



Dickinson Middle School

Growing minds.
Building community.

2023-2024 Course Descriptions

Dickinson Middle School

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Dickinson, ND 58601

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<https://www.dickinson.k12.nd.us/schools/dms>

6th Grade Dickinson Middle School Course Descriptions

REQUIRED CLASSES

Course Name: Literacy 6	Class Type: Core	Term: Full Year	Grade: 6
Description: Read Like a Writer - Write Like a Reader			

Course Name: Mathematics 6	Class Type: Core	Term: Full Year	Grade: 6
Description: This course explores 6th grade mathematics. Major areas of emphasis are basic operations with fractions and decimals, area, perimeter and volume of geometric shapes and algebraic expressions. 6th grade students will learn through independent practice, group collaborations and hands on activities.			

Course Name: Physical Education (P.E.)	Class Type: Required	Term: Semester	Grade: 6
Description: This course explores physical activity. Major areas of exploration will be fitness components, skill development, and cooperative teamwork development. Students will learn through effort, attitude, and participation. This course meets on an A/B schedule and is a yearlong course.			

Course Name: Science 6	Class Type: Core	Term: Full Year	Grade: 6
Description: This course explores all aspects of science. The major areas of emphasis are life, earth, physical, and biological. Students will learn through labs, hands-on activities, technology, cooperative learning, and by using a scientific thought process.			

Course Name: Social Studies 6	Class Type: Core	Term: Full Year	Grade: 6
Description: This course explores several ancient civilizations including Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, China, and the Middle Ages. Student learning focuses on six aspects of daily life in each civilization including religion, environment, culture, innovations, politics, and economy.			

Course Name: STEM Inquiry	Class Type: Required	Term: Semester	Grade: 6
Description: STEM Inquiry is an Introduction to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). This course will bring together the Engineering Design Process and the Scientific Method to educate students in STEM critical thinking skills. Students will learn math and science ideas to enhance the learning experience. Activities will include engineering, measurement, space exploration, coding, flight, and environmental studies.			

ELECTIVE CLASSES

Course Name: Art	Class Type: Elective	Term: Quarter	Grade: 6
Description: This course explores the beginning skills associated with drawing, painting, and clay. A major emphasis is placed on learning to see and draw like an artist does. Students will learn through hands on projects.			

Course Name: Beginning Band	Class Type: Elective	Term: Full Year A/B	Grade: 6
Description: Beginning Band is designed to provide students with an introductory experience on band instruments. Beginning Band is a year-long course on an A/B schedule. Students must provide a personally owned or rental instrument for this program. Students with a personally owned instrument should have it approved by the director prior to the start of the class. Students and parents should plan for the student to complete the entire school year of the course once they select it.			

Course Name: Books & Media	Class Type: Elective	Term: Quarter	Grade: 6
Description: This class explores all types of media ranging from print to digital. Students will learn about information, how to find it, and evaluate it. They will create projects using different types of media.			

Course Name: Intro to Pathways	Class Type: Elective	Term: Quarter	Grade: 6
Description: You're hired! Words everyone wants to hear when interviewing. This class will introduce students to exploring the world of careers while developing skills needed to be successful in school and beyond. Classroom activities will relate to classroom success and job readiness.			

Course Name: Music Exploration	Class Type: Elective	Term: Quarter	Grade: 6
Description: 6th Grade Music Exploration class offers the students an opportunity to explore world music drumming, beginning guitar skills and an introduction to music technology. No prerequisite knowledge of playing the instruments is needed to take this class. Instruments are provided. This class meets daily for 9 weeks. Grade 6 students will have the opportunity to audition for the "Surround the State in Song Choir" which is held in October.			

Course Name: Skills for Daily Living 6	Class Type: Elective	Term: Quarter	Grade: 6
Description: This course explores topics related to family and consumer sciences. Areas of emphasis are laundry, cooking, and sewing. Students will learn through a project-based curriculum.			

