

Course Descriptions

2022-2023

COURSE PLACEMENT GUIDELINES

ADVANCED COURSES

Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools is dedicated to and invested in each student's success. The majority of students in grades 6-12 find appropriate levels of challenge within the general classroom setting and some students desire a more challenging, rigorous academic experience. Advanced Courses are designed to meet the needs of students who are motivated, highly capable and require higher levels of academic challenge.

Advanced Courses in English, Science, Social Studies, History and Math are designed to cover the same outcomes and curriculum as mainstream courses, with variations in pacing, depth and complexity of study, as well as an increased level of expectation regarding student work.

While in middle and high school, it is important that each student be provided with an appropriate level of challenge. This challenge should provide a sufficient amount of rigor with the probability of success and result in academic growth and confidence building. When a student is placed in an advanced course, students are expected to complete the class.

To match students' academic readiness and needs with the most appropriate classroom setting, a placement consideration process is used to determine which students would be placed in each Advanced Course sequence. When determining the number and size of advanced course sections, the number of placed students, class size, and staffing are variables that are considered.

Placement screening process for Advanced Courses:

Students will be identified for advanced course placement using test scores and class performance.

Note to parents: We recommend you take several factors into consideration when deciding how many Advanced Courses your child will take. Even though s/he may meet criteria for all four Advanced Courses, students are not required to take them. Please consider your child's interest level in the subject area, his/her extracurricular activity schedule and your child's pace when working on homework. If you have additional questions regarding these considerations, please contact the Guidance Office.

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EXTENSION COURSES

Prior Lake - Savage Area Schools is dedicated to and invested in each student's success. Some students need more basic level support in the area of math. Extension courses are designed to meet the needs of students who are performing below grade level expectations.

MATH EXTENSION – Grades 6, 7 and 8: (Placement by test scores)

(6th and 7th grade – Every day, year long))

(8th grade – Every day, year long)

This course is geared to the student who needs additional support in basic math skills. Students enrolled in this course will be exposed to a curriculum which emphasizes the skills focused on the MCA III math test. This class is not an elective and does not replace their required Math class.

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6th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH 6

(Every day, all year)

Students will engage in learning experiences, centered on reading and writing and vocabulary study. Students will create an interactive notebook where they will practice critical reading strategies, grammar, vocabulary skills, literary elements and writing. Student work is assigned with the goal of developing and leading a language-rich sixth grade life.

ADVANCED ENGLISH 6

(Every day, all year)

Sixth grade students will engage in rigorous guided and independent practice deepening students' ability to effectively use, analyze and enjoy language and the author's craft. This course extends beyond the required core curriculum and places additional emphasis on independent study and higher order thinking skills. Students need to be highly motivated learners, interested in literature, and established writers. Students are expected to exercise independent and complex thinking, reading, writing, and learning skills through self-initiated and teacher directed areas of study. This course will help students gain strong academic skills, knowledge and academic confidence that will help to prepare them in future courses.

MINNESOTA STUDIES 6

(Every day, semester)

In this semester-long course students will expand their understanding of Minnesota history, civics, geography and economics. Students will engage in historical inquiry and critical thought as they study events, issues, and individuals significant to Minnesota's past and present.

IMMERSION MN STUDIES 6

(Every other day, semester)

In this semester-long course students will expand their understanding of Minnesota history, civics, geography, economics and the academic use of Spanish language. Students will engage in historical inquiry and critical thought as they study events, issues, and individuals significant to Minnesota's past and present. The textbook, instruction and learning experiences will be in Spanish. **Students enrolled in the course should have significant previous experience in Spanish language use.**

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ADVANCED MINNESOTA STUDIES 6

(Every day, semester)

Advanced Minnesota Studies is a semester-long course designed to create a more rigorous academic experience for students with an interest in Minnesota Studies. In this semester long course, students will explore the history, civics, geography, and economics of Minnesota. Students will engage in historical inquiry and critical thought as they study events, issues, and individuals significant to Minnesota's past and present. Students will examine a variety of primary and secondary sources in their studies, thus helping them gain a deeper and more meaningful understanding of people and events that helped shape our state.

SCIENCE 6

(Every day, year-long)

Students will study Engineering through a variety of topics such as Matter and Energy, Motion and Forces, the Atom, Interactions of Matter, Introduction to the Periodic Table, Waves, and Sounds and Light. In addition to reading technical writing for content, students will work to learn and improve their scientific vocabulary both in practice and practical use. In addition to the technical reading and taking notes, students will engage in scientific inquiry labs where students ask questions, develop and carry out investigations, make predictions, gather evidence, and propose explanations.

