

# MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE GUIDE



2024-2025



Dear Students and Parents,

We are extremely excited to share the Blue Springs School District 2024-25 Middle School Course book with you. This resource has been developed to present important information about the educational programs and extracurricular activities offered at our four middle schools.

As you begin the process of selecting courses for the upcoming year, you will notice a wide range of classes. We encourage you to visit as a family to discuss not only rigorous academic courses, but also new classes that might spark an interest.

In addition to our regular course work, middle school is a time to explore new and exciting extra-curricular clubs and activities. Whether you have an interest in sports or music or even core subject clubs, there is something for everyone. We encourage everyone to work hard but have fun at the same time. Let's make some memories!

If you have any questions along the way, please feel free to reach out to us for advice. We are happy to assist you!

Sincerely,

Your Middle School Principals

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# MISSION

The mission of the Blue Springs School District, the champion for personal growth, is to ensure every student develops the skills and dispositions to thrive in a global community as a productive and collaborative citizen through innovative education distinguished by:

- rigorous, accessible learning experiences
- diverse opportunities for involvement and leadership
- a culture of understanding differences and showing kindness
- community partnerships that engage and support students and their families

The Blue Springs School District is dedicated to the proposition that each child in the district, regardless of sex, economic or social status, geographic location, race, or individual difference, should experience a broad and balanced education. In order to accomplish this goal, a variety of programs and teaching methods will be employed to meet the various needs and differences in the abilities of the students. The objective of the Blue Springs School District is to establish a program to deal with each student's special gifts and to allow each student an opportunity to attain maximum achievement.

## NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

The Board of Education is prohibited from and hereby declares a policy against, engaging in unlawful discrimination, including harassment, creating a hostile environment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. To ensure that these obligations are met, the board designates the following individuals to act as the district's nondiscrimination laws compliance coordinators.

**Student Inquiries Related to Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation**

Assistant Superintendent of Administration  
Blue Springs School District  
1801 NW Vesper  
Blue Springs, Missouri 64015  
(816) 874-3200  
Fax (816) 224-1764

**Student Related Inquiries including Title IX:**

Assistant Superintendent of Administration  
or Director of Compliance  
Blue Springs School District  
1801 NW Vesper  
Blue Springs, Missouri 64015  
(816) 874-3200  
Fax (816) 224-1764

**Student Disability Related Inquiries:**

Assistant Superintendent of Special Services  
Blue Springs School District  
1801 NW Vesper  
Blue Springs, Missouri 64015  
(816) 874-3200  
Fax (816) 224-1764

**Facility Related Inquiries:**

Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Blue Springs School District  
1801 NW Vesper  
Blue Springs, Missouri 64015  
(816) 874-3200  
Fax (816) 224-1764

*For a full statement of the nondiscrimination policy, please see Board Policy 2.7 or 5.18.*

## GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The Board has adopted policies and procedures in order to assist in the fair, prompt, and equitable resolution of student, parent/legal guardian, or employee discrimination or harassment grievances. A grievance is a claim by a student, parent/legal guardian, or employee that a violation of Title VI (race, color or national origin), Title IX (sex), Section 504 (disability), Title II of the Americans with Disability Act (disabilities), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Boy Scouts Act or their regulations, has occurred in the programs, activities or facilities of the District. Whenever a grievance occurs, every effort will be made to secure an appropriate resolution as early as possible. The grievance procedure involves four steps. At each step of the grievance process, the grievant shall be entitled to identify witnesses and present other relevant information. The District will take necessary steps to correct any conduct which has proven to be discriminatory or harassing and the effects caused by the conduct and to prevent recurrence.

*For a full statement of the grievance policy, including timelines for submitting a grievance, please see Board Policy 2.10.*

# ACADEMIC GRADE LEVEL PROGRESSION

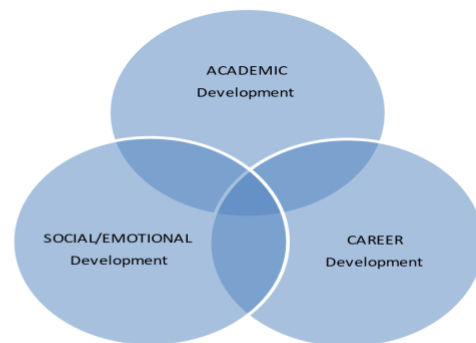
To ensure both parents and students understand the academic rigors of high school and how it relates to future success, students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade are expected to earn a minimum of 5 credits-including passing grades in both English and Math. Students who are in jeopardy of acquiring the 5 credits will be required to attend summer school. Additionally, these students will be automatically enrolled into an academic recovery class as a freshman.

## COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE

### The Missouri Comprehensive School Counseling Program (MCSCP)

**A** proactive and preventative K12 school program that addresses social/emotional, academic, and career development of all students by providing:

- Curriculum
- Responsive Services
- Individual Planning
- System Support



The Missouri Comprehensive School Counseling Program supports the academic, career, and social/emotional development of all students through the delivery of curriculum, individual student planning, responsive services, and system support and is implemented by school counselors. The counseling program is an integral part of the total educational program.

School counselors are trained to provide individual and small group counseling, classroom lessons, conflict mediation, crisis intervention, educational testing, and program placement. Counselors provide support and facilitate conferences for students, teachers, and parents with the goal of enhancing everyone's academic experience and preparing for high school and post-secondary success.

# LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

Library Media Center services are available to all students in grades 6-8. A full-time library media specialist assists students during school hours. The library media specialist collaborates with teachers to integrate basic information literacy skills across the curriculum. These skills include the following objectives:

- Follow an inquiry process to construct new understandings, draw conclusions, and create new knowledge
- Determine nature and intent of information needed
- Access information efficiently and effectively
- Evaluate information critically and competently
- Use information effectively and creatively
- Practice ethical, legal, and safe use of information and technology
- 

# SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

In accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Blue Springs School District provides a continuum of special education services for eligible students. Students are determined eligible under IDEA in the following disability categories:

Autism	Deaf/Blindness
Emotional Disturbance	Hearing Impairment and Deafness
Intellectual Disability	Multiple Disabilities
Orthopedic Impairment	Other Health Impairment
Specific Learning Disabilities	Speech and/or Language Impairment
Traumatic Brain Injury	Visual Impairment/Blind
Young Child with a Developmental Delay	

Special education services are documented in a student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP). Course enrollment may be dependent upon the student’s special education service needs and priorities. Please contact your student’s counselor, special education case manager, or special education process coordinator with questions regarding enrollment and special education services.

# SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer school is offered to middle school students for credit recovery, course enrichment and for students completing 8<sup>th</sup> grade to begin earning high school credit. Courses offered in summer school may vary from year to year.

# TECHNOLOGY

**Schoology** - The Schoology platform allows teachers to share class assignments, discussions, reading articles and videos with students. Students can submit assignments, review grades and receive feedback on their coursework from teachers.

**PowerSchool** – PowerSchool Parent Portal and Student Portal monitors your student's attendance and academic progress electronically. It will also be the site where you locate documents, register students in school and update demographic information. PowerSchool's website is <https://pschool.bssd.net>.

**Xello** - An engaging college and career readiness software program utilized by grades K-12 to open students' eyes to future possibilities and equip them with self-knowledge, skills & confidence to build actionable plans for future success.

## CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

All four Blue Springs School District Middle Schools offer the opportunity for students to participate in various school/community clubs and activities, intramurals and school sports.

