

Joint School District No. 2

Middle School
Course Descriptions

2009-2010
School Year

Joint School District No. 2

Preparing today's students for tomorrow's challenges.

Middle School Philosophy

Joint School District No. 2 subscribes to a philosophy that the unique needs of students in grades 6 through 8 can best be met in a middle school setting that provides a student-centered program and recognizes that the students of this age are undergoing greater physiological, psychological, and social re-orientation than at any other period in their lives.

The overall purpose of the middle school is to meet the educational, developmental, and social needs that emerge during this transitional period. The middle school program will provide a supportive and flexible environment so students will have opportunities to develop skills and explore a variety of learning experiences while making the transition from elementary to high school.

In keeping with this philosophy, the middle school will establish and provide:

- A core curriculum of language arts, math, science, and social studies.
- Exploratory programs and activities in all areas of the curriculum to help students discover and extend interests and abilities.
- An extensive advisory and counseling program.
- A supportive environment for the physical and social development of every student.
- A gradual transition in programs from the self-contained classroom of the fifth grade to the departmentalized structure of high school.
- An intramural and activity-oriented program to accommodate the needs of the early adolescent.
- A positive climate that fosters self-esteem, self-discipline, and student responsibility.
- Knowledgeable educators who are committed to the middle school design.
- An ongoing program of training and professional skills that are based on the characteristics and needs of the adolescent.
- Close contact and communication between parents and school.
- A challenging curriculum and pace of learning to meet individual levels and understanding.
- Opportunities for intervention and acceleration when needs are identified.

We believe these goals will be reached when the student, parents/guardians, and the teacher assume responsibility. The student will attend school regularly, maintain a positive attitude, and make an effort to achieve these goals. Parents/guardians will be supportive of the school system and encourage the student in learning. The teacher will strive for an optimal, professional approach to meet the individual needs of each student. When these responsibilities are met, maximum learning will be achieved.

Introduction

The following Course Description Book includes the entire curriculum offered at your middle school.

Even though you are currently looking at only one grade level's courses, we have included information on all three-grade levels. This is to provide you with long range planning for electives.

In keeping with the philosophy of transitioning students from the elementary setting to the secondary setting, student choices increase each year:

- 6th grade students are limited to a decision between general music, band, and orchestra.
- 7th grade students may choose either two semester electives or one year long elective.
- 8th grade students may choose four semesters of elective classes for the year. Some of the courses are year long courses, while others are semester courses.

Pace 8 is a culminating project for all district 8th grade students. Students will be given a specific topic to research. Students will synthesize their research into a 3-5 page paper describing their research, and present their findings in a 3-6 minute speech to a district-trained panel.

If you would like further information about the middle school curriculum or specific courses, please call the counseling office at your child's middle school.

Challenge Gifted and Talented Program Middle School

Eligibility Requirements for Core Programs:

Both **formal and informal measures** are used to assess eligibility for the Joint School District No. 2 Middle School Challenge (Gifted and Talented) Core Programs.

Formal Measures: Students must score in the Extreme Need Range on the Challenge Core Matrix in two or more areas. At least one of these areas must be in academic achievement or intellectual functioning. Other areas which may be considered include cognitive ability and/or creativity.

Informal Measures: Students must qualify in the Extreme Need Range on the Challenge Core Matrix in one of four areas. The areas are creativity, motivation, leadership, and learning as rated by parents, or teachers, or others.

Students who have previously participated in the **Challenge Core** program at the elementary level can register for the middle school program when registering for middle school. A box is provided on the registration form indicating requested placement.

Students who have previously participated in the **Challenge Workshop program** (visual arts, creativity, drama, leadership) at the elementary level are not eligible for placement in Challenge at the middle school level based on their workshop eligibility. They must go through Core eligibility to qualify for the Core program at the middle school.

Eligibility Requirements for Self-Contained Programs:

Joint School District No. 2 offers self-contained classrooms for students scoring at 130 or higher (98%) full scale IQ score on a protected, nationally-normed, individually administered IQ test. The self-contained program is offered at two sites: Lowell Scott Middle School and Siena K-8. The self-contained program requires an application.

Middle School Pull-out Program Description

6th Grade – Challenge Core program will replace the regular reading period in the sixth grade language arts block. The reading curriculum is compacted and additional curriculum topics are added to the year-long program.

7th Grade – Challenge Core program will replace the regular literature period in the seventh grade language arts block. The literature curriculum is compacted and additional curriculum topics are added to the year-long program.

8th Grade – Challenge Core program at eighth grade is divided into two distinct semesters. One semester fulfills the regular geography requirement through an enriched geography curriculum. The second semester of Challenge Core is an elective.

Middle School Definitions for Honors

General Information for Honors

Self-motivated and independent learners who are excited about challenging tasks and ideas in a subject area will succeed in these classes. Students should be prepared to spend five or more hours per week on outside-of-class assignments per course. Students may find earning an "A" to be more difficult than in other courses. Students interested in taking advantage of this opportunity should make the most of their educational experience by attending school regularly, participating in class, and following through on homework assignments. No curriculum adjustments will be made to slow the instructional pace or limit the level of instruction of the course. If necessary, a student who is not successfully performing in a course will be moved to a regular course of similar subject matter.

These courses follow the district curriculum but proceed at an accelerated instructional pace and include more instructional depth. Students who are successful in honors courses usually perform academically in the top 10% nationally in their chosen subject area. These courses are graded on a four point grading scale.

Self-Assessment Letter

Notice to Parents/Students:

If your student has achieved high test scores and grades, he/she may benefit from taking an Honors course. We encourage you to consider applying for the coming school year during the registration process in February/March. Students cannot be placed without applying by the proper deadlines. While current scores indicate this may be an appropriate option for your student, placement is determined only after applications are received.

An Honors course may be more interesting and challenging for your student. Students interested in taking advantage of this opportunity should make the most of their educational experience by attending school regularly, participating in class, and following through on homework assignments.

Use this self-assessment to evaluate your readiness for an Honors course. Circle where you are on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being highest.

1. I am intellectually curious.	1	2	3	4	5
2. I enjoy reading.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I enjoy writing various types of papers.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I am willing to do an average of an hour of homework each night per Honors course.	1	2	3	4	5
5. I am willing to read over the summer.	1	2	3	4	5
6. If I feel that I am learning, a grade lower than an "A" is acceptable.	1	2	3	4	5
7. I find many classes move too slowly for me.	1	2	3	4	5
8. I like to be challenged.	1	2	3	4	5
9. I do my work on time.	1	2	3	4	5
10. I have the maturity to be responsible for my learning.	1	2	3	4	5
11. I have the ability to manage my time well.	1	2	3	4	5
12. I am punctual and rarely miss class.	1	2	3	4	5

*If you have two or more areas that you have rated less than four, you may want to rethink registering for an Honors course.



Joint School District No. 2

1303 E. Central • Meridian, Idaho 83642 • (208) 855-4500 • Fax (208) 350-5962

SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Linda Clark

Rigor Commitment Form for Language Arts and Science Honors Courses

For _____
(Print Student's Name)

Dear Parent of Middle School Honors Student:

Honors courses are taught at an accelerated pace and at an advanced level of instruction. The text, writing, and format of the courses are all at a higher level and require an increased time commitment to homework and study.

No curriculum modifications will be made to slow the pace or limit the level of instruction in the course. Exemplary attendance is critical in these courses because class work cannot be duplicated outside of the classroom.

Having read the above requirements and expectations, I agree to the accelerated pace and rigorous curriculum of the honors course listed below. I agree to do the extra outside class work and/or extra projects as assigned. I have passed the prerequisite course required, and I will not ask for curriculum modifications.