ADVANCED SCIENCE 6

(Every day, year-long)

This course is designed for a rigorous and a more in depth differentiated classroom instruction and will concentrate on developing essential foundational skills and concepts. It begins with an extensive introduction to the scientific method and measurement techniques as a basis for the next three years of science study. Lab experiments and lab reports develop an understanding of the scientific method. Observation, the collection of data, and the interpretation of that data are stressed throughout the course. Students will study Engineering through a variety of topics such as Matter and Energy, Motion and Forces, the Atom, Interactions of Matter, Introduction to the Periodic Table, Waves, and Sounds and Light.

MATH 6

(Every day, year-long)

This course is a continuation of arithmetic skills. Students will also review and learn new material in the areas of algebra, geometry, and data analysis & probability. Mathematical concepts are taught and studied through application and practice problems, providing opportunities to develop skills and to understand the importance of mathematics in everyday life. Problem solving is interwoven throughout the course.

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ADVANCED MATH 6

(Every day, year-long)

Students will be held to a higher and more rigorous academic level. Students will study math in greater depth and at a more challenging pace. In this class, students will learn concepts about rational numbers, their operations, and their algebraic representations by using number lines and rulers as well as physical and verbal models. Students will also apply their skills to problem – solving situations and use estimation to check reasonableness. Other topics of study include: equations and functions, geometry, square roots, and probability

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6

(Every other day, year long)

In this class the students have the opportunity to participate in team sports, lifetime activities and individual skill development. There is an emphasis on teamwork through demonstrating good sportsmanship and respectful behavior. Physical Education units vary due to the seasons.

HEALTH 6

(Every day, one semester)

This course is designed to focus on the prevention of unhealthy behaviors and the promotion of attitudes and behaviors that can lead to lifelong health practices. Central themes are focused around the National Health Standards. Included in the course are the acceptance of personal responsibility for lifelong health; respect for and promotion of the health of others; awareness of how personal choices affect mental, emotional, physical, and social health; and inquiry-based individual learning of student-determined health-related topics.

ART 6

(Every day, one quarter)

This class will explore a variety of different media, including units in drawing, painting, printmaking, sculptures and ceramics (clay). Students will continue to develop their knowledge of the vast art world as well as continue to develop their individual skills in each unit of art. Each project incorporates the art elements and principles of design ensuring a finished final project.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE 6 (FACS)

(Every day, one quarter)

Students are introduced to Family and Consumer Science in 6th grade. Students will study self-esteem, friendship, anti-bullying topics, child care and home alone safety. Students will learn about healthy eating during the nutrition unit. Students enjoy the cooking labs, learning preparation techniques while making healthy snacks.

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DISCOVER CODING

(Every day, one quarter)

In today's digital world, coding is becoming a fundamental skill. Discover Coding uses Code.org which creates a fun and engaging platform where children not only learn to program, but also have opportunities to be creative using code. Discover Coding inspires students as they build their own websites, apps, games, and physical computing devices.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 6

(Every day, one quarter)

This class consists of a measurement and drafting unit, and a clock construction unit. In the measurement and drafting unit, students will learn to read a ruler and use basic drafting tools to create simple mechanical drawings. The students will create a clock plan and use their plan to construct a clock. Prior to building the clock, machine safety will be covered. All students must pass the safety tests with 100% accuracy before they will be allowed to use the machines.

IMMERSION SPANISH 6

(Every other day, year long)

Students will engage in learning experiences, centered on reading, writing and vocabulary study to increase proficiency in the academic use of Spanish language. Students will explore the benefits of being bilingual or multilingual speakers and engage in authentic purposes for using the language not only in the classroom but as part of a larger global community. Students will also analyze the many cultures that utilize the Spanish language and compare and contrast these cultures with our own. Students will practice critical reading strategies, grammar, vocabulary skills, literary elements, writing and interpersonal communication. **Students enrolled in the course should have significant previous experience in Spanish language use.**

Band

(Every other day, year long)

Learning to play an instrument is a fun life skill! Students enrolled in 6th Grade Band will begin developing skills by performing music from rock to pop and classical to jazz. Students will also learn the basics of music theory and notation (pitch and rhythmic), concepts of musical expressivity, and rehearsal/performance etiquette. Additionally, 6th grade band students will meet weekly for small group lessons and every other day for full concert band rehearsal. They will perform in their first band concerts! Fun activities include Band Olympics, rhythm bingo, and A.M.P. ceremonies (kids love this!). Connect with a middle school band director if there is concern about acquiring an instrument. Most students participate in the Community Education beginning band program the summer before 6th grade.

