Spanish I or French I*

***\*\*Additional core related electives will be added as enrollment dictates. Students will be assigned to these classes as needed to complete their schedule.***

---

**Humanities Enrichment 7****Semester**

Students will engage in meaningful, inquiry-based activities related to English Language Arts and social studies content. This may include but is not limited to extensions of ELA and social studies topics in the required course, problem-based learning, collaborative projects, creative presentations in multi-media formats, and/or enrichment opportunities to connect with the greater community.

---

**Math/Science Enrichment 7****Semester**

Students will engage in meaningful, inquiry-based activities related to math and science content. This may include but is not limited to extensions of math and science topics in the required course, problem-based learning, collaborative projects, creative presentations in multi-media formats, and/or enrichment opportunities to connect with the greater community.

### **8th Grade Course Descriptions**

#### **REQUIRED COURSE INFORMATION**

All 8th grade students are required to take the following courses for the entire year:

- Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Science

Students are automatically assigned their core courses.

---

**Language Arts I****Year**

*\*Administrative Permission Required*

Language Arts I is a skill-based course that focuses on reading, writing, language, and speaking and listening. In this course, students will connect an introduction of literacy classics to modern-day experiences. Students will use a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts to practice and master skills necessary for future LA courses, all State assessments, and for possible AP coursework.

**Please Note:** Upon successful completion of this year-long course, students may enroll in Language Arts II, and one high school credit is earned in the Waterford School District.

---

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Language Arts 8</b> | <b>Year</b> |
|------------------------|-------------|

---

Students will continue to gain proficiency making connections between reading and writing. Students will improve their reading comprehension and writing skills as they deepen their understanding in the three major genres of narrative, informational, and argumentative reading and writing. Students will read in a variety of contexts including whole-class texts and independent reading.

---

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| <b>Algebra I</b> | <b>Year</b> |
|------------------|-------------|

---

*\*Administrative Permission Required*

Students learn algebraic concepts related to number systems, calculations using real and complex numbers and precision. Algebraic content includes expressions and inequalities; functions (linear, polynomial, power and logarithmic); mathematical modeling and linear regression. Students use graphing calculators. Problem-solving strategies help students learn to think critically, work cooperatively, and communicate ideas to deepen their understanding.

**Please Note:** Upon successful completion of this year-long course, students may enroll in Geometry, and one high school credit is earned in the Waterford School District.

---

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| <b>Geometry</b> | <b>Year</b> |
|-----------------|-------------|

---

*\*Administrative Permission Required*

Geometry is the study of shape, its structure and measure that describe the physical space in which we live. Students will learn in depth descriptions, characteristics, relationships and computations related to geometric figures. Geometry will be the platform for learning about reasoning and proof. Techniques of algebra will be used in geometric applications. The course will have an additional emphasis on applications to the world around us. These concepts will be illustrated through real-world application projects where students will work collaboratively to solve problems. The Mathematical Practice Standards are applied throughout the course and together with the content standards.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I*

**Please Note:** Upon successful completion of this year-long course, students may enroll in Algebra II, and one high school credit is earned in the Waterford School District.

---

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| <b>Mathematics 8</b> | <b>Year</b> |
|----------------------|-------------|

---

Eighth grade students build upon mathematical concepts and skills to continue to prepare them for high school and beyond. The course emphasis is on algebraic concepts including operations of real numbers, solving equations, data analysis, applications of proportions, radicals, solving and graphing linear functions, and geometry. Problem solving strategies will be included throughout all sections of the course to help students learn to think critically, work cooperatively and to communicate ideas to their peers and teachers.

**Science 8****Year**

Eighth grade science students will use Science and Engineering Practices to investigate Driving Questions and how they are related to selected Physical Science, Chemistry, Earth Science and Life Science concepts. Students build their science literacy by studying the units listed below:

- (PS) How Will It Move?
- (IC) How Does Food Provide My Body with Energy?
- (EC) How is Earth Changing?
- (LS) Why do Organisms Look the Way They Do?

**Social Studies 8****Year**

Students focus on American History from the American Revolution through Reconstruction. Significant people, events and ideas are explored. Citizenship, social studies skills, current events and other important topics are integrated throughout the year.

**ADDITIONAL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS****Advanced Art 8****Semester**

*\*This class is by teacher recommendation.*

This course offers talented art students the opportunity to further explore the elements and principles of art. Students will use a variety of materials in conjunction with higher-level thinking skills to complete projects. This class requires high motivation, self-direction and discipline.

**Anchor Program 8****Semester**

*\*Application only*

This program is offered for students who are interested in acting as a positive role model to a peer with special needs. Anchors are assigned a “buddy” and are expected to act as a positive role model, friend, and a helper to that student. Anchors provide the “buddies” with authentic social experiences and expose the “buddies” to functions and social manners that exist within the general population. Anchors are given the opportunity to attend field trips and special classroom functions with their “buddy”. Anchor meetings are held on a weekly to bi-weekly basis. Anchor meetings are mandatory, due to specialized training needed in assisting students with special needs.