### **Clubs/Activities offered at all middle schools:**

- Student Council
- Yearbook
- Jazz Band
- Chess Club
- Book Club
- Drama Club
- Science Club
- Honors Orchestra
- Maker Space Club
- School Musical/Production Club
- Winter Guard
- Geography Bee

### **Intramural Sports:**

- Basketball
- Cheer
- Flag Football
- Soccer
- Volleyball

### **School Sports:**

- Cross Country (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>)
- Football (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>)
- Basketball (8<sup>th</sup> only)
- Wrestling (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>)
- Track (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>)
- Volleyball (8<sup>th</sup> only)

**Additional clubs and activities unique to each middle school are offered during the year. Information will be provided throughout the school year.**

# MIDDLE SCHOOL HONORS COURSES

## **General Information for Honors Courses:**

Self-motivated and independent learners who are excited about challenging tasks and ideas in a subject area will succeed in these courses. Students should be prepared to spend three hours per week on outside 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.

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.

## **Blue Springs School District Specific Honors Course Information:**

The Blue Springs School district will be offering honors courses for the core subject areas (English Language Arts, Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies) for the 2024-2025 school year. Please see course descriptions for details.

## **Middle School Student Attribute Profile:**

The following learner attribute profile is intended to serve as a guide rather than a set of rigid rules for parents/students to consider when enrolling in honors courses. The profile describes attributes a student should exemplify if considering honors courses.

- Is self-motivated
- Enjoys challenges
- Enjoys reading and writing
- Completes assignments on time
- Has good attendance
- Arrives to classes on time
- Collaborates well with other

## **Subject Specific Learner Attributes for Honors Courses:**

<b>Honors English Language Arts/Reading</b>	<b>Honors Math</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reads at or above grade level</li> <li>• Demonstrates skills in basic grammar and language conventions</li> <li>• Applies a writing process to writing tasks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates excellent computational skills</li> <li>• Capable of grasping and applying new concepts the first time</li> <li>• Meets placement criteria established by the math department</li> </ul>
<b>Honors Science</b>	<b>Honors Social Studies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to follow directions on multistep labs</li> <li>• Can analyze results and draw logical conclusions</li> <li>• Can write clear, well-structured reports on lab practices and findings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reads at or above grade level</li> <li>• Effectively utilizes primary and secondary sources</li> <li>• Has expository writing skills</li> <li>• Has strong research skills</li> </ul>



# Grade 6

## OVERVIEW OF CURRICULAR OFFERINGS

<b>REQUIRED CORE COURSES</b>		
<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Term</b>
English Language Arts 6 <b>or</b> Honors English Language Arts 6	6601 6611	Year-long
Reading 6 <b>or</b> Honors Reading 6	6604 6614	Year-long
Mathematics 6 <b>or</b> Honors Mathematics 6	6605 6606	Year-long
Science 6 <b>or</b> Honors Science 6	6603 6613	Year-long
Social Studies 6 <b>or</b> Honors Social Studies 6	6602 6612	Year-long
Physical Education/Health 6	6640/6641	Semester

<b>EXPLORATORY COURSES</b>		
<b>Students choose four from below – 9-week rotation</b>		
<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Term</b>
Art	6694	Nine Weeks
Discovering Family and Consumer Sciences	6696	Nine Weeks
Exploratory Ambassador	6816	Nine Weeks
Introduction to Computer Apps	6695	Nine Weeks
Introduction to the Performing Arts	6699	Nine Weeks
Introduction to Technology	6815	Nine Weeks
Passport to Exploring Languages	6698	Nine Weeks
Reading PLUS 6*	6691	Varies
<b>Students choose from one of the following below. All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to take one semester of vocal music or year-long band or orchestra.</b>		
<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Term</b>
Beginning Band	6651	Year-long
Beginning Orchestra	6652	Year-long
Vocal Music	6650	Semester

\*Reading PLUS will take the place of the exploratory courses for students who are in need of improving their reading skills.

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## REQUIRED CORE COURSES

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6 (Course #6601)**

Sixth grade English language arts students will use language as a tool for learning and communicating in all disciplines. Students will write narrative, expository, and argumentative texts for different purposes and audiences. In their writing, they will focus on the development of ideas and on structure as well as on grammar, usage, and mechanics. A variety of fiction and nonfiction texts will be used as a resource to allow students to interact with and respond to professional and peer writers. Vocabulary instruction and word awareness will be embedded in both reading and writing instruction. Students will develop their research and media literacy skills as well as their speaking and listening skills. College and Career Readiness skills and standards will be emphasized.

– OR –

### **HONORS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6 (Course #6611)**

This rigorous, accelerated course is designed to meet the needs of students with strong reading, writing and organizational skills. It is recommended that students currently read at or above grade level before entering this course. Students will focus on increasingly more complex language, reading and writing skills, including extended writing tasks and more independent reading texts. Students will write narrative, expository, and argumentative texts for different purposes and audiences, focusing on development of ideas and on structure as well as on grammar, usage, and mechanics. A variety of fiction and nonfiction texts will be used as a resource to allow students to interact with and respond to professional and peer writers. Vocabulary instruction and word awareness will be embedded in both reading and writing instruction. Students will develop their research and media literacy skills as well as their speaking and listening skills. College and Career Readiness skills and standards will be emphasized. The grade in advanced courses will be based on daily homework as well as extended writing and reading assessments.

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### **READING 6 (Course #6604)**

In sixth grade reading, students will reflect on and respond to a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts. They will discuss literary elements and will learn and practice reading strategies to aid comprehension. Vocabulary instruction and word awareness will be embedded in both reading and writing. Students will develop their research and media literacy skills as well as their speaking and listening skills. College and Career Readiness skills and standards will be emphasized.

– OR –

### **HONORS READING 6 (Course #6614)**

This rigorous, accelerated course is designed to meet the needs of students with strong reading and organizational skills. It is recommended that students currently read at or above grade level before entering this course. Students will reflect on and respond to a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts. They will discuss literary elements and will learn and practice reading strategies to aid comprehension of increasingly more complex texts. Vocabulary instruction and word awareness will be embedded in both reading and writing instruction. Students will develop their research and media literacy skills as well as their speaking and listening skills. College and Career Readiness skills and standards will be emphasized. The grade in advanced courses will be based on daily homework as well as extended writing and reading assessments.

## **MATHEMATICS 6 (Course #6605)**

Sixth grade math emphasizes number sense. Units include decimals, fractions, measurement, mental math, geometry, statistics, graphing, and probability. The units incorporate critical thinking and logical reasoning skills in problem solving.

– OR –

## **HONORS MATH 6 (Course #6606)**

This course is designed for the highly motivated student that meets the criteria of having an A in 5<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics, a high score on the common assessment, and advanced or proficient score on the MAP. This course will provide a challenge beyond the regular sixth grade math curriculum. These students must show proficiency in math skills learned K-5. Students enrolled in this course will be expected to handle a rigorous course of study. (The selection for 7<sup>th</sup> grade Pre-Algebra will be determined during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester prior to enrollment.)

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## **SCIENCE 6 (COURSE #6603)**

This course will help students develop understanding of key earth science concepts. There are three core ideas of earth science in middle school: 1) Earth's Place in the Universe, 2) Earth's Systems, and 3) Earth and Human Activity. The performance expectations in middle school blend core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge across the science disciplines. Students will investigate questions in reference to the universe and earth systems and will utilize data and scientific concepts to support claims with evidence and reasoning.