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Mixed Choir

(Every other day, year long)

Students enrolled in 6th Grade Mixed Choir will learn musical skills and vocal technique through studies of music from a variety of different styles and genres of repertoire. Students will also learn basics of music theory and notation (pitch and rhythmic), concepts of musical expressivity, and rehearsal/performance etiquette. Assessment of these items will occur both informally (via daily class instruction) and formally (via public concert performances).

Music Exploration

(Every other day, year long)

Students enrolled in "Music Exploration" will be exposed to a variety of musical experiences and opportunities as students learn about musical cultures from America and around the world. Students will learn through hands-on musical study including world music drumming and beginning guitar instruction. They will also learn basics of music theory in addition to a brief study in music history and musical theater.

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7th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH 7

(Every day, all year)

Students will read a variety of novels, short stories, poetry, and non-fiction selections. Students will expand vocabulary, apply the elements of fiction, and evaluate various forms of literature. They will use the writing process to form works of informative, expressive and persuasive writing for a variety of audiences and purposes.

ADVANCED ENGLISH 7

(Every day, all year)

Advanced English extends beyond the required core curriculum and places additional emphasis on independent study and higher order thinking skills. As there will be both extensive outside reading and summer reading required, students need to be highly motivated learners, interested in literature. Students are expected to exercise independent and complex thinking, reading, writing, and learning skills through self-initiated and teacher directed areas of study. Advanced English is designed to challenge and nurture students who are skilled in Language Arts. Students will be guided through rigorous independent coursework with a focus on academic writing and an intensive study of a variety of texts. This course will help students gain strong academic skills, knowledge and academic confidence to prepare them in future Advanced English courses.

AMERICAN HISTORY 7

(Every day, all year)

American History Seven is a course focused on studying our nation's history from 1800's to the 1900's. This course will also feature a strong component of citizenship, Government, Economics and Geography. This course will analyze major events that helped shape our nation's history and how these events have impacted how people live, work, and function in society.

IMMERSION AMERICAN HISTORY 7

(Every day, all year)

American History Seven is a course focused on studying our nation's history from 1800's to the 1900's. This course will also feature a strong component of citizenship, government, economics, geography and the academic use of Spanish language. This course will analyze major events that helped shape our nation's history and how these events have impacted how people live, work, and function in society. Special focus will be on the influence of Latinos on American history and culture. The textbook, instruction and learning experiences will be in Spanish.

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Students enrolled in the course should have significant previous experience in Spanish language use.

ADVANCED AMERICAN HISTORY 7

(Every day, all year)

Advanced American History Seven is a course designed to create a more rigorous academic experience for students with a more in-depth interest in American history from the 1800's to the 1900's. Throughout this course, students will be asked to think and analyze historical events as actual historians would do. Students will be asked to analyze primary and secondary source documents to gain a deeper and more meaningful understanding of events that have shaped our nation's history.

LIFE SCIENCE 7

(Every day, all year)

Students will discover the wonders of life through problem solving and activity-based learning. The course covers the exploration of cells and life processes, classification of organisms, viruses/monerans/protists/fungi and plants, and ecology. The students will also demonstrate knowledge of interactions and interdependence of living systems by understanding heredity, reproduction, behavior, and regulation of plants, animals, and microorganisms. Hands-on lab activities include making observations with microscopes, studying bacteria, dissecting animals, and insect studies.

ADVANCED LIFE SCIENCE 7

(Every day, all year)

The accelerated course for grade 7 Life Science is a rigorous instructional program that incorporates knowledge acquisition through guided experimentation and application of content knowledge to an understanding of current scientific issues. The course is designed for academically advanced students to foster their critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Students will be challenged to acquire skills in observation, data analysis, and effective communication. They will use these experiences as a bridge to achievement in more advanced science courses. Students will utilize supplemental reading materials in addition to a textbook that differs from the one used in the general course. This provides advanced students with resources appropriate for in-depth understanding of the curriculum.