REFERRAL CLASSES

Course Name: ELA (English Language Arts) Boost	Class Type: Referral	Term: Full Year	Grade: 6
Description: This course has different offerings focusing on skills ranging from foundational reading skills such as phonological awareness and phonics to reading fluency and comprehension. This class supports students in gaining the skills they need to become fluent readers who comprehend what they read. This class provides students with explicit guided lessons, practice, and re-teaching to support them in gaining missing foundational reading skills. Instructors work with small groups for more targeted attention. Students who qualify for this course are determined by criteria set forth by their ELA teacher and the ELA interventionist.			

Course Name: Math Boost	Class Type: Referral	Term: Full Year	Grade: 6
Description: Math Boost is an intervention course designed to “fill the gaps” from prior years math classes. This course aims to build math comprehension and fluency by going back to the basics. This approach will develop confidence and cement their math skills. This class is designed to pre-teach, reteach, and provide support for students enrolled in grade-level math. Math Boost provides 1 on 1 attention by working in small groups. Students who qualify for this course are determined by criteria set forth by their math teacher, and the math interventionist. Resources used to enhance and practice basic skills include Freckle, Delta Math, and Xtramath.			

7th Grade Dickinson Middle School Course Descriptions

REQUIRED CLASSES

Course Name: Geography	Class Type: Core	Term: Full Year	Grade: 7
Description: Geography focuses on the Six Essential Elements and Five Themes of Geography. Students will explore these across different regions in the world. Within each region, students will learn about the physical and cultural features as well as economic concepts that make that region unique. Students will learn about governments, mountains, lakes, religions, people, currency, how to read and use a map, and many other key topics. We will also take time to discuss and learn about current events. Geography helps students understand the relationship among people, places, and the environment over time. The aim of this course is to help students become more globally minded, understand multiple perspectives, and appreciate diversity. Studying the human and physical geographic regions of the world helps students develop an understanding of the greater world creating awareness and concern.			

Course Name: Language 7	Class Type: Core	Term: Full Year	Grade: 7
Description: This course explores the reading, writing, speaking, and listening standards needed to be successful in comprehension and communication. Students will read a variety of genres to increase awareness and apply reading skills. Students will use various types of writing to further develop the writing process and learn to adapt to specific types of writing.			

Course Name: Mathematics 7	Class Type: Core	Term: Full Year	Grade: 7
Description: This course explores mathematical thinking. Major areas of emphasis are operations with rational numbers, ratios, rates, proportions, and linear equations. Students will learn through group work, hands on activities and teacher instruction.			

Course Name: Science 7	Class Type: Core	Term: Full Year	Grade: 7
Description: This course explores all aspects of science. The major areas of emphasis are life, earth, physical, and biological. Students will learn through labs, hands-on activities, technology, cooperative learning, and by using a scientific thought process.			

REQUIRED ELECTIVE

Course Name: P.E./Health	Class Type: Required	Term: Semester	Grade: 7
Description: This course explores physical activity. Major areas of exploration will be fitness components, skill development, cooperative teamwork development. Students will learn through effort, attitude, and participation. Students will learn about physical, mental, emotional, and social health. Students will understand how to improve and maintain their health, prevent disease, and reduce risky behaviors.			

Course Name: P.E. Weightlifting/Conditioning	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester	Grade: 7
Description: This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn weight training concepts and techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will benefit from comprehensive weight training and cardiorespiratory endurance activities. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of weight training, strength training, aerobic training, and overall fitness training and conditioning. Course includes both lecture and activity sessions. Students will be empowered to make wise choices, meet challenges, and develop positive behaviors in fitness, wellness, and movement activity for a lifetime.			

ELECTIVE CLASSES

Course Name: Art	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester	Grade: 7
Description: This course explores the beginning and advanced skills associated with drawing, painting sculpting and printmaking. A major emphasis is placed on enhancing drawing as well as using color in various color media. Students will learn through hands on projects.			

Course Name: Band 7	Class Type: Elective	Term: Full Year	Grade: 7
Description: *Must have previously taken 6th Grade Band. 7th Grade Band is designed to provide students with an intermediate experience on band instruments. Curriculum for this course is an extension of the skills and concepts introduced in Beginning Band. Band is a year-long course of instruction. Students will have required performances during the school year. Students and parents should plan for the student to complete the entire school year of the course once they select it as an elective option. Students will have the opportunity to audition for the "North Dakota Middle School All-State Band", and the opportunity to audition for honor festivals in Minot and Dickinson. Students must provide a personally owned or rental instrument for this program.			