– OR –

## **HONORS SCIENCE 6 (COURSE #6613)**

This challenging, fast-paced course is designed to meet the needs of students with strong math, reading, and writing skills. Students enrolling in the advanced sciences should have a desire to continue in academically advanced science courses in high school, such as AP. This course will provide a rigorous curriculum that mirrors the 6<sup>th</sup> grade earth science content, but at a greater depth. There are three core ideas of earth science in middle school: 1) Earth's Place in the Universe, 2) Earth's Systems, and 3) Earth and Human Activity. The performance expectations in middle school blend core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge across the science disciplines. Students will investigate questions in reference to the universe and earth systems and will utilize data and scientific concepts to support claims with evidence and reasoning.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES 6 (Course #6602)**

This class is an introduction to the social sciences and the skills associated with them. These areas include government, economics, geography, ethnic cultures, historical and current events, and general study skills.

– OR –

## **HONORS SOCIAL STUDIES 6 (Course #6612)**

This challenging, fast-paced course is designed to meet the needs of students who desire to study social studies content in a more in-depth and rigorous setting. Students will use independent and cooperative strategies with an emphasis on research, writing, technology, inquiry and informational reading. In addition to expanding social studies content, students will be required to read, write and research their findings and questions. Students can expect to maintain daily attendance and dedicate up to three hours a week of additional study time outside of class. Honors Social Studies will be a survey of social sciences and will prepare students for future advanced social studies courses. Introductions to government, economics, geography, ethnic cultures, historical and current events are included in the course.

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## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH 6**

**(#6640 & #6641)**

Physical Education is a required semester long course that meets daily. The purpose of physical education is to establish a basis for a lifetime of physical fitness, as well as promote involvement in team sports. A student health and wellness program will be introduced and taught in conjunction with the physical education curriculum. Topics will focus on the benefits of an active lifestyle, good nutritional practices, and healthy life-long behaviors.

Physical Education is **NOT** competitive athletics. It is a place for learning self-control, leadership, responsibility, and skill. Conditioning will be stressed with all activities, and the *Fitnessgram* program will be used to measure student's fitness level twice a year. Students will have the option to dress out for PE. ***All sixth-grade students are required to take one semester of PE.***

## EXPLORATORY COURSES

### **ART 6 (Course #6694)**

This 9-week course is designed to emphasize exploration of art concepts using the elements and principles of art as a framework. Students engage in decision making and problem-solving skills from an artistic point of view. This class uses a variety of mediums such as pencil, ceramic, paint, ink, fibers, and other materials.

### **DISCOVERING FAMILY and CONSUMER SCIENCES 6 (Course #6696)**

Discovering Family and Consumer Sciences is a 9-week course designed as an introductory course which incorporates kitchen and food safety, nutrition and food preparation, and basic sewing skills. Students will participate in a variety of hands-on project-based activities. A small fee for sewing materials will vary depending on personal preference.

### **EXPLORATORY AMBASSADOR 6 (Course #6816)**

Exploratory Ambassadors will focus on promoting a positive school culture through the I AM Noticed project, be leaders for incoming elementary students, and connect students with real world learning within our community. Lessons will focus around interpersonal and intrapersonal skills to work well with others, but also implement self-reflection and personal goals. Hands on learning will be incorporated through a variety of lessons for team building and class connections. Additionally, students will model positive behavior and leadership skills that contribute to the systems of student support.

### **INTRODUCTION to COMPUTER APPS (Course #6695)**

In this 9-week course students will explore the world of computer applications. Students will be taken on a journey that starts with an introduction to touch-typing and ends with the basic knowledge needed to successfully navigate the ever-changing world of computer science. During the journey students will learn the basic skills needed to navigate a computer, efficiently utilize the internet, and operate programs such as Microsoft Word, and Microsoft PowerPoint, and Microsoft Excel. This will be done through daily discussions, examination of digital documents, and application of the knowledge gained throughout the course.

### **INTRODUCTION to the PERFORMING ARTS 6 (Course #6699)**

This 9-week exploratory course is designed to develop a comfort level for students in performance-based activities. Activities may include pantomime, improvisation, storytelling, acting scenes, TV commercials, group discussion, and introductory speeches.

### **INTRODUCTION to TECHNOLOGY 6 (Course #6815)**

This introductory course prepares students for the middle school Project Lead the Way program. Students will learn about STEM careers and how they impact the past, present, and future. Students will also study the Design Process and use it to guide their actions while solving real-world problems and completing hands-on activities.

### **PASSPORT to EXPLORING LANGUAGES 6 (Course #6698)**

This 9-week class introduces French, German, and Spanish cultures, geography, and language. This course reflects the three languages offered in the Blue Springs School District.

## **READING PLUS 6 (Course #6691)**

This course is designed to improve the reading skills of students who are reading significantly below grade level. Students' scores on reading inventories, standardized assessments, and teacher recommendations will be used to determine placement. Students who are in need of reading assistance will be enrolled in Reading PLUS rather than an exploratory course. Students are expected to maintain continuous enrollment in this course until their reading progresses to a level that will enable them to be successful.

## **MUSIC**

### **BEGINNING BAND 6 (Course #6651)**

Beginning band is a year-long class that meets daily. Students taking this class will be introduced to the exciting world of instrumental music. No previous band experience is required, but students who would like to be selected for percussion should already have two years of piano lessons. The band director will help students select the most appropriate instrument. Each student will need to provide the recommended instrument and supplies. Instrument changes are done only with the approval of the band director. Daily practice at home and all public performances are required and will be a part of the student's semester grade.

### **BEGINNING ORCHESTRA 6 (Course #6652)**

Beginning orchestra is a year-long class that meets daily. Students taking this class are introduced to the basics of making music. No prior instrument background is required. Instrument choices are violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students provide their own instruments, a cello or bass may be available for school use, but all cellists must own their own instrument for at home practice and performances. We generally do not own enough basses to send one home, so renting one is the best option. The goal of beginning orchestra is for each student to produce a pleasant tone, know how to read music, and exhibit good playing and practice habits. Daily at home practice records will be a graded part of the class. A minimum of two evening performances will be required during the school year. Private instruction is encouraged.

### **VOCAL MUSIC 6 (Course #6650)**

Vocal music is a required semester long class that meets daily. This class will focus on the fundamentals of vocal performance singing. Emphasis will be on pitch matching, tone quality, breath support, and ear-training. Concert participation is mandatory and will be included in the student's grade.

## **GIFTED**

### **STRETCH (6-8)**

Middle School STRETCH is a program for students in grades 6 – 8 who have been identified through a district screening process as academically gifted. STRETCH students will study subject area content and expand on curriculum through project-based learning, differentiated activities, and participation in competitions. Course activities focus on and are designed around a variety of skill areas, including but not limited to problem-solving; critical, creative, and logical thinking; research; leadership; technology; and interpersonal relationships.

# Grade 7

## OVERVIEW OF CURRICULAR OFFERINGS

<b>REQUIRED CORE COURSES</b>		
<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Term</b>
English Language Arts 7 <b>or</b> Honors English Language Arts 7	7701 7711	Year-long
Mathematics 7 <b>or</b> Honors Pre-Algebra 7	7705 7706	Year-long
Science 7 <b>or</b> Honors Science 7	7703 7713	Year-long
Social Studies 7 <b>or</b> Honors Social Studies 7	7702 7712	Year-long
Academic Skills 7	7708	Year-long**
Physical Education/Health 7	7740/7741	Year-long**

\*\*These classes meet on alternating days.