Please list all Honors classes for which you are registering:

Honors Course #1 _____

Honors Course #2 _____

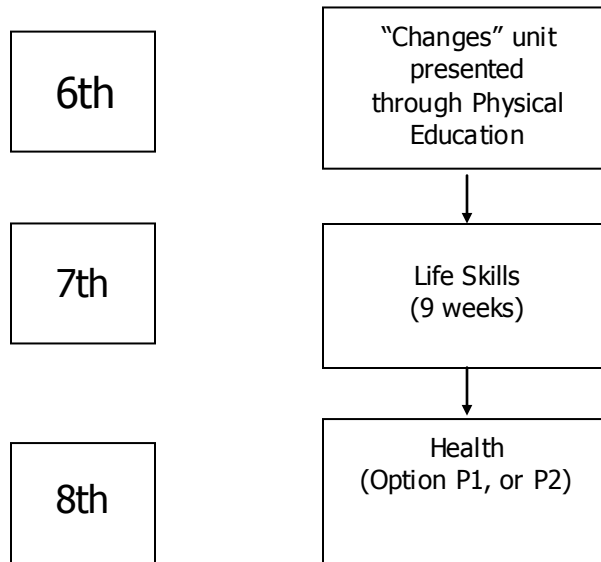
Honors Course #3 _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

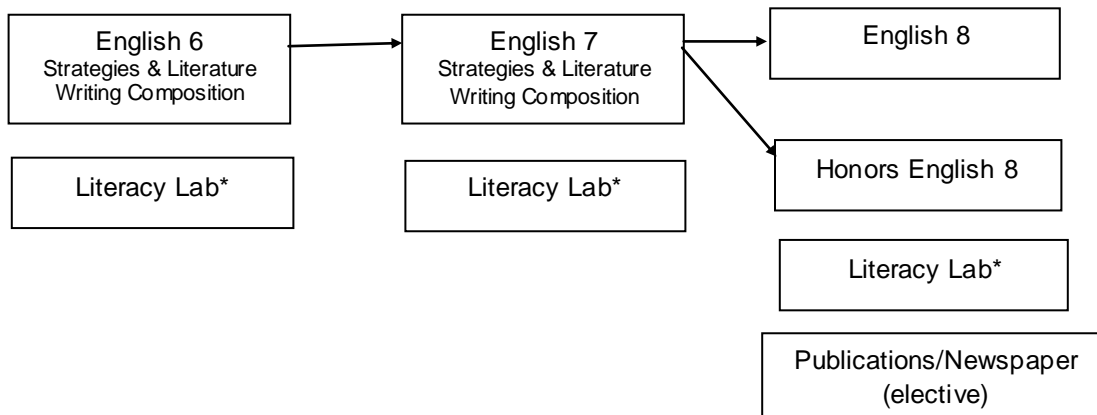
Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

This letter should be returned to the middle school counselor.

HEALTH SEQUENCE

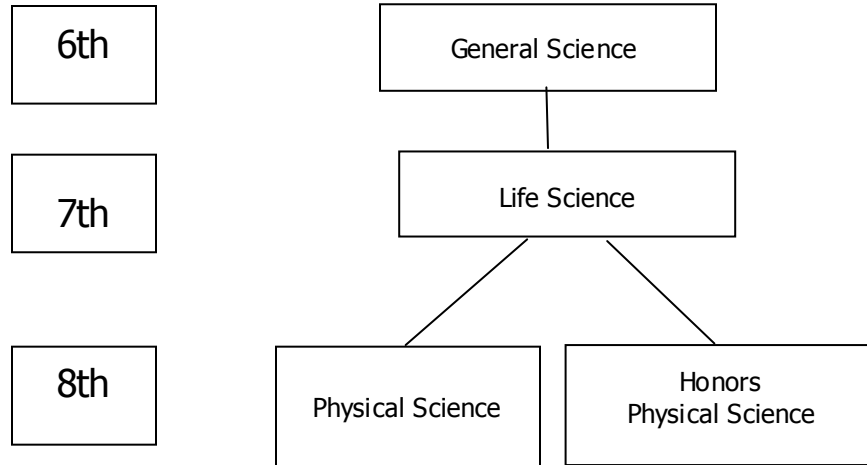


LANGUAGE ARTS SEQUENCE

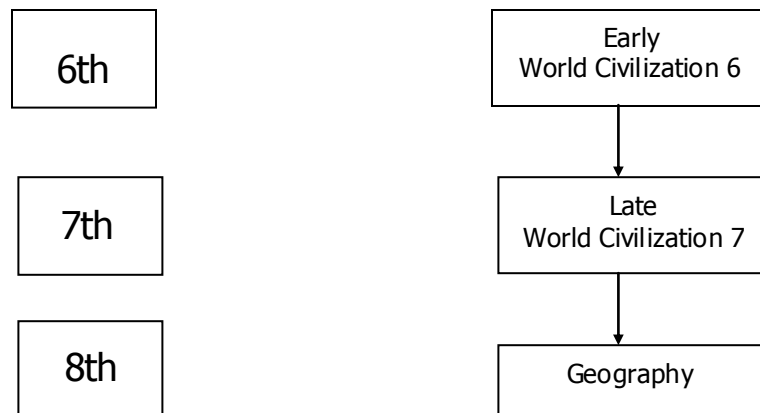


*Literacy Lab – Quarter or semester long class to be taken in addition to the regular language arts class(es). Students are placed in Literacy Labs if their Scale Score on the Reading ISAT is below the following: 6th grade, 200; 7th grade, 206; 8th grade, 208.

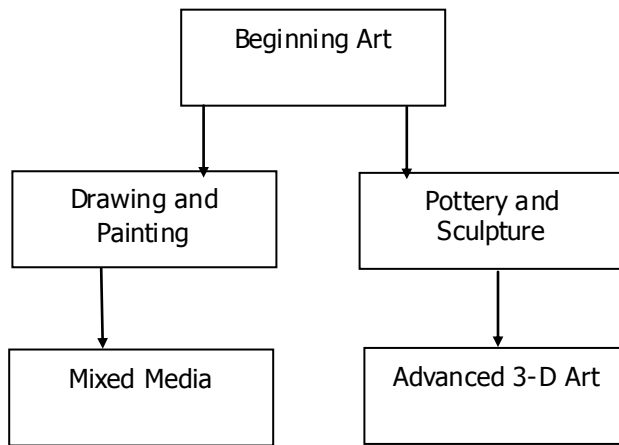
SCIENCE SEQUENCE



SOCIAL STUDIES SEQUENCE

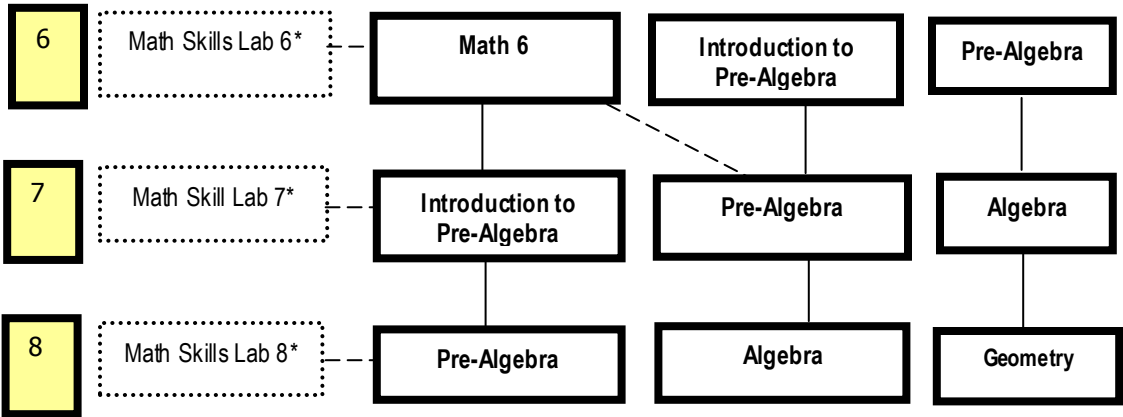


MIDDLE SCHOOL ART SEQUENCE



Note: Not all courses may be available at all schools.