Course Name: Choir 7	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester or Full Year	Grade: 7
Description: *No prior experience needed 7th grade choir students develop appropriate singing techniques, sing in a variety of musical styles, and further their music theory skills as related to the music being taught. All 7th grade students are welcome! Students will have required performances during the school year. Students will have the opportunity to audition for the "North Dakota Middle School All State Choirs" and the opportunity to audition for honor festivals in Minot and Dickinson.			

Course Name: Guitar	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester	Grade: 7
Description: "All Amped Up" Students enrolled in this class will learn and develop basic to intermediate guitar skills. Students do not need previous experience on guitar. Students will learn basic technique, information, and music theory concepts. Students will study and learn to play a variety of musical styles. Guitars will be provided for class use. Personal guitars may be used but must be approved by the director prior to taking the class.			

Course Name: Pathways	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester	Grade: 7
Description: YOU'RE HIRED! Words everyone wants to hear when interviewing. Explore your career interests while learning how to accomplish your goals. In doing so, you will explore the skills needed to develop your resume, interviewing skills, and portfolio. Classroom discussions and activities relate to job attainment and advancement (promotions).			

Course Name: Skills for Daily Living	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester	Grade: 7
Description: This course explores topics related to family and consumer sciences. Major areas of emphasis are cooking, sewing, family resources, childcare, and nutrition. Students will learn by actively engaging in real-world and personally meaningful projects.			

Course Name: World Drumming	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester	Grade: 7
Description: 7th Grade students that choose this class will study world music drumming and marimba playing. Students will focus on ensemble playing on a variety of instruments and experience a variety of drumming and marimba styles and traditions. Students will demonstrate their knowledge through class participation and when available, public performances. Instruments are provided for the students for use in class. This course meets daily during the semester. This course is a prerequisite for 8th grade advanced drumming.			

STEM CLASSES

Course Name: ImpACT	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester	Grade: 7 & 8
Description: DMS ImpACT News: This STEM class allows you to change DMS for the better by using your voice and creativity. In this course, students spread the news and ideas of the student body by creating pod casts, announcement slides, a newsletter, and a luncheon newspaper to inform the school population of what is happening here at DMS. By using the EDP process (engineering design process), students create projects that will "impact" their school in a positive way. Students are also allowed to create their own outside projects if it helps the school. We look forward to seeing what kind of ImpACT you can make at DMS next year!			

Course Name: Design & Technology	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester	Grade: 7 & 8
Description: This course will explore solutions to problems using Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math with a focus the engineering design process. Students will explore these instrumental content areas using a variety of technologies. Through module-based lessons, students will develop real-world skills through woodworking, dragster design and construction, engineering, and flight while using critical reason skills associated with computer programming, robotics, and basic video game design. Over the course of a module, students will individually customize their learning path based on their own interests.			

Course Name: Scientific Inquiry & Design	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester	Grade: 7 & 8
Description: This course will explore solutions to problems using Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math with a focus on answering questions with the scientific method and designing solutions with the Engineering Design Process. Students will learn the history of and learn to use a variety of technology, including 3D Printers, Electronics and Circuits, Coding (Micro: bit), Drones, LASERS, etc. Students will also learn and practice technical writing and professional presentation skills.			

Course Name: STEM	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester	Grade: 7
Description: This course has a hands-on approach to solving and exploring problems using Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.			

REFERRAL CLASSES

Course Name: Library Aide	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester	Grade: 7
Description: Assists with daily tasks of the library such as checking out library materials, receiving returns, and determining outstanding materials. Returns books and materials to stacks. Assists the Librarian when setting up the Book Fair and other hands-on activities.			

Course Name: ELA (English Language Arts) Boost	Class Type: Referral	Term: Full Year	Grade: 7
Description: This course has different offerings focusing on skills ranging from foundational reading skills such as phonological awareness and phonics to reading fluency and comprehension. This class supports students in gaining the skills they need to become fluent readers who comprehend what they read. This class provides students with explicit guided lessons, practice, and re-teaching to support them in gaining missing foundational reading skills. Instructors work with small groups for more targeted attention. Students who qualify for this course are determined by criteria set forth by their ELA teacher and the ELA interventionist.			

