

# Middle School Course Descriptions

## **LANGUAGE ARTS 6**

Collections for 6th grade. Focuses on Complex Text, meeting Common Core Standards, Digital learning. Plus, chapter books, technology integration, focusing on State Standards.

Writing: Focus on Expository, Informative, Narrative, Persuasive, Descriptive modes. Writing Traits: Organization, Ideas/Content, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Conventions with Technology integration.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS 7 & 8**

Students are working toward meeting or exceeding the language arts benchmarks as defined by the Oregon State Standards. In this course students will engage in reading, writing, listening and speaking activities that allow students to further their literacy skills. All students will make and show academic growth.

## **MATH 1**

Curriculum and instruction will be aligned to the grade 6 common core math standards. The five critical areas of focus are: 1) understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems; 2) apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers; 3) represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables; 4) solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume and 5) develop understanding of statistical variability.

## **MATH 2**

Curriculum and instruction will be aligned to the grade 7 common core math standards. The four critical areas of focus are: 1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; 2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; 3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions and working with two and three dimensional shapes to solve problems

involving area, surface area and volume; 4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples

## **MATH 3**

Curriculum and instruction will be aligned to the grade 8 common core math standards. The three critical areas of focus are: 1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equations, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; 2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; 3) analyzing two and three dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

## **ALGEBRA 1**

This is the first of a 3 course series that prepares students for entrance into post-high school, college-level mathematics. This course covers the state and national college standards for Algebra 1. The course emphasizes learning skills needed to manipulate polynomials, solve linear equations and inequalities, solve systems of equations and quadratic equations and applications of these concepts.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE**

The middle school is currently using Smithsonian STC curriculum, a lab based program that is aligned to the current NGSS standards. Each year of middle school science will focus on: Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth/Space Science. The middle school science modules include the following: "Energy, Forces, and Motion", "Matter and Its Interactions", "Electricity, Waves, and Information Transfer", "Ecosystems and Their Interactions", "Structure and Function", "Genes and Molecular Machines", "Weather and Climate Systems", "Earth's Dynamic Systems", and "Space Systems Exploration"

## **GEOGRAPHY**

This is a 7th grade course. As per the standards, our curriculum is a survey of the history, and physical & cultural geography of the Eastern Hemisphere and its many different peoples.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

This is an 8th grade course where students will study the influential people, places and events of early U.S. History. We start the year learning about early American civilizations and work our way up through the American Civil War. Along the way we will cover topics like the American Revolution, the U.S. Constitution, westward expansion and many others. Students will participate and engage in a number of different activities throughout the year to develop an understanding of these historical concepts and how they have shaped the world in which we currently live.

## **INTRO TO AGRICULTURE/FFA/LEADERSHIP**

Introduction to Agriculture surveys a wide array of topics within the agricultural industry, exposing students to the many and varied types of agriculture and career opportunities and those in related fields. This course introduces students to the agricultural field, providing them an opportunity to identify an area for continued study or to determine that their interest lies elsewhere. This course focuses on developing communication skills, scientific research, types of business ownership, business principles, FFA, leadership skills.

## **GRADE 7 SURVEY**

This course allows students to rotate through a variety of academic enhancement opportunities, as well as introductions to high school electives. While

the Survey curriculum is subject to change each year, we have traditionally been able to offer: Art, Metal Shop, Computer Science, FFA, Academic preparedness & Success, Health, and other project based learning opportunities.

## **GRADE 8 SURVEY**

This course allows students to rotate through a variety of academic enhancement opportunities, as well as introductions to high school electives. While the Survey curriculum is subject to change each year, we have traditionally been able to offer: Art, Metal Shop, Computer Science, FFA, Academic Preparedness & Success, Health, and other project based learning opportunities.

## **6th GRADE CHOIR**

This course is an introduction to learning how to sing with a group for all voice types. This group performs in three concerts for the year. In this class you will learn proper vocal technique, singing different parts independently, choral literature, solfege, sight reading, ear training, strong work ethic, and teamwork. This course is open to 6th grade students only.

## **VARIATIONS**

This course is the intermediate choir for 7th/8th graders. In this class, students will learn how to sing with a group of all different voice types. This group performs in three school concerts and some other choir festivals around Oregon. In this class you will learn proper vocal technique, singing different parts independently, choral literature, solfege, sight reading, ear training, strong work ethic, and teamwork. This course is open to all 7th and 8th grade students.