Meridian School District
MATHEMATICS SEQUENCE
MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES



* Math Skills Lab is taken in addition to a student's core math course. Math Skills Lab is offered on a quarterly basis to students in 6th and 7th grade and on a semester basis to students in 8th grade. If space is available, students may be enrolled in Math Skills Lab more than once per year depending upon their needs. For example, a 7th grade student may be enrolled in Math Skills Lab during 2nd quarter and 4th quarter if the classes have space available. A student's placement is primarily based on their level of mathematics achievement as measured by the spring Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT).

----- In order to move from Math 6 to Pre-Algebra, students must meet the district's score criteria on the Pre-Algebra Placement test.

**6th Grade
Course Descriptions**

English World Civilizations General Science Math Exploratory PE/Music
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Students are assigned to a two or three teacher team. Within that team, the required core classes designated below are taught.

**6th Grade
Required Core Classes**

Advisory

Course Number(s): 00102G0011
Open to: 6
Length: Year
Content: Advisory is a twenty-minute daily meeting time for students and their teachers. Advisory serves as a home base for students, offering them the opportunity to develop personal, social, academic, and study skills that will help them make a successful transition from an elementary to a middle school setting. The advisory curriculum also includes silent sustained reading, guided study, decision-making activities, problem solving, and team building.

English 6: Literature and Strategies

Course Number(s): 00012G0011
Open to: 6
Length: Year
Content: This course focuses on reading strategies and comprehension skills. Students will read from various genres. **Students must take English 6: Literature and Strategies concurrently with English 6: Writing Composition to meet state and district curriculum requirements.**

English 6: Writing Composition

Course Number(s): 00012G0021
Open to: 6
Length: Year
Content: This course focuses on the writing process, modes of writing, writing traits, and language usage. **Students must take English 6: Literature and Strategies concurrently with English 6: Writing Composition to meet state and district curriculum requirements.**

General Science

Course Number(s): 00062G0011
Open to: 6
Length: Year
Content: This course is an introduction to the nature of science, biology, physical science, earth and space systems and personal and social perspectives of science. Science concepts are explored with emphasis on the scientific method, laboratory introduction, and hands-on science inquiry. Study of systems, cycles, and patterns include those of the ocean and animal survey, the planet Earth, and the nature of matter.

Math 6

Course Number(s): 00042G0011
Open to: 6
Length: Year
Content: This is an on-grade level course for 6th grade students focusing on the basic building blocks for higher level mathematics. Instruction focuses on computational fluency, ordering and compare numbers, and estimation. Algebra is used to analyze and introduce symbols to generalize patterns, recognize properties of operations and analyze change in various situations. Geometric concepts are developed and students are taught to analyze and describe the characteristics and properties of 2- and 3-dimensional shapes, locate and specify points on a grid, and use geometric concepts such as symmetry and transformations. Students learn to determine length, perimeter, area, weight, capacity, and temperature. Students collect, organize, analyze, interpret and display data in tables and graphs and determine the probabilities of outcomes in simple experiments. All concepts are taught with an emphasis on solving real-world problems

Introduction to Pre-Algebra

Course Number(s): 00042H0011
Open to: 6, 7
Length: Year
Prerequisite: Students must meet the district's placement criteria.
Content: This is an accelerated course for 6th grade students. An emphasis is placed on understanding in order to increase student's problem-solving abilities. Students will develop their skills in working with fractions, decimals, percentages, measurement ratio and proportion, area, and volume. They study probability, the real number system, equations, and the coordinate plane. Students consider ideas underlying these concepts: Why is a particular skill needed? What kind of problems will it help solve? Mathematics is presented in a manner that is worthwhile, interesting, entertaining, and relevant. *A scientific calculator is recommended.*

Pre-Algebra

Course Number(s): 00042H0021

Open to: 6, 7, 8

Length: Year

Prerequisite: Students must meet the district's placement criteria.

Content: This is a highly accelerated course for 6th grade students. Pre-algebra focuses on the necessary skills and abstract thinking capabilities students need in Algebra I. Topics include rational number operations as well as equation manipulations involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and graphing. Students will expand their knowledge of numbers by discussing topics such as exponents, factors, ratios, proportions, patterns, equations, inequalities, triangles, area, and volume. *A scientific calculator is recommended.*

World Civilizations 6

Course Number(s): 00064G0011

Open to: 6

Length: Year

Content: Students will develop an understanding of their world by studying the geography, history, culture, government, and economy of various people and nations of the world from the Prehistoric/Neolithic Period through the Middle Ages.

6th Grade Required Exploratory Classes

Exploratory classes are designed to give students experience in areas that are elective choices in 7th and 8th grades.

Exploratory Art

Course Number(s): 00036G0011
Open to: 6
Length: Quarter
Content: Students are introduced to the basics of the study of art, emphasizing the elements of design. The course includes drawing, painting, sculpture, art history.

Exploratory Family and Consumer Science

Course Number(s): 00098T0011
Open to: 6
Length: Quarter
Content: Students work in both foods and sewing in this exploratory. Topics such as recipe selection, kitchen safety, table settings, and basic nutrition are included in foods. Sewing includes basic hand sewing and sewing a project of the student's choice. A unit on babysitting is also included.

Exploratory Keyboarding 6

Course Number(s): 62005T0011
Open to: 6
Length: Semester
Content: Students will learn home-row positioning on the computer keyboard. While technique is primary, development of speed and accuracy is integral to the course. Students are introduced to input and output devices, Internet use and safety, copyright laws, basic formatting of documents using word processing and desktop publishing software. Basic file management and appropriate selection of software applications will be addressed. This class is a prerequisite for Computer Explorations I.

Literacy Lab 6

Course Number(s): 00018B0011
Open to: 6
Length: Quarter or semester as determined by individual middle schools.
Content: This course is for students whose reading abilities are below proficiency levels defined by the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). Enrollment will be based on language ISAT scores, and teacher/counselor recommendation. Course study will focus on fluency and ISAT reading sub goal areas. The goal is to build skills needed to meet reading proficiency requirements.

Math Skills Lab

Course Number(s): 00042B0011
Open to: 6, 7, 8
Length: Quarter or semester as determined by individual middle schools
Content: Emphasis will be on basic mathematical computation and ISAT goal areas. This class will be taken in addition to their regular math class and in place of exploratory classes. Students will be identified based on performing below proficiency in the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT), teacher recommendation and/or parent request.

Study Lab 6

Course Number(s): 00018B0021
Open to: 6 (Exploratory)
Length: Quarter
Content: This course is for students who are deficient in completing course assignments, as identified by teachers and counselors. After receiving instruction in basic study skills students will apply those skills to their assigned coursework in a monitored environment. Students also will have access to school resources (computers, printers, etc.) and be able to study for tests.

Design and Modeling (Galileo Magnet)

Course Number(s): 00098T0021
Open to: 6
Length: Quarter
Content: This course uses solid modeling (a very sophisticated mathematical technique for representing solid objects) to introduce students to the design process. Utilizing this design approach, students understand how solid modeling has influenced their lives. Students also learn sketching techniques, and use descriptive geometry as a component of design, measurement, and computer modeling. Using design briefs or abstracts, students create models and documentation to solve problems.

Spanish Language & Culture (K-8 Schools Only)

Course Number(s): 00022G0021
Open to: 6
Length: Year
Content: Students would be introduced to the culture and people of Spanish speaking countries. They also would begin a study of the Spanish language, emphasizing a hands-on approach to learning. Integration would occur with the core subjects of social studies, language arts, and science.

6th Grade
Required Physical Education and Music Classes

Students are required to take both physical education and music. The classes are on an every other day basis (music one day, physical education the next) throughout the year. Students have their choice between band, music, choir, and orchestra.