Course Name: Math Boost	Class Type: Referral	Term: Full Year	Grade: 7
Description: Math intervention is designed to “fill the holes” from prior year(s) math classes. This course aims to build math comprehension and fluency. By going back to the basics, we will begin with building and cementing basic math skills that will in turn build each student’s confidence in the math classroom. We will be working on Khan Academy, IXL or Xtramath 60 minutes per week depending on grade level. This class is designed to pre-teach, reteach, and provide support for students taking grade-level math. These classes will work with smaller groups for more 1on 1 attention. Homework time will be provided as deemed necessary.			

8th Grade Dickinson Middle School Course Descriptions

REQUIRED CLASSES

Course Name: 9 th Grade Advanced Algebra I	Class Type: Core	Term: Full Year	Grade: 8
Description: * Completion of this course fulfills the Algebra I requirement for high school graduation. Advanced Algebra I is the study of the structure and properties of the real numbers. A considerable amount of time is spent teaching these concepts using variables. Topics covered include linear functions, inequalities, systems of linear equations, quadratic functions, polynomials, exponential functions, and radicals. This course is the first course in the traditional college preparatory sequence. Placement in this course will be determined by prior academic records.			

Course Name: Language 8	Class Type: Core	Term: Full Year	Grade: 8
Description: This course explores the reading, writing, speaking, and listening standards for grade 8 ELA. The curriculum in Language Arts is an integrated combination of reading skills, writing skills, speaking, and listening skills, grammar study, and vocabulary acquisition. The teaching and learning activities are designed to improve upon existing skills and extend learning.			

Course Name: Mathematics 8	Class Type: Core	Term: Full Year	Grade: 8
Description: This course explores mathematical thinking. Major areas of emphasis are linear and non-linear functions, Pythagorean Theorem, geometric transformations, and systems of equations. Students will learn through group work, hands on activities, and teacher instruction.			

Course Name: Science 8	Class Type: Core	Term: Full Year	Grade: 8
Description: This course explores all aspects of science. The major areas of emphasis are life, Earth, physical, and biological. This course includes an introduction to chemistry. Students will learn through labs, hands-on activities, technology, cooperative learning, and by using a scientific thought process.			

Course Name: History/ND Studies	Class Type: Core	Term: Full Year	Grade: 8
Description: This course explores early American history starting at the American Revolution and ending with the cultural reforms of the early 20th century. While covering topics in United States history, we also discuss the events occurring in North Dakota during the same time period. Students will learn through discussion, direct instruction, and collaborative learning.			

REQUIRED ELECTIVE

Course Name: P.E./Health: Lifetime Fitness	Class Type: Required	Term: Semester	Grade: 8
Description: This physical education course explores physical activity through solo workout activities. Major areas of exploration will be fitness components, and skill development based on the individual's performance. Students will learn through effort, attitude, and participation. Students will learn about physical, mental, emotional, and social health. Students will understand how to improve and maintain their health, prevent disease, and reduce risky behaviors.			

Course Name: P.E./Health: Team Activities	Class Type: Required	Term: Semester	Grade: 8
Description: This physical education course explores physical activity through teamwork activities. Major areas of exploration will be fitness components, skill development, cooperative teamwork development. Students will learn through effort, attitude, and participation. Students will learn about physical, mental, emotional, and social health. Students will understand how to improve and maintain their health, prevent disease, and reduce risky behaviors.			

Course Name: P.E. Weightlifting/Conditioning	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester	Grade: 8
Description: This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn weight training concepts and techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will benefit from comprehensive weight training and cardiorespiratory endurance activities. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of weight training, strength training, aerobic training, and overall fitness training and conditioning. Course includes both lecture and activity sessions. Students will be empowered to make wise choices, meet challenges, and develop positive behaviors in fitness, wellness, and movement activity for a lifetime.			