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PRE-ALGEBRA 7

(Every day, all year)

This course is a transition from arithmetic to algebra and geometry. Students will study mathematical concepts through applications and practical problems, providing opportunities to develop skills and to understand the importance of mathematics in everyday life. Problem solving is interwoven throughout the course.

ADVANCED PRE-ALGEBRA 7

(Every day, all year)

Advanced Pre-Algebra will hold students to a higher and more rigorous academic level. Students will study Pre-Algebra in greater depth and at a more challenging pace. Pre-Algebra skills and concepts are integrated in a study of geometry, measurement, probability, statistics, equations, and graphing.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7

(Every other day, one semester – required)

In this class the students have the opportunity to participate in team sports, lifetime activities and individual skill development. There is an emphasis on teamwork through demonstrating good sportsmanship and respectful behavior. Physical education units vary due to the seasons.

HEALTH 7

(Every other day, one semester – required)

This course is designed to focus on the promotion of attitudes and behaviors that can lead to good lifelong health practices with emphasis on the prevention of unhealthy choices. Central themes are focused around the National Health Standards. Included in the course are units focusing on decision-making skills to enhance personal health; the examination of the function of human body systems; investigate the dangers associated with the abuse of drugs; and understanding of the process of growth and development; analysis of current health statistics.

TEAM SPORTS 7

(Every day, one quarter)

This elective class provides students with an opportunity to participate in a Physical Education class (in addition to the required class, Physical Education 7) with an increased level of fun and competition. Each semester students in TEAM SPORTS 7 will participate in team sports and individual activities while promoting positivity and teamwork.

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PERSONAL PERFORMANCE 7

(Every day, one quarter)

Next Level Training! Students will set personal goals based on athletic performance and/or personal fitness. Through student choice, multiple technology platforms and teacher designed workouts, students will perform advanced training techniques to reach the personal goals they set for themselves.

7th grade SPANISH I

(Every day, year long)

In this class our goal is to acquire Spanish through an approach called CI and TPRS. Acquiring language is something that happens to you and not something that you make happen, much like how you acquired your first language. Therefore, 90 percent of class will be in Spanish, primarily refining your skills in listening and reading. Active participation is key. We will both do our “50 percent” to co-create stories, read novels and explore the culture Spanish speaking countries have to offer. Your teacher’s job is to make everything they say in Spanish comprehensible, while your job is to listen to understand. We are so excited to start Spanish with you! Students who successfully complete Spanish I will be recommended for Spanish II in 8th grade.

IMMERSION SPANISH 7

(Every day, year long)

Students will engage in learning experiences to increase proficiency in the academic use of Spanish language. Students will read a variety of novels, short stories, poetry, and non-fiction selections, particularly those originally written in Spanish. Focus will be placed on the interaction of literature and culture. Students will expand vocabulary, apply the elements of fiction, and evaluate various forms of literature. They will use the writing process to form works of informative, expressive and persuasive writing for a variety of audiences and purposes. Students will engage in written and spoken interpersonal communication. **Students enrolled in the course should have significant previous experience in Spanish language use.**

GERMAN I

(Every day, year long)

This course introduces students to the German language through comprehensible input and storytelling. Our method is based on the research of Dr. Stephen Krashen and Blaine Ray. It is called Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS). The students will acquire German by listening and reading for comprehension. They will demonstrate their understanding through writing and retelling of stories. The students will acquire an introductory knowledge of German speaking cultures and customs through the content of the stories. In the target language, the teacher introduces the outline of a story and asks students to provide the details.

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The teacher solicits student responses by asking questions, thus continually recycling both the vocabulary and the target grammar. The student's answers build the story. Students are encouraged to be creative.

FRENCH I

(Every day, year long)

This class will introduce students to the French language and culture of French speaking countries. It is designed to help introduce the language and culture using common vocabulary, gestures, stories and more. Students will be encouraged to use French for communication and self-expression. We will cover speaking, listening, reading and writing. Topics will include greetings, numbers, colors, foods and beverages and leisure-time activities

ART, TECHNOLOGY & CLAY 7

(Every day, one quarter)

Want to learn more about your creative superpowers? In this class, students will create projects exploring imagination and personal interests as they discover new techniques – and amazing new ways to express themselves! Drawing skills (perspective and portraiture), hand-building with clay, and an introduction to the many possibilities of Adobe Photoshop combine with thoughtful content and critical awareness to deepen understanding of art and the varied technologies used in its making. Digital artworks and cool clay – this class has it all!