<b>EXPLORATORY COURSES</b>		
<b>Students choose 4 semester classes, or 2 semester classes and 1 year-long class.</b> Courses are combined with 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade.		
<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Term</b>
App Creators (PLTW)	7896	Semester
Art Foundations	7801	Semester
Art in Culture	7802	Semester
Real World Computer Applications	7805	Semester
Interactive Computer Technology	7809	Semester
Foods and Nutrition – 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	7803	Semester
Sewing and Fashion Design	7808	Semester
World Languages	7815	Semester
Debate and Forensics	7804	Semester
Theatrical Arts	7811	Semester
Video Production and Broadcasting	7850	Year-long
Design and Modeling (PLTW)	7813	Semester
Automation and Robotics (PLTW)	7812	Semester
Exploratory Ambassador	7816	Semester
Reading PLUS 7-8*	7891	Varies
Intermediate Choir	7807	Semester
Honors Choir	7806	Year-long
Intermediate Band	7882	Year-long
Advanced Band	7884	Year-long
Intermediate Orchestra	7883	Year-long
Advanced Orchestra	7885	Year-long

\*Reading PLUS will take the place of the exploratory courses for students who are in need of improving reading skills.

PLTW – Project Lead The Way courses focus on computer science and engineering activities in the classroom.

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## REQUIRED CORE COURSES

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7 (Course #7701)**

Seventh grade English language arts students will use language as a tool for learning and communicating in all disciplines. Students will write narrative, expository, and argumentative texts for different purposes and audiences. In their writing, they will focus on the development of ideas and on structure as well as on grammar, usage, and mechanics. A variety of fiction and nonfiction texts will be used as a resource to allow students to interface with and respond to professional and peer writers. Vocabulary instruction and word awareness will be embedded in both reading and writing instruction. Students will develop their research and media literacy skills as well as their speaking and listening skills. College and Career Readiness skills and standards will be emphasized.

– OR –

### **HONORS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7 (COURSE #7711)**

This rigorous, accelerated course is designed to meet the needs of students with strong reading, writing and organizational skills. It is recommended that students currently read at or above grade level before entering this course. Students will focus on increasingly more complex language, reading and writing skills, including extended writing tasks and more independent reading texts. Students will write narrative, expository, and argumentative texts for different purposes and audiences, focusing on the development of ideas and on structure as well as on grammar, usage, and mechanics. A variety of fiction and nonfiction texts will be used as a resource to allow students to interact with and respond to professional and peer writers. Vocabulary instruction and word awareness will be embedded in both reading and writing instruction. Students will develop their research and media literacy skills as well as their speaking and listening skills. College and Career Readiness skills and standards will be emphasized. The grade in advanced courses will be based on daily homework as well as extended writing and reading assessments.

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### **MATHEMATICS 7 (Course #7705)**

Seventh grade math emphasizes computational skills and improvement of problem solving in the real world. General material covered during the year includes rational numbers, measurement, statistics and probability, expressions and equations, and appropriate use of the calculator. Students will be evaluated on a continuing basis and provided pre-algebra material when appropriate.

– OR –

### **HONORS PRE-ALGEBRA 7 (Course #7706)**

Students taking Pre-Algebra should be planning to follow a rigorous course of study. The comprehensive content of this course includes all standard topics of middle school mathematics. It includes concepts such as operations involving rational numbers, expressions, equations, use of formulas, solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, solving proportions, applications of percent and probability. (The selection for 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra will be determined 2<sup>nd</sup> semester prior to enrollment.)



## **SCIENCE (Course #7703)**

This course will help students develop understanding of key life science concepts. There are three core ideas of life science in middle school: 1) Organization of Life, 2) Ecosystems, and 3) Unity and Diversity of Life. The performance expectations in middle school blend core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge across the science disciplines. Students will investigate questions in reference to life science and will utilize data and scientific concepts to support claims with evidence and reasoning.

– OR –

## **HONORS SCIENCE 7 (Course #7713)**

This challenging, fast-paced course is designed to meet the needs of students with strong math, reading, and writing skills. Students enrolling in the advanced sciences should have a desire to continue in academically advanced science courses in high school, such as AP. This course will provide a rigorous curriculum that mirrors the 7<sup>th</sup> grade life science content, but at a greater depth. There are three core ideas of life science in middle school: 1) Organization of Life, 2) Ecosystems, and 3) Unity and Diversity of Life. The performance expectations in middle school blend core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge across the science disciplines. Students will investigate questions in reference to life science and will utilize data and scientific concepts to support claims with evidence and reasoning.

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## **SOCIAL STUDIES 7 (Course #7702)**

This course will provide an overview of the major periods or ages in ancient history, which set the stage for the development of modern civilization. Units will provide political, economic, and geographical insights.

– OR –

## **HONORS SOCIAL STUDIES 7 (Course #7712)**

This challenging, fast-paced course is designed to meet the needs of students who desire to study social studies content in a more in-depth and rigorous setting. Students will use independent and cooperative strategies with an emphasis on research, writing, technology, inquiry, and informational reading. In addition to expanding social studies content, students will be required to read, write, and research their findings and questions. Students can expect to maintain daily attendance and dedicate up to three hours a week of additional study time outside of class. Honors Social Studies will be a survey of social sciences and will prepare students for future advanced social studies courses. This course will examine major periods or ages in ancient history, which set the stage for the development of modern civilization. The economic, political, and geographic features of these civilizations will be studied in depth.

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## **ACADEMIC SKILLS 7 (Course #7708)**

As a component of the core block, academic skills provides the opportunity for adolescents to develop skills related to reading, writing, math, geometry and measurement, science, and career exploration.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH 7**

**(#7740 & #7741)**

Physical Education is a required course for all seventh-grade students all year, every other day. The purpose of physical education is to establish a basis for a lifetime of physical fitness, as well as promote involvement in individual and team sports. A student health and wellness program will be continued in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and taught in conjunction with the physical education curriculum. Topics will focus on the benefits of an active lifestyle, good nutritional practices, and healthy life-long behaviors. Students will also receive instruction in communicable diseases.

Physical Education is **NOT** competitive athletics. It is a place for learning self-control, leadership, responsibility, and skill. Conditioning will be stressed with all activities, and the *Fitnessgram* program will be used to measure student's fitness level. Students will have the option to dress out for PE.

## EXPLORATORY COURSES

### **APP CREATORS (PLTW) (Course #7896)**

App Creators introduces students to the field of computer science and the concepts of computational thinking, through the creation of mobile apps. Students also acquire and apply skills pertaining to the design process, problem solving, persistence, collaboration, and communication. Teams identify a personal or community problem of interest to them that can be solved with a mobile app solution. The problem can address issues such as health and wellness, the environment, school culture, emergency preparedness, education, community service—the options are endless!

### **ART FOUNDATIONS (Course #7801)**

This semester course for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students is designed to build on the skills and concepts taught in 6<sup>th</sup> grade art. Students begin to make more artistic choices as they explore art as a means of expression and communication. Exploration is emphasized, and the creative process is analyzed and investigated. Projects include drawing, painting, print making, and sculpture.

### **ART IN CULTURE (Course #7802)**

This semester class for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students emphasizes how art is connected to the world. Students will learn the function of art in history and culture by designing art projects based on historical works of art and periods in history. Students will use a variety of mediums, creating both two and three-dimensional works of art.