Beginning Band

Course Number(s): 00032G0041, 00032G0031
Open to: 6
Length: Year, Alternate Days
Content: Band classes are split into groups: brass (trumpet, cornet, French horn, trombone, baritone) and woodwinds (flutes, clarinet, alto sax) and percussion (drums/keyboard percussion/concert percussion). Students must provide their own instruments and band method books for their respective instrument. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 100 minutes per week at home. Be sure to research rental fees before deciding to choose band. Class changes are not allowed after the first two weeks of school.

General Music 6

Course Number(s): 00032G0011
Open to: 6
Length: Year, Alternate Days
Content: General music classes will focus on the study of music theory and history through singing, games, listening, and writing activities. Various kinds of music, such as ballet, opera, and the music of famous composers will be introduced.

Choir 6

Course Number(s): 00032G0021
Open to: 6
Length: Year, Alternate Days
Content: This course will focus on the study of music, primarily through singing. Music from many historical eras and cultures will be introduced. Students will participate in evening concerts during the year.

Orchestra 6

Course Number(s): 00032G0051
Open to: 6
Length: Year, Alternate Days
Content: This class is for students who are beginning to play violin, viola, cello, and string bass. No previous experience is necessary. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 100 minutes per week at home. Students wishing to play the violin or the viola must furnish their own instruments or may use a limited number of instruments for a maintenance fee. All students must furnish their own method books. Be sure to research rental fees before deciding to choose orchestra.

Intermediate Band 6 (Lowell Scott)

Course Number(s): 00032H0011
Open to: 6
Length: Year, Alternate Days
Fee: No fee is required except for instrument rental, if desired.
Prerequisite: Open to those students with a minimum of one year prior experience in an elementary band program.
Content: Students are expected to practice a minimum of 125 minutes per week at home. Students must provide their own instruments and method book. This class will meet the requirement for 6th grade music and will alternate with P.E.

Advanced Orchestra 6 (Lowell Scott)

Course Number(s): 00032H0021
Open to: 6
Length: Year, Alternate Days
Fee: No fee is required except for instrument rental, if desired.
Prerequisite: Open to those students with a minimum of one year prior experience in an elementary orchestra program.
Content: Students must provide their own instruments and classroom technique book (other music will be provided by the school). A limited number of school instruments are available for student rental. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 100 minutes per week at home. This class will meet the requirement for 6th grade music and will alternate with P.E. Students rehearse separately from beginning level orchestra and perform as an autonomous ensemble at orchestra concerts.

Physical Education 6

Course Number(s): 00052G0011
Open to: 6
Length: Year, Alternate Days
Content: Students are introduced to a variety of activities and sports that develop physical motor skills. Emphasis is placed upon acquiring basic skill and fitness levels. Maximum student participation is stressed and physical fitness tests are given.

Environmental Issues (K-8 Schools Only)

Course Number(s): 00066G0011
Open to: 6
Length: Semester
Content: This course will cover the most pressing environmental issues facing the country today. Both sides of issues will be presented with the help of guest speakers. Laboratory investigations will draw from both life and physical science skills. Students may be involved with projects that will take them outdoors. It is further expected that projects such as recycling will result in the improvement of the school environment.

Drama/Communications 6 (K-8 Schools Only)

Course Number(s): 00012G0031
Open to: 6
Length: Semester
Fee: \$3.00 + tax
Content: This class is designed for the student who enjoys dramatic presentations. Students will explore drama through performance, communication, criticism, history/culture, and vocational activities. An emphasis is placed on performance and communication. Presentations may include pantomime, oral interpretations, Reader's Theater, mini plays, radio theater speeches, and puppetry.

Publications (K-8 Schools Only)

Course Number(s): 00012G0041
(If the teacher is journalism certified, use course number 61101G0011)
Open to: 6
Length: Semester
Content: Students learn the basic forms of journalistic writing, design and layout. Students should be able to work independently, write with few grammatical errors, take responsibility for their work, and meet deadlines. Publication students will produce a school newspaper and may produce a magazine of student works. Students who successfully complete this course do not need to take Introduction to Newspaper in high school.

**7TH Grade
Course Descriptions**

English World Civilizations Life Science Math Exploratory Electives
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**7TH Grade
Required Core Classes**

7th grade students have five required classes. Students are part of a team (they share the same core teachers.)

Advisory 7

Course Number(s): 72102G0011
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Content: Advisory is a twenty-minute daily meeting time for students and teachers. Advisory serves as a home base for students, offering them the opportunity to further develop the personal, social, academic and study skills introduced to them in the 6th grade advisory program. The advisory curriculum also includes silent sustained reading, guided study, decision-making activities, problem solving, and team building.

English 7: Literature and Strategies

Course Number(s): 51001G0011, 51001G0012
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Content: This course focuses on reading strategies and comprehension skills. Students will read from various genres. **Students must take English 7: Writing Composition concurrently with English 7: Literature and Strategies to meet state and district curriculum requirements.**

English 7: Writing Composition

Course Number(s): 51003G0011, 51003G0012
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Content: This course focuses on the writing process, modes of writing, writing traits, and language usage. **Students must take English 7: Writing Composition concurrently with English 7: Literature and Strategies to meet state and district curriculum requirements.**

English 7 Honors: Writing Composition

Course Number(s): 51003H0011, 51003H0012
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Prerequisite: Sign a Rigor Commitment Form
Content: English Honors 7-B offers rigorous, accelerated instruction in the writing process, writing applications and writing components. Students will develop advanced narrative, creative, informational, persuasive, research and literary response writing skills. Students also will develop more complex sentence structures, and apply a thorough knowledge of spelling, punctuation, grammar, and usage.

Life Science 7

Course Number(s): 53999G0011, 53999G0012
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Content: This course introduces students to the characteristics of living things. Students study the diversity of life forms from viruses to mammals; learn human body systems, genetics, and ecological relationships. Critical thinking, problem solving, and hands-on inquiry skills are developed through observation, classification, data collection, cooperative learning experiences, and communication through the introduction of technical writing.

Introduction to Pre-Algebra

Course Number(s): 52001G0011, 52001G0012
Open to: 6, 7
Length: Year
Prerequisite: Students must meet the district's placement criteria.
Content: This is an on-grade level course for 7th grade students. An emphasis is placed on understanding in order to increase student's problem-solving abilities. Students will develop their skills in working with fractions, decimals, percentages, measurement ratio and proportion, area, and volume. They study probability, the real number system, equations, and the coordinate plane. Students consider ideas underlying these concepts: Why is a particular skill needed? What kind of problems will it help solve? Mathematics is presented in a manner that is worthwhile, interesting, entertaining, and relevant. *A scientific calculator is recommended.*

Pre-Algebra

Course Number(s): 52051H0011, 52051H0012
Open to: 6, 7, 8
Length: Year
Prerequisite: Students must meet the district's placement criteria.
Content: This is an accelerated course for 7th grade students. Pre-algebra focuses on the necessary skills and abstract thinking capabilities students need in Algebra I. Topics include rational number operations as well as equation manipulations involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and graphing. Students will expand their knowledge of numbers by discussing topics such as exponents, factors, ratios, proportions, patterns, equations, inequalities, triangles, area, and volume. *A scientific calculator is recommended.*

Algebra

Course Number(s): 52052H0011, 52052H0012
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Year
Prerequisite: Students must meet the district's placement criteria.
Content: This is a highly accelerated course for 7th grade students. Through practice and application, students develop skills in dealing with the essentials of Algebra I, including linear and quadratic equations, polynomials, problem solving, factoring, and graphing. Throughout this course, emphasis is on problem solving and application of basic concepts and skills to real-life situations. *A scientific calculator is recommended.*

World Civilizations 7

Course Number(s): 54052G0011, 54052G0012
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Content: Students will develop an understanding of their world by studying the geography, history, culture, government, and economic systems of various people and nations of the world from the beginning of the Renaissance to the present.

7TH Grade Required Exploratory Classes

Exploratory classes are designed to give students experience in areas that are future elective choices. Students spend one quarter, on a rotation basis, in each exploratory.