WORLD ART & CRAFTS 7

(Every day, one quarter)

Does an exotic trip around the world sound like a great idea? In this class, you will travel the world as you explore how artists in many different cultures express themselves and the world around them. Using a wide variety of media (painting, clay, printmaking and sculpture), students will “visit” the Australian Outback, central Mexico, sub-Saharan Africa, the tomb of Chinese emperor Qin Shi Huang, and lots more - no passport required!

COOK IT, BUY IT, SEW IT! 7

(Every day, one quarter)

Learning to cook involves more than just cooking. Students will explore food trends, nutrition, cooking and baking skills, and kitchen safety. Students will have the opportunity to apply these skills by cooking in the labs. Students will learn how to manage money and make informed decisions. They will also have fun in the sewing unit by creating a hand sewing project.

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HEALTHY ME 7

(Every day, one quarter)

Students explore food science through experiments, healthy eating with nutrition labels, ways of wellness, and explore what makes you your best self. Students will explore trends, fad diets, and food groups to be able to make informed decisions. Students will be able to apply this knowledge to food labs, where they will cook.

DESIGN AND MODELING – PLTW 7 (Educational Technology)

(Every day, one quarter)

In Design and Modeling students will learn about technology, engineering and the design process by creating three dimensional (3-D) computer drawings. Most of the class activities will be project based and involve creating 3-D drawings on the computer using a software design program called Autodesk Inventor. Some of the exciting projects that students will learn how to create on the computer include linking cubes, a peg board and a puzzle cube. This is a great class for students who are interested in computers and learning about drawing, design and basic engineering concepts.

TRANSPORTATION AND AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY 7 (Educational Technology)

(Every day, one quarter)

In Transportation and Aerospace Technology students will learn about a variety of different aerospace and transportation topics. Some of the projects students may create include a model dragster, solar powered car, wind turbine, model airplane or a rocket. In addition to these topics students will learn about the applications of flight and transportation technology. The class instruction will focus on project based learning where students will spend time creating and working on projects associated with the course topics.

KEYBOARDING 7

(Every day, one quarter)

Keyboarding is a skill that is utilized in many facets of daily life. This course provides introductory development of basic keyboarding skills. Students will use the typing program Typing Club to proceed from basic alphabetic keyboarding through keyboarding skill builder. Emphasis is on developing touch control of the keyboard using proper keyboarding techniques and building basic speed and accuracy. In addition to learning to type by touch, students will also learn the basic features of Google Drive.

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WEBSITE DESIGN 7

(Every day, one quarter)

This course will introduce students to basic website design. Students will use Google Sites to create informational websites. Students learn how to plan and create a website. They will consider web page design basics, web page background, effective text placement, hyperlinks; utilize website colors and graphics.

BAND 7

(Every other day, year long)

Continuing to learn to play an instrument is a fun life skill! Students enrolled in 7th Grade Band will further develop their skills by performing music from rock to pop and classical to jazz. Students will also learn basics of music theory and notation (pitch and rhythmic), concepts of musical expressivity, and rehearsal/performance etiquette. Additionally, 7th Grade Band students will experience marching band for the first time. 7th Grade Band students will have the opportunity to audition for and participate in extra-curricular instrumental music ensembles including 7-8 Jazz Band and 7-8 Honor Band. *Prerequisite: One year of band or director approval required.

CHOIR 7 (Girls – Treble Choir, Boys – Cambiata Choir)

(Every other day, year long)

Students in 7th Grade Choir will continue to develop appropriate vocal technique and skill in an effort to understand and develop their changing voices. Basic skills in music theory will be taught during this course as they apply to the music being taught. Students will also develop or enhance their performance skills by participating in concerts throughout the year. This is a gender based choir; boys and girls meet separately in choir classes.

DRUMMING AND ELECTRONIC MUSIC 7

(Every other day, one semester)

Students will learn the fundamentals of different types of Drumming and different types of Electronic Music. The first quarter will be a survey of different types of Drumming. Students will study Junkyard Drumming, World Drumming, Traditional Concert Drumming and Marching Drumming. The second quarter will be a survey of different types of music using Garage Band including Rock, Swing and Hip Hop. Students will learn to create music videos using iMovie utilizing both music they have created and music that others have created. Students will also learn the fundamentals of DJ-ing and will have the opportunity to research and display information about famous DJs.