**Aquaponics 8****Pierce - Semester**

Students will learn to combine the technologies of aquaculture and hydroponics. They will plant seedlings, stock fish, calculate production variables, track water quality, and harvest products. Students learn and understand the needs of fish and plants, understand nutrient cycling, become familiar with basic business practices, and develop an appreciation for agriculture

**Art 8****Semester**

This semester-long course is an introduction for some and a deeper dive into art for others. It is designed to provide introductory lessons to new students and expand on previous experiences in art as well. Lessons are more complex in that they are designed to match the development abilities of all eight grade students. Students will be exposed to basic skills, techniques as well as more abstract concepts. Students will begin to develop mastery of advanced techniques through the investigation and application of an assortment of artistic mediums.

**Band 8****Year**

This class emphasizes high-level, pre-high school performance preparation. The focus is on individual as well as group musicianship. There are great opportunities available to members such as Solo and Ensemble Festival and Percussion Ensemble. Band 8 will also be participating in Band Festival. Required performances include two concerts, a pre-festival performance, Band Festival, and the Memorial Day Parade.

**Chorale 8****Year**

All students who enjoy singing and want to further develop their singing skills will have the opportunity to study higher-level musical concepts in this year-long choral performance class. Students will be required to perform both in and out of school, alone and with others using a variety of musical styles, languages and historical periods.

**Computer Applications 8****Semester**

Students will develop more advanced skills using Microsoft Office Suite. They will also continue to improve their Internet research skills as they gather information for projects. The Internet, digital cameras, and scanners will be incorporated into the creation of various projects.

|                                       |             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>English Language Development 8</b> | <b>Year</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|

*\*Administrative Permission Required*

This course is designed for English Learners and will focus on skill development related to listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English. Instruction will align to WIDA ELP (English Language Proficiency) standards and will be differentiated according to WIDA ELP levels.

|                                                 |             |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>English Language Development - Newcomers</b> | <b>Year</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|

*\*Administrative Permission Required – please consult with ELD staff*

This course is for students who are newest to the United States and/or in the earliest stages of learning English. Social and instructional language will be the focus as students increase their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Life Skills 8</b> | <b>Semester</b> |
|----------------------|-----------------|

Students examine their roles as consumers and future home and community leaders. Through career exploration and goal setting, students will discover individual characteristics that will make them successful in society. Kitchen labs include nutrient exploration, meal planning and meal preparation

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Literacy Lab 8</b> | <b>Semester</b> |
|-----------------------|-----------------|

*\*Administrative Permission Required*

This program is designed to improve student's literacy strategies. Students work on fluency, vocabulary, grammar, writing, and comprehension skills based on their need. The length of this course, semester or year, varies with each student.

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Math Lab 8</b> | <b>Semester</b> |
|-------------------|-----------------|

*\*Administrative Permission Required*

Students will build confidence in mathematical skills. Students will receive support to help them achieve success in their core math class.

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| <b>Orchestra 8</b> | <b>Year</b> |
|--------------------|-------------|

This course will emphasize pre-high school performance abilities, while introducing shifting. Students are required to rent or own an instrument and to perform in concerts throughout the year. If a student is unable to rent or own an instrument, all efforts will be made to assist in locating one to use if the class is selected.

|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Physical Education 8</b> | <b>Semester</b> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|

Students will continue learning how to develop and maintain cardiovascular endurance, increase strength, flexibility and agility. Various team sports are incorporated to help improve the students' progress, level of physical fitness and game strategies.

**Publications 8****Semester**

Students will be actively engaged in daily writing. They will have response prompts, along with the expectation for authoring an article for the school newspaper or other media. Students will brainstorm their own article topics and then take them through the writing process, culminating in them being featured in school publications.

**Technology 8****Semester**

Students will create a portfolio which helps them in problem solving. Projects include CO<sub>2</sub> cars, electronics, architecture, mousetrap cars, monster trucks and solid fuel rockets. Students use application software in their projects.

***\*\*Additional core related electives will be added as enrollment dictates. Students will be assigned to these classes as needed to complete their schedule.***

**Humanities Enrichment 8****Semester**

Students will engage in meaningful, inquiry-based activities related to English Language Arts and social studies content. This may include but is not limited to extensions of ELA and social studies topics in the required course, problem-based learning, collaborative projects, creative presentations in multi-media formats, and/or enrichment opportunities to connect with the greater community.

**Math/Science Enrichment 8****Semester**

Students will engage in meaningful, inquiry-based activities related to math and science content. This may include but is not limited to extensions of math and science topics in the required course, problem-based learning, collaborative projects, creative presentations in multi-media formats, and/or enrichment opportunities to connect with the greater community.

**HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT OPTIONAL ELECTIVES****Health****Semester**

This course offers an opportunity for students to better understand the dynamics of good health. This course may include mental, physical and social aspects of good health.

**Please Note:** Upon successful completion of this semester course, students will earn .5 high school credit in the Waterford School District.

**Personal Fitness****Semester**

Students will further perfect their skills and increase their level of physical fitness. Students will participate in team sports with a stronger emphasis on skill development, higher knowledge level, and game strategies to participate at highly competitive level.