### **REAL WORLD COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (Course #7805)**

Real World Computer Applications puts the student in the driver's seat. During this semester long course students will learn software skills which will be applied during the completion of a real-world business simulation. Students will learn how to use presentation software, word processing software, graphic editing software, and spreadsheet software to complete projects. The student will apply decision-making skills that will pertain to daily real-world projects in order to maintain a successful business. If you are interested in learning real world skills that will be applied to everyday life, then this is the vehicle for you!

### **INTERACTIVE COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY (Course #7809)**

Interactive Computer Technology opens the portal to computer science. As time passes, technology continues to integrate itself into everyday life. Students will walk away from this class with a better understanding of how to effectively interact with technology, an awareness of how to be a responsible user of technology, and knowledge of the language that goes into making some of today's hottest technology function. Throughout the course, students will be interacting with various technologies and gaining real-world skills that will make them valuable members of the digital world. Students who want to be part of the next wave of individuals who create and design the technology that inspires the next generation will enjoy this class!

### **FOODS and NUTRITION (Course #7803)**

Foods and Nutrition is a hands-on semester course designed to offer students the opportunity to learn basic culinary skills and nutrition. Throughout this course, students will develop healthy lifestyle habits and learn how to become wise consumers. There will be a focus on safety and sanitation, making healthy food choices, and food preparation.

## **SEWING and FASHION DESIGN (Course #7808)**

Sewing and Fashion Design is a comprehensive semester course that incorporates fundamental sewing skills, fashion history, sketching and design, fashion merchandising, and interior design basics. Students will be responsible for providing sewing supplies for projects. Cost will vary depending on personal fabric choices.

## **WORLD LANGUAGES (Course #7815)**

This semester class introduces French, German and Spanish cultures, geography and language. This course reflects the three languages offered in the Blue Springs School District.

## **DEBATE and FORENSICS (Course #7804)**

We'll sharpen your personal communication skills by preparing, presenting, and evaluating performance-based activities in Debate and Forensics. Improvisation skills and group communication/problem solving will also be explored through various games and activities. Forensics is competitive drama and includes storytelling, prose, poetry, duet acting, and other events. Debate is argumentation using reason and logic.

## **THEATRICAL ARTS (Course #7811)**

Eager to see your name in lights? Here is a chance to shine! This class includes acting, radio theatre, Shakespeare, stage combat, play reading, reader's theatre, voice production, theatre history, and group presentations.

## **VIDEO PRODUCTION and BROADCASTING (Course #7850)**

Students will learn the basics of digital camera operations, video editing software, and other broadcasting equipment by producing weekly video projects aimed to share with the school community.

## **DESIGN and MODELING (PLTW) (Course #7813)**

Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

## **AUTOMATION and ROBOTICS (PLTW) (Course #7812)**

Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

## **EXPLORATORY AMBASSADOR (Course #7816)**

Exploratory Ambassadors will focus on promoting a positive school culture through the I AM Noticed project, be leaders for incoming elementary students, and connect students with real world learning within our community. Lessons will focus around interpersonal and intrapersonal skills to work well with others, but also implement self-reflection and personal goals. Hands on learning will be incorporated through a variety of lessons for team building and class connections. Additionally, students will model positive behavior and leadership skills that contribute to the systems of student support.

## **READING PLUS 7-8 (Course #7891)**

This course is designed to improve the reading skills of students who are reading significantly below grade level. Students' scores on reading inventories, standardized assessments, and teacher recommendations will be used to determine placement. Students who are in need of reading assistance will be enrolled in Reading PLUS rather than an exploratory course. Students are expected to maintain continuous enrollment in this course until their reading progresses to a level that will enable them to be successful.

## **INTERMEDIATE CHOIR (Course #7807)**

Do you enjoy singing? This semester class is for you! We will focus on vocal style and technique using a variety of music. You will show off your new skills in concert (part of the final grade). This course may be taken up to four semesters with the permission of the instructor.

## **HONORS CHOIR (Course #7806)**

Honors Choir is the elite vocal performance ensemble in middle school. Entry into the class is by audition only. The class is comprised of auditioned 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Meeting daily, for one school year, the group works on three and four-part vocal music for performances in the district and the surrounding area. Focus areas of study include tonal production, sight-reading, rehearsal techniques and performance etiquette. Entry into the course is determined by the director, and the course may be repeated. Course offering will be dependent upon enrollment.

## **INTERMEDIATE BAND (Course #7882)**

In intermediate band, students refine the fundamental playing techniques learned in beginning band. Audition and approval from the instructor are required in order to take the course. Instrument changes are done only with the approval of the band director. Students must provide their own instrument unless they play bassoon, bass clarinet, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone, or tuba. Daily practice at home and all public performances are required and will be a part of the student's semester grade.

## **ADVANCED BAND (Course #7884)**

In advanced band, students continue technical and musical development from intermediate band. Audition and approval from the instructor are required in order to take the course. Instrument changes are done only with the approval of the band director. Students must provide their own instrument unless they play bassoon, bass clarinet, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone, or tuba. Daily practice at home and all public performances are required and will be a part of the student's semester grades.

## **INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA (Course #7883)**

Intermediate orchestra refines the fundamental playing techniques learned in beginning orchestra. Successful completion of Beginning Orchestra or audition and approval from the instructor are required. Instrument changes are done only with the approval of the instructor. Music of various styles will be studied and performed. Daily at-home practice and all performances are required and will be a part of the student's semester grade. Students must provide their own violin, viola and cello. The school may provide a string bass based on availability. The desired outcome of intermediate orchestra is for each student to further develop tone, range, and technical facility and apply those skills to a more diverse and demanding repertoire. Introduction of vibrato and extended positions will expand the student's mastery of their instrument. Private instruction is encouraged.

## **ADVANCED ORCHESTRA (Course #7885)**

Advanced orchestra continues the technical development from intermediate orchestra and applies students' acquired techniques to a more extensive and diverse repertoire. An audition and approval from the instructor are required. Daily at-home practice and concert participation are required and will be part of the student's semester grade. Students must provide their own violin, viola, or cello. The school may provide a string bass based on availability. The desired outcome of advanced orchestra is for each student to further develop tone, range, and technical facility and apply those skills to a more diverse and demanding repertoire, ultimately preparing the student to be successful in high school orchestra. The improvement of vibrato, extended positions and a more diverse key familiarity will be stresses. Private instruction is encouraged.

## **GIFTED**

### **STRETCH (6-8)**

Middle School STRETCH is a program for students in grades 6 – 8 who have been identified through a district screening process as academically gifted. STRETCH students will study subject area content and expand on curriculum through project-based learning, differentiated activities, and participation in competitions. Course activities focus on and are designed around a variety of skill areas, including but not limited to problem-solving; critical, creative, and logical thinking; research; leadership; technology; and interpersonal relationships.

# Grade 8

## OVERVIEW OF CURRICULAR OFFERINGS

<b>REQUIRED CORE COURSES</b>		
<i>Course Name</i>	<i>Course Number</i>	<i>Term</i>
English Language Arts 8 <b>or</b> Honors English Language Arts 8	8801 8811	Year-long
Pre-Algebra 8 <b>or</b> Honors Algebra I 8	8805 8806	Year-long
Science 8 <b>or</b> Honors Science 8	8803 8813	Year-long
Social Studies 8 <b>or</b> Social Studies Honors	8802 8812	Year-long
Academic Skills 8	8896	Year-long**
Physical Education/Health 8	8894/8895	Year-long**

\*\*These classes meet on alternating days.