Exploring Technology 7

Course Number(s): 71051T0011
Open to: 7
Length: Quarter
Content: Students will use the latest in technology to do hands-on projects in modules or work stations. Modules may include desktop publishing, engineering, applied physics, computer aided drafting, air and space, lasers, robotics, computer controlled machinery, and research and design. An opportunity to explore more in depth areas of Industrial Technology will occur in 8th grade technology classes.

Language & Culture Study – Spanish

Course Number(s): 56101G0011
Open to: 7
Length: Quarter
Content: This course is an introduction to the culture and language of Spanish speaking countries. Fundamental listening and speaking skills and cross-cultural comparisons will be stressed.

Life Skills 7

Course Number(s): 72206G0011
Open to: 7
Length: Quarter
Content: Students begin this class setting goals, exploring decision-making, self-esteem, character, and organization skills. They will also receive information on conflict resolution, violence prevention, and substance abuse.

Lifetime Sports

Course Number(s): 58001G0011
Open to: 7
Length: Quarter
Content: The student will experience a variety of activities that may be enjoyed throughout his/her life. Activities may include football, tennis, soccer, basketball, golf, softball, bowling, badminton, volleyball, personal fitness, dance, archery, orienteering, and fly-casting. Participation and dressing down will be required.

Literacy Lab 7

Course Number(s): 51067B0011

Open to: 7

Length: Quarter or semester as determined by individual middle schools.

Content: This course is for students whose reading abilities are below proficiency levels defined by the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT).

Enrollment will be considered based on ISAT scores and teacher/counselor recommendation. Course study will focus on fluency and ISAT reading sub goal areas. The goal is to build skills needed to meet reading proficiency requirements.

Math Skills Lab

Course Number(s): 52001B0011

Open to: 7

Length: Quarter or semester as determined by individual middle schools.

Content: Emphasis will be on basic mathematical computation and ISAT goal areas. This class will be taken in addition to their regular math class and in place of elective classes. Students will be identified based on performing below proficiency on the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT), grade in previous math class, teacher recommendation and/or parent request.

7TH Grade Electives

7th grade students may choose either one full year or two semester electives.

Beginning Art 7

Course Number(s): 55154G0011
Open to: 7
Length: Semester
Fee: \$12.50 + tax
Content: Students will participate in a variety of experiences using the elements and principles of design. The students will explore the fundamentals of drawing, painting, sculpture, and art history. Beginning Art fulfills the prerequisite requirement for Drawing and Painting and Pottery and Sculpture.

Drawing and Painting 7

Course Number(s): 55154H0011
Open to: 7
Length: Semester
Fee: \$12.50 + tax
Content: Students will explore the elements and principles of design as they apply to two-dimensional artwork. Students will learn drawing and painting techniques as well as explore a variety of media and art history.

Pottery and Sculpture 7

Course Number(s): 55154H0021
Open to: 7
Length: Semester
Fee: \$12.50 + tax
Content: Students will explore the elements and principles of design as they apply to three-dimensional artwork. Students will learn basic clay building techniques, utilize sculptural media and explore art history.

Band - Brass and Percussion 7

Course Number(s): 55101G0011, 55101G0012
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Fee: \$5
Content: This class is for brass and percussion students with preferably one year of prior band experience. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 100 minutes weekly in preparation for class assignments. Students provide their own method books and instruments, with the exception of specifically assigned instruments. Students will participate in evening concerts during the year and in the District III Music Festival in the spring.

Band – Woodwinds 7

Course Number(s): 55101G0021, 55101G0022
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Fee: \$5
Content: This class is for band and woodwind students with preferably one year of prior band experience. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 100 minutes weekly in preparation for class assignments. Students provide their own method books and instruments, with the exception of specifically assigned instruments. Students will participate in evening concerts during the year and in the District III Music Festival in the spring.

Beginning Guitar

Course Number(s): 55101G0041
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Fee: \$15
Content: Students will learn the skills necessary to play guitar, including the reading of notes and musical notation. During this course a variety of musical styles will be dealt with, including blues, rock, jazz, and country.

Orchestra 7/8

Course Number(s): 55101G0051, 55101G0052
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Year
Fee: \$5
Content: This class is for students with a minimum of one year playing experience on violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 100 minutes per week at home. Students playing violin or viola must furnish their own instruments. Students wishing to play cello or string bass may use a limited number of school-owned instruments. All students must furnish their own method books.

Choir 7

Course Number(s): 55111G0011, 55111G0012
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Year
Fee: \$5
Content: This class gives students an introduction and foundation in singing two and three part music of various styles, with emphasis on the enjoyment of singing. Students will participate in evening concerts during the year and in the District III Music Festival in the spring.

Drama/Communications 7

Course Number(s): 55051G0011
Open to: 7
Length: Semester
Fee: \$3.00 + tax
Content: This class is designed for the student who enjoys dramatic presentations. Students will explore drama through performance, communication, criticism, history/culture, and vocational activities. An emphasis is placed on performance and communication. Presentations may include pantomime, oral interpretations, Reader's Theater, mini plays, radio theater, speeches, and puppetry.

Applied Keyboarding 7/8

Course Number(s): 62005T0021
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Teacher approval
Content: This class is for students who are new to the district and who have not had keyboarding or, when tested, are below 20 wpm with less than six errors and lacking proper technique. Students who have had Keyboarding 6 must have permission from the teacher to enter this class. This class fulfills the prerequisite for Computer Explorations I.

Computer Explorations I 7/8

Course Number(s): 60004T0011
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Keyboarding 6, Applied Keyboarding 7/8 or Teacher Approval
Content: Students will learn basic skills needed for the use of a word processor, spreadsheet, and database including how to edit, format, change, and manipulate documents for a variety of school and personal projects. Emphasis will be placed on real world applications of the software presented. A review of Internet safety, research strategies, and copyright laws will be integrated into assignments as they apply. This class is a prerequisite for Computer Explorations II.

Computer Explorations II 7/8

Course Number(s): 60004T0021
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Computer Explorations I or Teacher Approval
Content: This course integrates software applications in word processing, spreadsheets, and databases with the study of presentation software and web page design. The use of multimedia technology will enhance student creativity while real world applications will be emphasized. Students will apply Internet safety, research strategies, and copyright laws. This course will prepare students for the Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC3) test.

Graphic Arts

Course Number(s): 61151G0011
Open to: 7
Length: Semester
Fee: \$12.00 + tax
Content: This course is designed to acquaint the student with knowledge and skills needed in the area of beginning graphic arts. The students will gain experience in the proper use of computer aided drafting software, drafting equipment usage, lettering, geometrical design, and layout techniques of design. The students will study logo design, desktop publishing, and basic skills needed in silkscreen printing. The students also will study newspaper advertisement layout and put together various assignments using PowerPoint software.

Family Consumer Sciences I

Course Number(s): 72201T0011
Open to: 7 & 8
Length: Semester
Fee: \$15.00 + tax Additional expenses may occur depending on student project choice.
Content: This course is designed for the student who has an interest in nutrition, food preparation skills, sewing and the development of healthy family and community relationships. Students will explore the importance of making wise consumer choices. Time will be spent examining the importance of family relationships, studying and preparing a variety of foods, and constructing a variety of sewing projects. Students are responsible for providing their own basic sewing supplies. (This course is a prerequisite for Family Consumer Science II).

Family Consumer Sciences II

Course Number(s): 72206T0011
Open to: 7 & 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Family Consumer Sciences I
Fee: \$15.00 + tax Additional expenses may occur depending on student project choice.
Content: Family Consumer Sciences II will build on skills learned in Family Consumer Sciences I. Students will explore a variety of concepts including consumer choices, personal development, food preparation, nutrition, sewing, and design techniques. Students will be required to provide basic sewing supplies.