**Please Note:** Upon successful completion of this semester course, students will earn .5 high school credit in the Waterford School District.

**Spanish I****Year**

This course introduces the student to the sound and structure of the Spanish language. The student learns the language by developing listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

**Please Note:** Upon successful completion of this year long course, students will earn one high school credit in the Waterford School District.

**French I****Year**

This course introduces the student to the sound and structure of the French language. The student learns the language by developing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.

**Please Note:** Upon successful completion of this year long course, students will earn one high school credit in the Waterford School District.

- A. The purpose of grading is to ascertain and to communicate, fairly and accurately, the academic achievement of each student. Grades will reflect student level of mastery based on teacher professional judgment, not just on mechanical calculations. Waterford teachers will adhere to consistent procedures for grading.
- B. Categories will distinguish between Achievement/Assessment factors and Practice factors
  - a. Parents and students will be aware of which category assignments fall into (i.e. marked in MiSTAR)
  - b. Achievement/Assessment Factors will be clearly identified in the gradebook with an "!" before the title of the assignment for long and short names in MiSTAR
- C. Coursework may be weighted differently within a category: test vs. quiz or assignments vs. discussion
- D. Late work:
  - a. Practice: Late work, at a minimum, will be accepted for full credit through the end of the unit. Teachers' policies will be clearly communicated to students and parents in the course syllabus. Missing Practice assignments: Assignments not received will be marked as missing, which will be coded in MISTAR gradebooks to count as zero in grade calculations. Missing assignments not turned in by deadline will be changed to a zero.
  - b. Achievement/Assessment: Missing work from the Achievement/Assessment category will be accepted for full credit until two weeks before the end of the semester.
- E. Achievement/Assessment Factor grading:
  - a. No Attempt-Refusal to Attempt: Scored as Missing in MiSTAR (which calculates as 0%). Teacher will include comment in MiSTAR
  - b. Attempt and score at 50% or below: Score of 50%; Teacher comment will note the actual score earned
- F. Frequency of Assessments: At a minimum, each course will have at least 4 Achievement/Assessment" grades each semester
- G. Retakes for Achievement/Assessment Factors:
  - a. Students will be allowed to complete Assessment retakes until the week before the end of the quarter for middle school and the semester for high school courses.
  - b. The retake policy for each course will be clearly stated in the course syllabus. Teachers may require test corrections, completion of missing work, or other stipulations prior to retake.
  - c. All students will be given the opportunity to reassess regardless of their previous score and given the opportunity to earn full credit on the assessment
  - d. When a student retakes an assessment, the original score and the fact it was a retake will be noted in MiSTAR comments
- H. Extra credit: The district will no longer be offering extra credit in classes as students will have the opportunities to make up/retake assessments to improve their grades and demonstrate their learning.
- I. Earning a grade in classes for move-ins or late class entries: Course grade will be determined by the teacher considering any previous available body of work and their performance in the Waterford course.
- J. Items in the grade book related to the course but that do not reflect an opportunity for learning (i.e. signed syllabus, attending a field trip, etc.) can be included but will be left ungraded.
- K. Grades/Progress will be updated weekly in MiStar and/or through parent communication.
- L. Final Exams will count for 10% of the overall semester grade.

The table below describes how “Practice” and “Achievement/Assessment” grading factors might be categorized when weighing grades, and includes weights and grading scales. The Course Syllabus will identify practice and achievement/assessment factors for each class.

| Practice Factors: Weighted at 25%                                                                                                                                                                                            | Achievement/Assessment Factors: Weighted at 75%                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Opportunities and activities to learn content or skills                                                                                                                                                                      | Demonstration of learning of content                                                                                                                                                   |
| Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily/reading assignments</li> <li>• Homework/classwork/class discussions</li> <li>• Checks for Understanding</li> <li>• Engage/explore lessons/journal prompt</li> </ul> | Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test or quiz</li> <li>• Performance</li> <li>• Demonstration in essays/projects</li> <li>• Semester/final/unit summative</li> </ul> |

**District/Common Grading Scales:**

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| A                 | 92.5% |
| A-                | 89.5% |
| B+                | 86.5% |
| B                 | 82.5% |
| B-                | 79.5% |
| C+                | 76.5% |
| C                 | 72.5% |
| C-                | 69.5% |
| D+                | 66.5% |
| D                 | 62.5% |
| D-                | 59.5% |
| E                 | 0.0%  |
| Pass/Fail Classes |       |
| P                 | 75%   |
| F                 | 0%    |

| GRADE | GRADE POINT | *WEIGHTED GRADE |
|-------|-------------|-----------------|
| A     | 4.0         | 5.0             |
| A-    | 3.67        | 4.67            |
| B+    | 3.33        | 4.33            |
| B     | 3.0         | 4.0             |
| B-    | 2.67        | 3.67            |
| C+    | 2.33        | 3.33            |
| C     | 2.0         | 3.0             |
| C-    | 1.67        | 2.67            |
| D+    | 1.33        | 2.33            |
| D     | 1.0         | 2.0             |
| D-    | .67         | 1.67            |
| E     | 0           | 0               |