<b>EXPLORATORY COURSES</b>		
<p><b>Students will choose 4 semester courses, 2 semester courses and 1 year-long course, or 2 year-long courses.</b></p> <p><i>Courses are combined with 7th and 8th grade unless noted.</i></p>		
<i>Course Name</i>	<i>Course Number</i>	<i>Term</i>
App Creators (PLTW)	7896	Semester
Art Foundations	7801	Semester
Art in Culture	7802	Semester
Real World Computer Application	7805	Semester
Interactive Computer Technology	7809	Semester
Foods and Nutrition	7803	Semester
Sewing and Fashion Design	7808	Semester
World Languages	7815	Semester
Debate and Forensics	7804	Semester
Theatrical Arts	7811	Semester
Video Production and Broadcasting	7850	Year-long
Design and Modeling (PLTW)	7813	Semester
Automation and Robotics (PLTW)	7812	Semester
Exploratory Ambassador	7816	Semester
Reading PLUS 7-8*	7891	Varies
Intermediate Choir	7807	Semester
Honors Choir	7806	Year-long
Intermediate Band	7882	Year-long
Advanced Band	7884	Year-long
Intermediate Orchestra	7883	Year-long
Advanced Orchestra	7885	Year-long
Spanish I – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade only	8878	Year-long

\*Reading PLUS will take the place of one exploratory block for students who are in need of improving reading skills.

PLTW – Project Lead The Way courses focus on computer science and engineering activities in the classroom.

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## REQUIRED CORE COURSES

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8 (Course #8801)**

Eighth grade communication arts students will use language as a tool for learning and communicating in all disciplines. Students will write narrative, expository, and argumentative texts for different purposes and audiences. In their writing, they will focus on the development of ideas and on structure as well as on grammar, usage, and mechanics. A variety of fiction and nonfiction texts will be used as a resource to allow students to interact with and respond to professional and peer writers. Vocabulary instruction and word awareness will be embedded in both reading and writing instruction. Students will develop their research and media literacy skills as well as their speaking and listening skills. College and Career Readiness skills and standards will be emphasized.

– OR –

### **HONORS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8 (Course #8811)**

This rigorous, accelerated course is designed to meet the needs of students with strong reading, writing and organizational skills. It is recommended that students currently read at or above grade level before entering this course. Students will focus on increasingly more complex language, reading, and writing skills, including extended writing tasks and more independent reading texts. Students will write narrative, expository, and argumentative texts for different purposes and audiences, focusing on the development of ideas and on structure as well as on grammar, usage, and mechanics. A variety of fiction and nonfiction texts will be used as a resource to allow students to interact with and respond to professional and peer writers. Vocabulary instruction and word awareness will be embedded in both reading and writing instruction. Students will develop their research and media literacy skills as well as their speaking and listening skills. College and Career Readiness skills and standards will be emphasized. The grade in advanced courses will be based on daily homework as well as extended writing and reading assessments.

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### **PRE-ALGEBRA 8 (Course #8805)**

The comprehensive content of this course includes all standard topics of middle school mathematics. It includes concepts such as operations involving rational numbers, expressions, equations, use of formulas, solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, solving proportions, applications of percent, probability.

– OR –

### **HONORS ALGEBRA I (Course #8806)**

Students taking Algebra I should plan to follow an advanced math curriculum in high school. They will use the same textbook and the same course objectives as those used in Algebra I classes taught at the senior high schools. The student will begin to work with variables, expressions, and basic equations. The student will then progress to solving linear and quadratic equations, graphing those equations, and factoring them. Students will also be asked to solve word problems a person may encounter in everyday life situations. A student who passes this course and takes the ALG 1 EOC test will be enrolled in Geometry in ninth grade. See page 36 for secondary math curriculum flow chart. (NOTE: Students completing Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade do NOT receive high school credit.) Students must have completed Pre-Algebra with an A or B to be enrolled in Algebra I. It is expected that a student enrolled in this course will take the Missouri End-Of-Course Exam during the second semester.



## **SCIENCE 8 (Course #8803)**

This course will help students develop an understanding of key concepts of both chemistry and physics. There are four core ideas of physical science in middle school: 1) Matter, 2) Force and Motion, 3) Energy, and 4) Waves and Information Transfer. The performance expectations in middle school blend core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge across the science disciplines. Students will investigate questions in reference to chemistry and physics and will utilize data and scientific concepts to support claims with evidence and reasoning. A general knowledge of mathematics is required throughout the course.

– OR –

## **HONORS SCIENCE 8 (Course #8813)**

This challenging, fast-paced course is designed to meet the needs of students with strong math, reading, and writing skills. Students enrolling in the advance sciences should have a desire to continue in academically advanced science courses in high school, such as AP. This course will provide a rigorous curriculum that mirrors the 8<sup>th</sup> grade physical science content, but at a greater depth. There are four core ideas of physical science in middle school: 1) Matter, 2) Force and Motion, 3) Energy, and 4) Waves and Information Transfer. The performance expectations in middle school blend core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge across the science disciplines. Students will investigate questions in reference to chemistry and physics and will utilize data and scientific concepts to support claims with evidence and reasoning. A general knowledge of mathematics is required throughout the course.

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## **SOCIAL STUDIES 8 (Course #8802)**

This survey course is designed to have the learner explore the dynamic forces that shaped American history from exploration to the Reconstruction era. A main purpose of the course is to help students gain an appreciation of their heritage and a clearer understanding of those events and people that became the American legacy.

– OR –

## **HONORS SOCIAL STUDIES 8 (Course #8812)**

This challenging, fast-paced course is designed to meet the needs of students who desire to study social studies content in a more in-depth and rigorous setting. Students will use independent and cooperative strategies with an emphasis on research, writing, technology, inquiry and informational reading. In addition to expanding social studies content, students will be required to read, write and research their findings and questions. Students can expect to maintain daily attendance and dedicate up to three hours a week of additional study time outside of class. Honors Social Studies will be a survey of social sciences and will prepare students for future advanced social studies courses. This course will examine the dynamic forces that have shaped American history from exploration to the Reconstruction Era. A main purpose of this course is to help students gain an appreciation of their heritage and a clearer understanding of those events and people that became the American legacy.

## **ACADEMIC SKILLS 8 (Course #8896)**

As a component of the eighth-grade core block, Academic Skills builds on the components from the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Academic Skills class by continuing to assist students with the development of skills for their futures. This class meets all year, every other day. The units in this class include reading, writing, mathematics, geometry and measurement, MAP skills, study skills, and career planning.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH 8**

**(#8894 & #8895)**

Physical Education is a required course for eighth grade students. This class meets all year, every other day. The purpose of physical education is to establish a basis for a lifetime of physical fitness, as well as promote involvement in individual and team sports.

Physical Education is **NOT** competitive athletics. It is a place for learning self-control, leadership, responsibility, and skill. Conditioning will be stressed with all activities, and the *Fitnessgram* program will be used to measure the student's fitness level. Students will have the option to dress out for PE.

Health education at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level will focus on human systems. Through project-based activities, students will learn the skeletal, muscular, and circulatory systems, and the positive effects of healthy behaviors on the body.