Peer Tutor 7/8

Course Number(s): 88500G0051
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Teacher or counselor recommendation is needed.
Content: The peer tutors are involved in assisting students with special needs on a one-on-one basis in their mainstream classes. Students must be kind and caring, accepting of other's feelings and have a willingness to take direction in helping other students. The Extended Resource Room teachers supervise peer tutors. A brief, pre-training session is required in addition to a final essay reflecting the peer tutoring experience.

Library Assistant 7/8

Course Number(s): 88500G0011, 88500G0012
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Year
Prerequisite: Counselor/Librarian Recommendation
Content: Students are responsible for the checkout desk, filing books cards, and shelving books.

Spanish Language & Culture (K-8 Schools Only)

Course Number(s): 56101G0051, 56101G0052
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Content: Students would be introduced to the culture and people of Spanish speaking countries. They also would begin a study of the Spanish language, emphasizing a hands-on approach to learning. Integration would occur with the core subjects of social studies, language arts, and science.

Spanish IA & B

Course Number(s): 56101G0021, 56101G0022
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Beginning Spanish 6 or prior approval from Spanish teacher.
Content: This course provides students with the fundamental skills of Spanish with an emphasis on comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, and culture language study.

Introduction to Horticulture 7/8

Course Number(s): 53051G0011
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Content: This course focuses on concepts and skills centered on plant growth and development. Careers are explored in Agri-Business. The impacts of agricultural choices are explored for the individual and his or her community.

Math Excursions

Course Number(s): 52001G0031
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Fee: \$5.00 + tax
Content: This course offers students the chance to explore areas of mathematics not commonly covered in the standard curriculum. Students will experiment with tangrams, miras, probability, geometric design, and more.

Study Lab 7

Course Number(s): 72003B0011
Open to: 7 (Elective)
Length: Semester
Content: This course is for students who are deficient in completing course assignments as identified by teachers and counselors. After receiving instruction in basic study skills students will apply those skills to their assigned coursework in a monitored environment. Students also will have access to school resources (computers, printer, etc,) and be able to study for tests.

The Science of Technology/Automation and Robotics (Galileo Magnet)

Course Number(s): 71001T0011
Open to: 7
Length: Semester
Content: This course traces how science has affected technology throughout history and the development of automation and robotics. Students learn about the mechanics of motion, the conversion of energy, the use of science to improve communication, structures, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students acquire knowledge and skills in engineering problem solving and explore requirements for careers in engineering.

Publications

Course Number(s): 51103G0011
(If the teacher is journalism certified, use course number 61101G0011)
Open to: 7, 8
Length: 1 or 2 Semesters
Content: Students learn the basic forms of journalistic writing, design and layout. Students should be able to work independently, write with few grammatical errors, take responsibility for their work, and meet deadlines. Publications students will produce a school newspaper and may produce a magazine of student works. Students who successfully complete this course do not need to take Introduction to Newspaper in high school.

Introduction to Stagecraft

Course Number(s): 55051G0031
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Content: This theatre class teaches and builds technical skills focusing on scenery construction, costume design, lighting design and operation, make-up and sound effects. The roles of producer, stage manager, and publicist will be explored. This is not an acting class.

Environmental Issues

Course Number(s): 53003G0011

Open to: 7, 8

Length: Semester

Content: This course will cover the most pressing environmental issues facing the country today. Both sides of issues will be presented with the help of guest speakers. Laboratory investigations will draw from both life and physical science skills. Students may be involved with projects that will take them outdoors. It is further expected that projects such as recycling will result in the improvement of the school environment.

**8TH Grade
Course Descriptions**

English
Health
World Geography
Physical Science
Math
Physical Education
Electives

**8TH Grade
Required Classes**

8th grade students have six required classes in the core curriculum.

Advisory 8

Course Number(s): 72102G0021

Open to: 8

Length: Year

Content: Advisory is a twenty-minute daily meeting time for students and their teachers. Advisory serves as a home base for students, offering them the opportunity to review the personal, social, academic and study skills, introduced and developed in the 6th and 7th grade programs, while working on employment skills. The course emphasis will be on the world of work, career awareness, and career preparation.

English 8

Course Number(s): 51002G0011, 51002G0012

Open to: 8

Length: Year

Content: English 8 integrates the skills identified for 8th grade by district and state standards. Four concept-based units are covered. See the Meridian Joint School District No. 2 website for detailed descriptions. Instruction focuses on reading strategies, comprehension skills, and the writing process, modes of writing, writing traits, and language usage.

English Honors 8

Course Number(s): 51002H0011, 51002H0012
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Prerequisite: Signed Rigor Commitment Form required
Content: English Honors 8 offers rigorous, accelerated instruction in the reading process, reading comprehension and interpretation, the writing process, writing applications, and writing components. Students will do in-depth studies of literary selections connected to the concept-based units, and develop advanced literary response skills. Emphasis is on the research process, longer writing formats, including using writing as assessment, self-selected reading and individualized projects. Successful honors students tend to have Reading and Language ISAT scale scores in the advanced or high-proficient range, attend class regularly, consistently meet deadlines, and have a willingness to work outside of class.

Physical Science 8

Course Number(s): 53159G0011, 53159G0012
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Content: Fundamental physical science principles are introduced through student involvement in hands-on learning activities. A well-balanced introduction to chemistry and physics is provided as students explore the periodic table, chemical reactions, and the laws of motion and energy. Practical application and authenticity are stressed with an emphasis on writing skills, technology, and career investigations.

Physical Science Honors 8

Course Number(s): 53159H0011, 53159H0012
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Prerequisite: Signed Rigor Commitment Form required
Content: This accelerated course covers the same concepts and principles as Physical Science, but in more depth and at a rapid pace. This allows the student to examine current topics of physical science, participate in enrichment activities, research topics more thoroughly, and participate in more hands-on laboratory experiences.

Pre-Algebra

Course Number(s): 52051G0011, 52051G0012
Open to: 6, 7, 8
Length: Year
Prerequisite: Students must meet the district's placement criteria
Content: This is an on-grade level course for 8th grade students. Pre-algebra focuses on the necessary skills and abstract thinking capabilities students need in Algebra I. Topics include rational number operations as well as equation manipulations involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and graphing. Students will expand their knowledge of numbers by discussing topics such as exponents, factors, ratios, proportions, patterns, equations, inequalities, triangles, area, and volume. *A scientific calculator is recommended.*

Algebra

Course Number(s): 52052H0021, 52052H0022
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Year
Prerequisite: Students must meet the district's placement criteria.
Content: This is an accelerated course for 8th grade students. Through practice and application, students develop skills in dealing with the essentials of Algebra I, including linear and quadratic equations, polynomials, problem solving, factoring, and graphing. Throughout this course, emphasis is on problem solving and application of basic concepts and skills to real-life situations. *A scientific calculator is recommended.*

Geometry

Course Number(s): 52072H0011, 52072H0012
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Prerequisite: Students must meet the district's placement criteria.
Content: This is a highly accelerated course for 8th grade students. Geometry is the mathematical study of geometric objects and their properties. Topics include studying lines, angles, circles and polygons, with an emphasis on topics needed for later math courses and also on topics found on standardized tests like the ACT and SAT. Students also study mathematical arguments with the goal of producing well-written mathematical proofs. *A scientific calculator is recommended.*

World Geography 8

Course Number(s): 54001G0011
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Content: This semester course is designed to give students a comprehensive study of our world, using National Geography's five themes of geography as the guide. The emphasis will be placed on geography skills.

Health

Course Number(s): P1: 58051G0011 P2: 58051G0021
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Content: This class helps young people make independent, informed decisions concerning their physical, mental, and social well-being. It encourages the students to discover their capability and responsibility for developing attitudes and patterns of behavior that promote a full and satisfying life.

Physical Education 8

Course Number(s): 58001G0021, 58001G0022
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Content: Physical, mental, emotional, and social health is promoted in this class. This is accomplished by a variety of activities with emphasis on team sports and/or fitness. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own physical fitness. Students are required to dress down and participate.