ELECTIVE CLASSES

Course Name: Advanced Sewing	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester	Grade: 8
Description: *Must have previously taken Skills for Daily Living 7 Students will be using various sewing machines to learn novice to advanced sewing techniques. Students will understand sewing patterns and cutting skills necessary for designing and creating their own clothing. Students will be taken from the very basics of setting up and threading a sewing machine to making clothing to show off their newly acquired sewing skills in just one semester!			

Course Name: Advanced World Drumming	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester	Grade: 8
Description: *Must have previously taken World Drumming 8th Grade students may choose this option if they wish to continue to study world music drumming and marimba playing. In this class, students will focus on improving their ensemble skills, add to their African/Latin American drumming techniques and study other world cultures and their music. Students will also improve their marimba playing skills within the ensemble and play a variety of instruments throughout this course. Students will demonstrate their knowledge through class participation and when available, public performances. Instruments are provided for the students.			

Course Name: Art SL (semester long)	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester	Grade: 8
Description: This course explores the beginning and advanced skills associated with drawing, painting, sculpting and printmaking. A major emphasis is placed on exposing the students to multiple media as they continue to enhance skills developed in 6th and 7th grade. Students will learn through hands on projects.			

Course Name: Art YL (yearlong)	Class Type: Elective	Term: Full Year	Grade: 8
Description: This course is open to 8th grade students that are driven and serious about art with the desire to take Art for the entire school year. Students in this class will follow the same curriculum in the first semester as the students enrolled in Art SL (semester long). In the second semester Art YL (yearlong) students will explore new media and concepts as well as advanced skills in media the students were exposed to in Art SL (semester long) class. Mediums covered will be in Drawing, Painting, Sculpting and Digital Photography. This class is limited to one section and will be full year class. Students will learn through hands on projects.			

Course Name: Band 8	Class Type: Elective	Term: Full Year	Grade: 8
Description: *Must have previously taken 7th Grade Band 8th Grade Band is designed to provide students with an advanced experience on band instruments. Curriculum for this course is an extension of the skills and concepts introduced in 7th grade band. 8th grade Band is a year-long course of instruction. Students will have required performances during the school year. Students and parents should plan for the student to complete the entire school year of the course once they select it as an elective option. Students will have the opportunity to audition for the "North Dakota Middle School All State Band" and the opportunity to audition for honor festivals in Minot and Dickinson. Students must provide a personally owned or rental instrument for this program.			

Course Name: Choir 8	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester or Full Year	Grade: 8
Description: *No prior experience needed 8th grade students continue to develop appropriate singing techniques, sing in a variety of musical styles, and further their music theory skills as related to the music being taught. All 8th grade students are welcome! Students will have required performances during the school year. Students will have the opportunity to audition for the "North Dakota Middle School All State Choirs" and the opportunity to audition for honor festivals in Minot and Dickinson. This course meets every day.			

Course Name: Guitar	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester	Grade: 8
Description: "All Amped Up" Students enrolled in this class will learn and develop basic to intermediate guitar skills. Students do not need previous experience on guitar. Students will learn basic technique, information, and music theory concepts. Students will study and learn to play a variety of musical styles. Guitars will be provided for class use. Personal guitars may be used but must be approved by the director prior to taking the class.			

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Course Name: Skills for Daily Living	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester	Grade: 8
Description: *This course is not available if you took it in 7 th grade. This course explores topics related to family and consumer sciences. Major areas of emphasis are cooking, sewing, family resources, childcare, and nutrition. Students will learn by actively engaging in real-world and personally meaningful projects.			

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STEM CLASSES

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Course Name: STEM (Exploring Solutions)	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester	Grade: 8
Description: This course has a hands-on approach to solving and exploring problems using Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.			

REFFERAL CLASSES

Course Name: Library Aide	Class Type: Elective	Term: Semester	Grade: 8
Description: Assists with daily tasks of the library such as checking out library materials, receiving returns, and determining outstanding materials. Returns books and materials to stacks. Assists the Librarian when setting up the Book Fair and other hands-on activities.			

Course Name: ELA (English Language Arts) Boost	Class Type: Referral	Term: Full Year	Grade: 8
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