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8th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH 8

(Every day, all year)

This course consists of various types of writing, novel studies, short stories, poetry, reading strategies, public speaking, grammar and vocabulary. The student will demonstrate the ability to comprehend and evaluate complex information in fictional and non-fictional reading and communicate effectively through speaking and writing.

ADVANCED ENGLISH 8

(Every day, all year)

Advanced English is designed to challenge and nurture students who are skilled in Language Arts. Students will be guided through rigorous independent coursework and with a focus on academic writing and an intensive study of a variety of texts. English extends beyond the required core curriculum and places additional emphasis on independent study and higher order thinking skills. As there will be both extensive outside reading and summer reading required, students need to be highly motivated learners, interested in literature. Students are expected to exercise independent and complex thinking, reading, writing, and learning skills through self-initiated and teacher directed areas of study.

EARTH SCIENCE 8

(Every day, all year)

Students will demonstrate understanding of the composition, structure, and processes of Earth systems, including the geosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere. The concepts of change and constancy in Earth's history, theories of origin through evidence found in fossils, rock layers, land forms, and natural events will also be studied. Students will also learn the relative position and motion of objects in the solar system including moon phases, tides, seasons, eclipses, and planetary motion. Students will discuss and study the Earth's resources, environment, and weather. Current events related to the Earth sciences will be introduced as they occur. Skills needed to gather information, perform lab experiments, and understand science will be emphasized throughout the year.

ADVANCED EARTH SCIENCE 8

(Every day, all year)

The accelerated course for 8th grade Earth Science integrates content knowledge with guided experimentation, critical thinking and current issues in science. Students will be challenged to acquire skills in observation, data analysis, communication and problem-solving. The course is designed to prepare students for accelerated science courses at the high school level. Topics of

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study throughout the year include earth materials, plate tectonics, astronomy and meteorology. Environmental issues and topics will also be addressed throughout the course. Students will use the same text as the general 8th grade Earth Science classes.

GLOBAL STUDIES 8

(Every day, all year)

Students in Global Studies explore the regions of the world using geographic information from print and electronic sources. They will analyze important trends in the modern world including cultural characteristics, economic development and trade, population and migration, and human interaction with the environment. Students will be learning about the following regions: Canada and the United States, Latin America, Europe and Russia, Africa, Southeast and Central Asia, Monsoon Asia, and Oceania and Antarctica.

ADVANCED GLOBAL STUDIES 8

(Every day, all year)

Students in Global Studies will explore the regions of the world using geographic information from print and electronic sources. They will analyze important trends in the modern world including cultural characteristics, economic development and trade, population and migration, and human interaction with the environment. Students will be learning about the following regions: Canada and the United States, Latin America, Europe and Russia, Africa, Southeast and Central Asia, Monsoon Asia, and Oceania and Antarctica. This course will help to develop the necessary background and skills for students to transition into high school A.P. Social Studies courses.

ALGEBRA 8

(Every day, all year)

This course is intended for the average math student who has successfully completed Pre-Algebra. This Algebra Course focuses on the following units, but is not limited to: representing functions in four forms, properties of numbers, solving linear equations, rules of exponents, graphing and linear systems of equations, slopes, polynomials, systems of equations, and quadratic equations. Students learn through application and practical problems to understand the importance of mathematics in everyday life. Assignments will be given almost daily.

ADVANCED ALGEBRA 8

(Every day, all year)

Advanced Algebra will hold students to a higher and more rigorous academic level. Students will study Algebra in a greater depth and at a more challenging pace. Algebraic concepts

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relating to real life situations are taught through equations, inequalities, graphing, geometry, probability and statistics. This course is geared to the top students of the class. Students taking this course should find math challenging, enjoy working through complicated problems, and be highly motivated.

HONORS GEOMETRY

(Every day, all year)

*This course is equivalent to the Geometry Honors Course offered at the high school.

This course will include the study of points, lines, angles, polygons, circles, surface area, volume, methods of proof, transformations, congruence and similarity. The overall goal of the Honors level courses is to continue to develop students' problem solving abilities and critical thinking skills by extending the content and concepts being covered. The Honors class will have more focus placed on the use of higher level thinking skills and investigating higher level questions.

TEAM SPORTS 8

(Every day, one quarter - Required or Elective)

In this class the students have the opportunity to participate in team sports, lifetime activities, and fitness. There is an emphasis on teamwork through demonstrating good sportsmanship and respectful behavior. Each quarter this class will offer a variety of sports based on the season.