Gender Separate Physical Education 8

Course Number(s): Girls – 58001G0031, 58001G0032
Boys – 58001G0041, 58001G0042

Open to: 8

Length: Year

Content: Physical, mental, emotional, and social health is promoted in this class. This is accomplished by a variety of activities with emphasis on team sports and/or fitness. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own physical fitness. Students are required to dress down and participate.

Multi-Fitness Education A & B

Course Number(s): 58001G0051, 58001G0052

Open to: 8

Length: Year

Content: This class will focus on strength training, aerobic conditioning, speed and agility development, flexibility, and weight management. Students who desire to gain muscular strength, aerobic endurance, and/or lose weight are highly encouraged to participate.

8th Grade Electives

8th grade students may choose four semesters of elective classes for the year. Some of the courses are for a year, while others are semester classes.

Beginning Art 8

Course Number(s): 55154G0021
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Fee: \$12.50 + tax
Content: Students will participate in a variety of experiences using the elements and principles of design. The students will explore the fundamentals of drawing, painting, sculpture, and art history. Beginning Art fulfills the prerequisite requirement for Drawing and Painting and Pottery and Sculpture.

Art - Drawing and Painting 8

Course Number(s): 55154G0031
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Fee: \$12.50 + tax
Prerequisite: Beginning Art
Content: Students will explore the elements and principles of design as they apply to two-dimensional artwork. Students will learn drawing and painting techniques as well as explore a variety of media and art history.

Art - Pottery and Sculpture 8

Course Number(s): 55154G0041
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Fee: \$12.50 + tax
Prerequisite: Beginning Art
Content: Students will explore the elements and principles of design as they apply to three-dimensional artwork. Students will learn basic clay building techniques, utilize sculptural media and explore art history.

Art – Mixed Media

Course Number(s): 55154G0081
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Fee: \$12.50 + tax
Prerequisite: Drawing and Painting
Content: Students will participate in a variety of art experiences and explore the elements and principles of design. Students will produce original artworks and learn skills and techniques associated with a variety of art media. Students will work with printmaking, batik, collage, murals, paper design, and more.

Art – Advanced 3-D

Course Number(s): 55154G0091
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Fee: \$12.50 + tax
Prerequisite: Pottery and Sculpture
Content: Students will participate in a variety of art experiences and explore the elements and principles of design. Students will produce original artworks and learn skills and techniques associated with a variety of art media. Students will work with mosaic, glass art, installation art, assemblage, paper sculpture, and more.

Concert Band 8

Course Number(s): 55101G0031, 55101G0032
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Fee: \$5
Content: This course is for the student with at least two years of successful prior band training. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 120 minutes weekly in preparation for class assignments. Students provide their own method books and instruments. Students will participate in evening concerts during the year and in the District III Music Festival in the spring.

Beginning Guitar

Course Number(s): 55101G0041
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Fee: \$15
Content: Students will learn the skills necessary to play guitar, including the reading of notes and musical notation. During this course a variety of musical styles will be dealt with, including blues, rock, jazz, and country.

Advanced Guitar

Course Number(s): 55101G0042
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Beginning Guitar
Fee: \$15
Content: Students will receive lessons daily at a level appropriate for their experience. This course is not a beginning level class. Instruction targets an intermediate level of musicianship. Students rehearse separately from the beginning level guitar class and perform as an autonomous ensemble at guitar concerts.

Orchestra 7/8

Course Number(s): 55101G0051, 55101G0052
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Year
Fee: \$5
Content: This class is for students with a minimum of one year playing experience on violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 100 minutes per week. Students wishing to play cello or string bass may use a limited number of school instruments for a maintenance fee. All students must furnish their own method books.

Choir 8

Course Number(s): 55111G0021, 55111G0022
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Year
Fee: \$5
Content: This course emphasizes the development of singing, music reading, and performance skills. Participation in evening concerts and the District III Music Festival in the spring are required.

Drama/Communications 8

Course Number(s): 55051G0021
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Fee: \$3.00 + tax
Content: This class is designed for the student who enjoys dramatic presentations. Students will explore drama through performance, communication, criticism, history/culture, and vocational activities. An emphasis is placed on performance and communication. Presentations may include pantomime, oral interpretations, Reader's Theater, mini plays, radio theater speeches, and puppetry.

Advanced Drama & Communications 8

Course Number(s): 55055G0021
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Fee: \$3.00 + tax
Prerequisite: Drama/Communications and instructor approval
Content: This course is an introduction to basic acting techniques and terminology. These include pantomime, improvisation, characterization, memorization, skits, and scenes. Students develop voice, create a character, evaluate a play, and perform in scenes. Students also will learn components of theater history, criticism, and vocational opportunities.

Applied Keyboarding 7/8

Course Number(s): 62005T0021
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: By Keyboarding instructor/Counselor signature ONLY
Content: This class is for students who are new to the district and who have not had keyboarding or, when tested, are below 20 wpm with less than six errors and lacking proper technique. Students who have had Keyboarding 6 must have permission from the teacher to enter this class. This class fulfills the prerequisite for Computer Explorations I.

Computer Explorations I 7/8

Course Number(s): 60004T0011
Open to: 7,8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Keyboarding 6, Applied Keyboarding 7,8 or Teacher approval
Content: Students will learn basic skills needed for the use of a word processor, spreadsheet, and database including how to edit, format, change, and manipulate documents for a variety of school and personal projects. Emphasis will be placed on real world applications of the software presented. A review of internet safety, research strategies, and copyright laws will be integrated into assignments as they apply. This class is a prerequisite for Computer Explorations II.

Computer Explorations II 7/8

Course Number(s): 60004T0021
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Computer Explorations I or Teacher approval
Content: This course integrates software applications in word processing, spreadsheets, and databases with the study of presentation software and web page design. The use of multimedia technology will enhance student creativity while real world applications will be emphasized. Students will apply Internet safety, research strategies, and copyright laws. This course will prepare students for the Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC3) test.

Applied Technology

Course Number(s): 71051T0031
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Fee: \$14.00 + tax
Content: Applied Technology is designed to give the student knowledge and skills to understand the processes and materials used in Industrial Technology. The student will work with many materials and learn how to use different hand and power tools in a safe manner. With these tools and materials the student will design and build a variety of projects. These projects will include the making of steel skyscraper structures, robotic arms, and clocks. The student also will have the opportunity to work with and learn the basics of small engines. The student will be exposed to basic soldering techniques. Problem solving and teamwork will be emphasized in a hands-on activity approach.

Graphic Communications

Course Number(s): 61151G0012
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Fee: \$12.00 + tax
Content: Graphic communications is a one-semester course designed to give students practical application in ways of communicating with pictures. The students will generate numerous projects designed to focus on concepts such as page layout, desktop publishing, and multimedia presentations. They will learn how to create banners, logos, flyers, greeting cards, and numerous other publications. Major projects will focus on utilization of Microsoft Publisher, Microsoft Paint, Computer Aided Drafting, PowerPoint, and the incorporation of digital, still, and video photography.

Industrial Technology 8

Course Number(s): 71051T0021
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Fee: \$20
Content: This class is designed to give students hands-on experiences with a variety of the past and present technologies. Rotation through different technology modules or projects will incorporate problem-solving skills and enhance creativity. Modules or activities may include desktop publishing, engineering, applied physics, computer aided drafting, air and space, lasers, robotics, computer controlled machining, research and design, alternative energy, electronics, and areas of construction technology.

Visual Design

Course Number(s): 55154G0051
Open to: 8
Length: Semester Elective
Fee: \$29.00 + tax
Content: This course will introduce students to the basic aspects of visual artistic design through the use of a 35mm camera. Content of the course may include: basic elements of design, composition, subjects, understanding exposure, camera operation, lighting and light quality, film speeds and formats, flash pictures, and darkroom black-and-white films. Students will be responsible for visual presentations in both formats. A single lens reflex (SLR) camera with controllable shutter speed and aperture is highly recommended, although students with "point and shoot" cameras may still participate. Flash and DX encoding capability are also highly recommended.