## EXPLORATORY COURSES

### **APP CREATORS (PLTW) (Course #7896)**

App Creators introduces students to the field of computer science and the concepts of computational thinking, through the creation of mobile apps. Students also acquire and apply skills pertaining to the design process, problem solving, persistence, collaboration, and communication. Teams identify a personal or community problem of interest to them that can be solved with a mobile app solution. The problem can address issues such as health and wellness, the environment, school culture, emergency preparedness, education, community service—the options are endless!

### **ART FOUNDATIONS (Course #7801)**

This semester course for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students is designed to build on the skills and concepts taught in 6<sup>th</sup> grade art. Students begin to make more artistic choices as they explore art as a means of expression and communication. Exploration is emphasized, and the creative process is analyzed and investigated. Projects include drawing, painting, print making, and sculpture.

### **ART IN CULTURE (Course #7802)**

This semester class for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students emphasizes how art is connected to the world. Students will learn the function of art in history and culture by designing art projects based on historical works of art and periods in history. Students will use a variety of mediums, creating both two and three-dimensional works of art.

### **REAL WORLD COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (Course #7805)**

Real World Computer Applications puts the student in the driver's seat. During this semester long course students will learn software skills which will be applied during the completion of a real-world business simulation. Students will learn how to use presentation software, word processing software, graphic editing software, and spreadsheet software to complete projects. The student will apply decision-making skills that will pertain to daily real-world projects in order to maintain a successful business. If you are interested in learning real world skills that will be applied to everyday life, then this is the vehicle for you!

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## **SEWING and FASHION DESIGN (Course #7808)**

Sewing and Fashion Design is a comprehensive semester course that incorporates fundamental sewing skills, fashion history, sketching and design, fashion merchandising, and interior design basics. Students will be responsible for providing sewing supplies for projects. Cost will vary depending on personal fabric choices.

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This semester class introduces French, German, and Spanish cultures, geography, and language. This course reflects the three languages offered in the Blue Springs School District.

## **DEBATE and FORENSICS (Course #7804)**

We'll sharpen your personal communication skills by preparing, presenting, and evaluating performance-based activities in Debate and Forensics. Improvisation skills and group communication/problem solving will also be explored through various games and activities. Forensics is competitive drama and includes storytelling, prose, poetry, duet acting, and other events. Debate is argumentation using reason and logic.

## **THEATRICAL ARTS (Course #7811)**

Eager to see your name in lights? Here is a chance to shine! This class includes acting, radio theatre, Shakespeare, stage combat, play reading, reader's theatre, voice production, theatre history, and group presentations.

## **VIDEO PRODUCTION and BROADCASTING (Course #7850)**

Students will learn the basics of digital camera operations, video editing software, and other broadcasting equipment by producing weekly video projects aimed to share with the school community.

## **DESIGN and MODELING (PLTW) (Course #7813)**

Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

## **AUTOMATION and ROBOTICS (PLTW) (Course #7812)**

Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

## **EXPLORATORY AMBASSADOR (Course #7816)**

Exploratory Ambassadors will focus on promoting a positive school culture through the I AM Noticed project, be leaders for incoming elementary students, and connect students with real world learning within our community. Lessons will focus around interpersonal and intrapersonal skills to work well with others, but also implement self-reflection and personal goals. Hands on learning will be incorporated through a variety of lessons for team building and class connections. Additionally, students will model positive behavior and leadership skills that contribute to the systems of student support.

## **READING PLUS 7-8 (Course #7891)**

This course is designed to improve the reading skills of students who are reading significantly below grade level. Students' scores on reading inventories, standardized assessments, and teacher recommendations will be used to determine placement. Students who are in need of reading assistance will be enrolled in Reading PLUS rather than an exploratory course. Students are expected to maintain continuous enrollment in this course until their reading progresses to a level that will enable them to be successful.

## **INTERMEDIATE CHOIR (Course #7807)**

Do you enjoy singing? This semester class is for you! We will focus on vocal style and technique using a variety of music. You will show off your new skills in concert (part of the final grade). This course may be taken up to four semesters with the permission of the instructor.

## **HONORS CHOIR (Course #7806)**

Honors Choir is the elite vocal performance ensemble in middle school. Entry into the class is by audition only. The class is comprised of auditioned 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Meeting daily, for one school year, the group works on three and four-part vocal music for performances in the district and the surrounding area. Focus areas of study include tonal production, sight-reading, rehearsal techniques and performance etiquette. Entry into the course is determined by the director, and the course may be repeated. Course offering will be dependent upon enrollment.

## **INTERMEDIATE BAND (Course #7882)**

In intermediate band, students refine the fundamental playing techniques learned in beginning band. Audition and approval from the instructor are required in order to take the course. Instrument changes are done only with the approval of the band director. Students must provide their own instrument unless they play bassoon, bass clarinet, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone, or tuba. Daily practice at home and all public performances are required and will be a part of the student's semester grade.

## **ADVANCED BAND (Course #7884)**

In advanced band, students continue technical and musical development from intermediate band. Audition and approval from the instructor are required in order to take the course. Instrument changes are done only with the approval of the band director. Students must provide their own instrument unless they play bassoon, bass clarinet, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone, or tuba. Daily practice at home and all public performances are required and will be a part of the student's semester grades.

## **INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA (Course #7883)**

Intermediate orchestra refines the fundamental playing techniques learned in beginning orchestra. Successful completion of Beginning Orchestra or audition and approval from the instructor are required. Instrument changes are done only with the approval of the instructor. Music of various styles will be studied and performed. Daily at-home practice and all performances are required and will be a part of the student's semester grade. Students must provide their own violin, viola and cello. The school may provide a string bass based on availability. The desired outcome of intermediate orchestra is for each student to further develop tone, range, and technical facility and apply those skills to a more diverse and demanding repertoire. Introduction of vibrato and extended positions will expand the student's mastery of their instrument. Private instruction is encouraged.

## **ADVANCED ORCHESTRA (Course #7885)**

Advanced orchestra continues the technical development from intermediate orchestra and applies students' acquired techniques to a more extensive and diverse repertoire. An audition and approval from the instructor are required. Daily at-home practice and concert participation are required and will be part of the student's semester grade. Students must provide their own violin, viola or cello. The school may provide a string bass based on availability. The desired outcome of advanced orchestra is for each student to further develop tone, range, and technical facility and apply those skills to a more diverse and demanding repertoire, ultimately preparing the student to be successful in high school orchestra. The improvement of vibrato, extended positions and a more diverse key familiarity will be stresses. Private instruction is encouraged.

## **SPANISH I (Course #8878)**

This year-long class consists of building skills in speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing, with an introduction to simple grammar, culture, and geography. Prior to enrolling in a high school foreign language class, students are expected to meet with their middle school counselor. Avant testing can be used for placement in a high school foreign language course. (NOTE: This class covers the same content and course objectives and uses the same textbook as the Spanish I high school class, however it is not transcribed as high school credit).

## **GIFTED**

### **STRETCH (6-8)**

Middle School STRETCH is a program for students in grades 6 – 8 who have been identified through a district screening process as academically gifted. STRETCH students will study subject area content and expand on curriculum through project-based learning, differentiated activities, and participation in competitions. Course activities focus on and are designed around a variety of skill areas, including but not limited to problem-solving; critical, creative, and logical thinking; research; leadership; technology; and interpersonal relationships.

# HIGH SCHOOL COURSE INFORMATION

## High School Course Information

Three major questions typically come about as parents start to wonder and gather information about high school courses:

1. What is an “honor point” or weighted class and how does it affect my student?
2. What is an AP class?
3. What is a dual credit course?