PERSONAL TRAINING 8

(Every day, one quarter - Required or Elective)

Train hard every day! Students will be introduced to different training styles. After analyzing personal fitness goals, students will develop a personal weight training program to fit their individual needs.

PE 8 - ONLINE (Required for FULL year Music AND Language students)

This class is required for ONLY students who take year-long Music (Choir or Band) and year-long Language (German, French, or Spanish). This class will be self-guided and asynchronous with check-ins throughout the quarter. The main focus of the class will be personal fitness. Students will set a personal goal and show proof of working towards their goal. Students will track their progress through weekly participation logs and reflections.

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HEALTH AND SAFETY PREPPERS 8

(Every day, one quarter)

This class is designed to educate and prepare students for health and safety issues which impact students in middle school and throughout their lives. Student choice will guide this technology-driven, creative project-based, age-appropriate curriculum and assessment. Engaging content includes lessons in Emergency Preparation, Disease Prevention, Violence Awareness and Prevention, and practice in First Aid and CPR skills. Completion of this course will meet the MN requirements (effective in 2014) that all students 7-12 will receive training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillators.

MEDICAL DETECTIVES 8

(Everyday, one quarter)

8 th Grade Health Elective You will play the role of a real-life medical detective as you analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene.” You will solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health. This Project Lead the Way course, is an introduction to the biomedical sciences, and is a perfect fit for anyone who is interested in health, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, forensic science (as featured in television shows like “CSI”, “Bones”, “NCIS”, and “Law and Order”), and veterinary medicine.

TIME TRAVELING ART 8

(Every day, one quarter)

Have you ever wished you could go back in time? In Time Traveling Artists, you can do just that as you create art inspired by some of the world’s greatest civilizations and artists in history. Students in this class will complete projects using clay, oil pastels, and paint, among other possible media while learning about history in a fun and exciting way. If you consider yourself an artist (and even if you don’t), this class is a must!

GRAPHIC ART 8

(Every day, one quarter)

Explore the world where art and technology merge. Learn how to master Photoshop and discover how it can be used to create exciting artwork as you create digital drawing projects and see how graphics are used to communicate ideas to a specific audience. Projects include designing your own CD cover, inventing your own drink label, manipulating photographs, and more.

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KEYBOARDING 8

(Every day, one quarter)

This class will emphasize keyboard review, microcomputer terminology, speed development, word processing applications, and PowerPoint activities. Students will review and explore Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Google Drive will also be utilized for applications throughout the trimester. Students will apply their improved typing skills directly to their academic work by satisfying some of their 'My Life' requirements during class time.

WHAT'S YOUR BUDGET 8

(Every day, one quarter)

Investing is the topic of this class—not only in the Stock Market, but also in you. Students will build a strong foundation for making intelligent, lifelong, personal finance decisions. Students will also have a chance to assess their personal skills and interests, explore career options, and learn job-hunting skills. Daily activities and hands-on experiences are used to help students understand the economics of life. Junior Achievement Finance Park curriculum will be used in this class.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU 8

(Every day, one quarter)

This is a great class for learning to cook for yourself! The focus of the course is to learn about every day cooking skills and nutrition. A variety of skills and techniques will be taught while students participate in hands-on cooking labs. Some possible food labs are scrambled eggs/omelets, pancakes, muffins, fruit salad, chicken and vegetable wraps, pasta dishes, cookies and cakes.

DESIGN YOUR OWN 8

(Every day, one quarter)

Explore the field of design! Use your creativity to apply design to your world. Using color and the elements and principles of design you will discover how design is all around us. You will explore various aspects of fashion, interior and technology and design. Design projects will be incorporated throughout the course. Students will create a design magazine, a fashion line throughout the decades project and a tiny house design. There will be many team design challenges throughout the course.

GREEN ARCHITECTURE - PTLW8 (Technology Education)

(Every day, one quarter)

Course Descriptions

2022-2023

In a world of reduced resources and environmental challenges, it is important to present the concept of “being green” to the next generation of designers and builders. In this class, students are introduced to architectural plans, construction styles, alternative materials and processes, dimensioning, measuring and architectural sustainability. Students use a 3D architectural software program to create an environmentally friendly home using shipping containers.

AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS – PLTW 8 (Technology Education)

(Every day, one quarter)

In Automation and Robotics students will learn how to build, program and operate robots through a rigorous study of hands-on learning projects. The classroom robotics projects will be constructed using Fischertechnik, which are model construction and component parts used to create machines and mechanisms. In addition to using and building automated robots, students will learn about energy transfer by constructing mechanical gears and also complete research on automated machines. Additionally, students can expect to learn how to problem solve and troubleshoot an automated system. This will be an exciting project based class where students can expect to be challenged academically while at the same time learning about and constructing exciting robotics projects.

CHOIR 8 (Girls – Bel Canto, Boys – Laker Boys)

(Every day, all year)

Students in 8th Grade Choir will continue to develop technique and skill in a continuation of what was taught in 7th grade choir, though students who have not been in choir before are welcome to join as 8th graders! Basic skills in music theory will be reinforced during this course as they apply to the repertoire being taught. Students will also develop or enhance their performance skills by participating in concerts and public performances (as available) throughout the year. This is a gender based choir; boys and girls meet separately in choir classes.

BAND 8

(Every day, all year)

Play music with your friends every day; rule the school as an 8th grade band student! There's something for everyone in 8th grade band. The band performs at pep fests, parades, and off-site locations (field trip!). Students enrolled in 8th Grade Band will further develop their skills by performing music from rock to pop and classical to jazz. Students will learn many facets of musicianship, including music theory, notation, musical expression, music history, and rehearsal/performance etiquette. 8th Grade Band students will further develop marching band skills and participate in the 8th Grade Memorial Day Marching Band Experience. Additionally, 8th Grade Band students will have the opportunity to audition for and participate in extra-curricular instrumental music ensembles including 7-8 Jazz Band and 7-8 Honor Band.

Course Descriptions

2022-2023

This course is the prerequisite for 9th grade band, which fulfills the PLHS fine arts graduation requirement. *Prerequisite: Two years of band or director approval required.

ALL AMPED UP 8

(Every day, one quarter)

Students enrolled in "All Amped Up" will spend one quarter learning and developing basic to intermediate guitar skills. Students in this course do not need to have previous experience on guitar as this course begins with basic technique, information, and music theory concepts. Throughout the duration of the course, students will study and learn to play a variety of musical styles including but not limited to rock, blues, jazz, and ensemble playing. There will also be study of improvisation, accompaniment, classical guitar playing, and different types of guitars (i.e.--acoustic vs. electric). Students will be graded via class participation, performance exams (playing tests) and demonstration of skills and/or technique.

8th Grade SPANISH I

(Every day, year-long)

In this class our goal is to acquire Spanish through an approach called CI and TPRS. Acquiring language is something that happens to you and not something that you make happen, much like how you acquired your first language. Therefore, 90 percent of class will be in Spanish, primarily refining your skills in listening and reading. Active participation is key. We will both do our "50 percent" to co-create stories, read novels and explore the culture Spanish speaking countries have to offer. Your teacher's job is to make everything they say in Spanish comprehensible, while your job is to listen to understand. We are so excited to start Spanish with you! Students who successfully complete the entire year may enroll in Level II Spanish in 9th grade.

8th Grade SPANISH II

(Every day, year-long)

Prerequisite: C+ minimum in Spanish B.

This course builds on the Level I introduction to the Spanish language through active participation. Much of the class is conducted in Spanish, challenging students to improve their mastery of the four language skills of communication. The student will develop intermediate grammar skills and demonstrate knowledge of Hispanic culture and customs. Students who successfully complete the entire year may enroll in Spanish 3 in 9th grade.

FRENCH I

(Every day, year-long)

Course Descriptions

2022-2023

This course introduces the students to the French language through active participation and comprehensible input. The student develops skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as a beginning recognition of basic grammar. The students will demonstrate an introductory knowledge of French speaking cultures and customs. This is a high school level course. Students who successfully complete the entire year may enroll in Level II French in 9th grade.

GERMAN I

(Every day, year-long)

This course introduces students to the German language through comprehensible input and storytelling. Our method is based on the research of Dr. Stephen Krashen and Blaine Ray. It is called Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS). The students will acquire German by listening and reading for comprehension. They will demonstrate their understanding through writing and retelling of stories. The students will acquire an introductory knowledge of German speaking cultures and customs through the content of the stories.

While, this is a high school level course, therefore providing a more academically rigorous workload – most of the work happens during class. A high level of engagement and participation during class is expected. Students who successfully complete the entire year may enroll in Level II German in 9th grade.