Peer Tutor 7/8

Course Number(s): 88500G0051
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Teacher or counselor recommendation needed
Content: The peer tutors are involved in assisting students with special needs one-on-one in their mainstream classes. Students must be kind and caring, accepting of other's feelings and have a willingness to take direction in helping other students. The Extended Resource Room teachers supervise peer tutors. A brief, pre-training session is required in addition to a final essay reflecting the peer tutoring experience.

Assistants

Course Number(s): Counseling – 88500G0031
Office – 88500G0021
Library – 88500G0011, 88500G0012
Teacher – 88500G0041
Open to: 8 Counselor 8 Office 8 Library 8 Teacher
Length: Year
Prerequisite: Counselor/Teacher/Library Recommendation
Content: Counselor/Office/Teacher – Each school offers students the opportunity to serve as an assistant. They will work with staff, students, and parents.
Library – Students will gain skills in organization, responsibility, and working with people while serving as assistants to staff members. Students are responsible for the checkout desk, filing book cards, and shelving books. They will work with staff, students, and parents.

Spanish Language & Culture (K-8 Schools Only)

Course Number(s): 56101G0051, 56101G0052
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Content: Students would be introduced to the culture and people of Spanish speaking countries. They also would begin a study of the Spanish language, emphasizing a hands-on approach to learning. Integration would occur with the core subjects of social studies, language arts, and science.

Spanish I A & B

Course Number(s): 56101G0021, 56101G0022
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Content: This course provides students with the fundamental skills of Spanish language study with an emphasis on comprehension, speaking, reading, writing and culture.

Spanish II A & B

Course Number(s): 56101G0031, 56101G0032
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Prerequisite: Spanish I AB
Content: This class emphasizes Spanish conversation, verb and grammar structure, reading, writing, culture, and history. Conversation in Spanish is encouraged.

Discovering Languages and Cultures

Course Number(s): 56101G0041
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Content: This course is an overview of four foreign languages currently offered at the high school level; French, German, Latin, and Japanese. Students will be exposed to language, art, music, and social studies activities serving to introduce them to multi-cultural concepts and a global society.

Aquatic Ecology

Course Number(s): 53051G0021
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Fee: \$3.00
Content: Students will use SITE kits and GPS units to conduct research on sections of a local stream and wetland area to determine the quality of the ecosystem. The class will incorporate many areas of biological and chemical science. They will use computers to create PowerPoint presentations and to develop spreadsheets and graphs to record and analyze data.

Astronomy 8

Course Number(s): 53001G0011
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Content: This course is designed to introduce the student to the solar system and the planet Earth's involvement in that system. Through multi-media presentations, planetarium demonstrations, model construction, and various hands-on activities, students will discover the science behind astronomy. Library research is one form of data collection used for this course.

Environmental Issues

Course Number(s): 53003G0011
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Content: This course will cover the most pressing environmental issues facing the country today. Both sides of issues will be presented with the help of guest speakers. Laboratory investigations will draw from both life and physical science skills. Students may be involved with projects that will take them outdoors. It is further expected that projects such as recycling will result in the improvement of the school environment.

Introduction to Horticulture 7/8

Course Number(s): 53051G0011
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Content: This course focuses on concepts and skills centered on plant growth and development. Careers are explored in Agri-Business. The impacts of agricultural choices are explored for the individual and their community.

Math Excursions

Course Number(s): 52001G0031
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Fee: \$5.00 + tax
Content: This semester elective offers students the chance to explore areas of mathematics not commonly covered in the standard curriculum. Students will experiment with tangrams, miras, geometric design, probability, and more.

Math Skills Lab

Course Number(s): 52001B0021
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Content: Emphasis will be on basic mathematical computation and ISAT goal areas. This class will be taken in addition to their regular math class and in place of elective classes. Students will be identified based on performing below proficiency on the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT), grade in previous math class, teacher recommendation and/or parent request.

Literacy Lab 8

Course Number(s): 51067B0021
Open to: 8
Length: Quarter or a semester as determined by individual middle schools
Content: This course is for students whose reading abilities are below proficiency levels defined by the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). Enrollment will be based on ISAT scores and teacher/counselor recommendation. Course study will focus on fluency and ISAT reading sub goal areas. The goal is to build skills needed to meet reading proficiency requirements.

Study Lab 8

Course Number(s): 72003B0021
Open to: 8 (Elective)
Length: Semester
Content: This course is for students who are deficient in completing course assignments, as identified by teachers and counselors. After receiving instruction in basic study skills students will apply those skills to their assigned coursework in a monitored environment. Students also will have access to school resources (computers, printer, etc,) and be able to study for tests.

Careers 8

Course Number(s): 72151G0011
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Content: Career Exploration is designed to help students explore career options and begin to make career plans. Group activities, hands-on projects and guest speakers make this an exciting class. The course focuses on four main areas: understanding self and work skills, information about training/career options, personal goals and career planning, and job seeking skills.

Family Consumer Sciences I

Course Number(s): 72201T0011
Open to: 7 & 8
Length: Semester
Fee: \$15.00 + tax Additional expenses may occur depending on student project choice.
Content: This course is designed for the student who has an interest in nutrition, food preparation skills, sewing and the development of healthy family and community relationships. Students will explore the importance of making wise consumer choices. Time will be spent examining the importance of family relationships, studying and preparing a variety of foods, and constructing a variety of sewing projects. Students are responsible for providing their own basic sewing supplies. (This course is a prerequisite for Family Consumer Science II).

Family Consumer Sciences II

Course Number(s): 72206T0011
Open to: 7 & 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Family Consumer Sciences I
Fee: \$15.00 + tax Additional expenses may occur depending on student project choice.
Content: Family Consumer Sciences II will build on skills learned in Family Consumer Sciences I. Students will explore a variety of concepts including consumer choices, personal development, food preparation, nutrition, sewing, and design techniques. Students will be required to provide basic sewing supplies.

Publications

Course Number(s): 51103G0011
(If the teacher is journalism certified, use course number 61101G0011)

Open to: 7, 8
Length: 1 or 2 Semesters
Content: Students learn the basic forms of journalistic writing, design and layout. Students should be able to work independently, write with few grammatical errors, take responsibility for their work, and meet deadlines. Publications students will produce a school newspaper and may produce a magazine of student works. Students who successfully complete this course do not need to take Introduction to Newspaper in high school.

The Magic of Electrons/ Flight and Space (Galileo Magnet)

Course Number(s): 71001T0021
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Content: Through hands-on projects, students explore the science of electricity, the movement of atoms, circuit design, and sensing devices. Students acquire knowledge and skills in basic circuitry design and explore the impact of electricity on our lives. Next, students are introduced to aeronautics, space, and the use of design in aerospace engineering. They learn about Newton's Law of Motion, forces, rockets, propulsion, and what makes things fly. Students acquire and apply knowledge and skills in engineering problem solving and explore the many aspects of aerospace engineering.

Basic Electronics

Course Number(s): 53151G0011
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Fee: \$15 for components
Content: The course is designed to foster an interest in electronics and reinforce key concepts from Physical Science and Math. The course is to be 2/3 theory and 1/3 hands-on application. Hands-on will be project based and include building electronic devices and components. Core concepts introduced and developed will be AC/DC theory, electrical circuits, and electronic components.

Filmmaking

Course Number(s): 55154G0071
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Content: This course introduces basic cinematography techniques to help develop critical examination of films, film history, and filming technology. With the use of digital video cameras and computer editing technology, students are given the tools and learn the processes for producing film worthy stories, student announcements, and commercials.

Introduction to Stagecraft

Course Number(s): 55051G0031

Open to: 7, 8

Length: Semester

Content: This theatre class teaches and builds technical skills focusing on scenery construction, costume design, lighting design and operation, make-up and sound effects. The roles of producer, stage manager, and publicist will be explored. This is not an acting class.