## Weighted Courses

An “honor point” or a weighted class is a more challenging course for any student. It is a system that rewards students for selection and achievement in more difficult courses by improving their GPA. These weighted courses require increased rigor, higher order thinking skills and typically, more home study.

In a standard grade point average (G.P.A.), each grade is given a point value

A = 4.0, B = 3.0, C = 2.0, D = 1.0 and F = 0

Weighted courses in the BSSD are given an extra point for each grade to be factored into a student’s G.P.A. In many cases, this allows for colleges to look at a student’s transcript and know the number of more challenging courses a student has taken.

## AP Courses

Advanced Placement (AP) is a program in the United States and Canada created by the College Board which offers college-level curricula and examinations to high school students. American colleges and universities may grant placement and course credit to students who obtain high scores on the examinations. The curriculum is determined by Advance Placement and is offered to the student at no extra cost. At the end of the course, a student can choose to pay a small fee to take an AP test. If the student scores at a certain level on their 5-point scale, many post-secondary institutions will award college hours and credit at NO COST for that test score.

For example, currently for the school year, the cost of the AP Biology test is \$98. If your student scores a 3 or higher, the University of Central Missouri (UCM) will award 3 hours of Biology credit at no additional cost. The current cost of one credit hour at UCM is approximately \$277.50. This is a savings to a student of \$832 for the one course!

## Dual-Credit Courses

Dual-credit courses are college courses, taught in the Blue Springs School District, by a Blue Springs School District teacher, but a student pays to receive college credit earned from one of the local post-secondary institutions at a significant cost savings to a parent. Please see page 23 of the High School Course Guide for the estimated cost per credit hour.

## High School Course Guide

Additional information can be found in the Blue Springs School District high school course guide at <https://www.highschoolcourseguide.com/>



# CAREER PATHS OVERVIEW

**What Are Career Paths?** Career paths are clusters of occupations and careers that are grouped because many of the people in them share similar interests and strengths. All paths include a variety of occupations that require different levels of education and training. Selecting a career path provides you with an area of FOCUS, along with FLEXIBILITY, and a VARIETY of ideas to pursue.

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## **ARTS AND COMMUNICATION**

*Occupations related to the humanities and the performing, visual, literary, and media arts. These may include architecture, interior design, creative writing, fashion design, film, fine arts, graphic design and production, journalism, languages, radio, television, advertising, and public relations.*



## **BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT & TECHNOLOGY**

*Occupations related to the business environment. These may include entrepreneurship, sales, marketing, computer/information systems, finance, accounting, personnel, economics, and management.*



## **HEALTH SERVICES**

*Occupations related to the promotion of health and the treatment of disease. These may include research prevention, treatment, and related technologies.*



## **HUMAN SERVICES**

*Occupations related to economic, political, and social systems. These may include education, government, law and law enforcement, leisure and recreation, military, religion, childcare, and social services.*



## **INDUSTRIAL AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY**

*Occupations related to the technologies necessary to design, develop, install, or maintain physical systems. These may include engineering, manufacturing, construction, service, and related technologies.*



## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

*Occupations related to the environment and natural resources. These may include agriculture, earth sciences, environmental sciences, fisheries, forestry, horticulture, and wildlife.*

\*Logos developed by Columbia Career Center, Columbia, Missouri.



# BSSD success-ready students are...



BSSD

## ACCOUNTABLE

- Displays Leadership
- Resilient
- Goal Oriented
- Serves Others
- Shows Integrity

## GLOBAL CITIZENS

- Thinks Outside the Box
- Big Picture Understanding
- Cultivates Creativity and Innovation
- Values Differences
- Curious

## COLLABORATIVE

- Active Listeners
- Develops Authentic Relationships
- Clear, Concise Communicators
- Gains Support of Others
- Fosters Open Dialogue

## PROACTIVE

- Maintains a Growth Mindset
- Takes Personal Responsibility
- Prioritizes Work
- Reflective
- Adaptive

# SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL COURSE MAP

## General recommendations for students not pursuing a science-related career:

Biology 1 or Pre-AP Biology (9<sup>th</sup>)

Foundations of Physics and Chemistry and/or Chemistry I and/or Physics (10<sup>th</sup>)

Electives- select 2 credits:

Chemistry 1 and /or Physics (10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup>)

CSI (10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup>)

Environmental Science, Earth Science, Astronomy/Meteorology (10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup>)

Dual Credit Principles of Chemistry (11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>)

Dual Credit Biology (11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>)

## Health Science career (nursing, radiology, dental hygiene, etc.):

Biology 1 or Pre-AP Biology (9<sup>th</sup>)

Chemistry 1 or Pre-AP Chemistry (10<sup>th</sup>)

AP Biology (10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup>)

Microbiology (10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup>)

Dual Credit Principles of Chemistry or Dual Credit Chemistry (11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>)

Anatomy/Physiology (11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>)

## Medical career (doctor, pharmacist, dentist, etc.)

Pre-AP Biology (9<sup>th</sup>)

Pre-AP Chemistry (10<sup>th</sup>)

AP Biology (10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup>)

Microbiology (10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup>)

Dual Credit or AP Chemistry (11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>)

Anatomy/Physiology (11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>)

AP Physics or AP Physics C (11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>)

## Engineering career:

Pre-AP Biology (9<sup>th</sup>)

Pre-AP Chemistry (10<sup>th</sup>)

Dual Credit Chemistry or AP Chemistry (11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>)

AP Physics (11<sup>th</sup>)

AP Physics C (12<sup>th</sup>)

AP Biology (Biochemical or Biomedical Engineering) (10<sup>th</sup>)

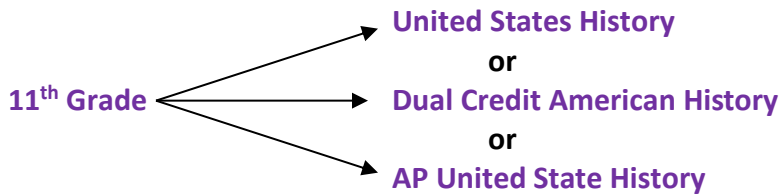
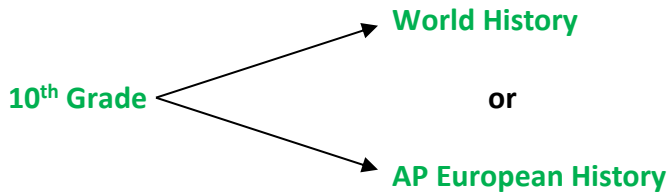
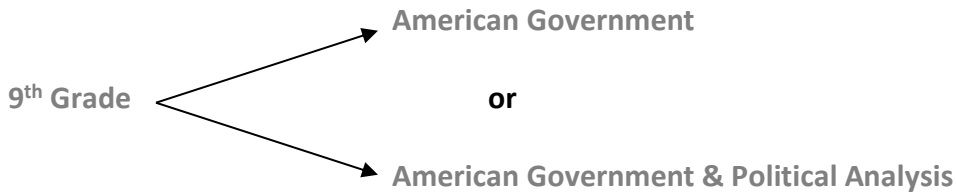
Microbiology (Biochemical or Biomedical Engineering) (10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup>)

Anatomy/Physiology (Biochemical or Biomedical Engineering) (11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>)

AP Environmental Science (Civil Engineering) (10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup>)

# SOCIAL STUDIES HIGH SCHOOL COURSE MAP

## Required Courses:



12<sup>th</sup> Grade → no required course

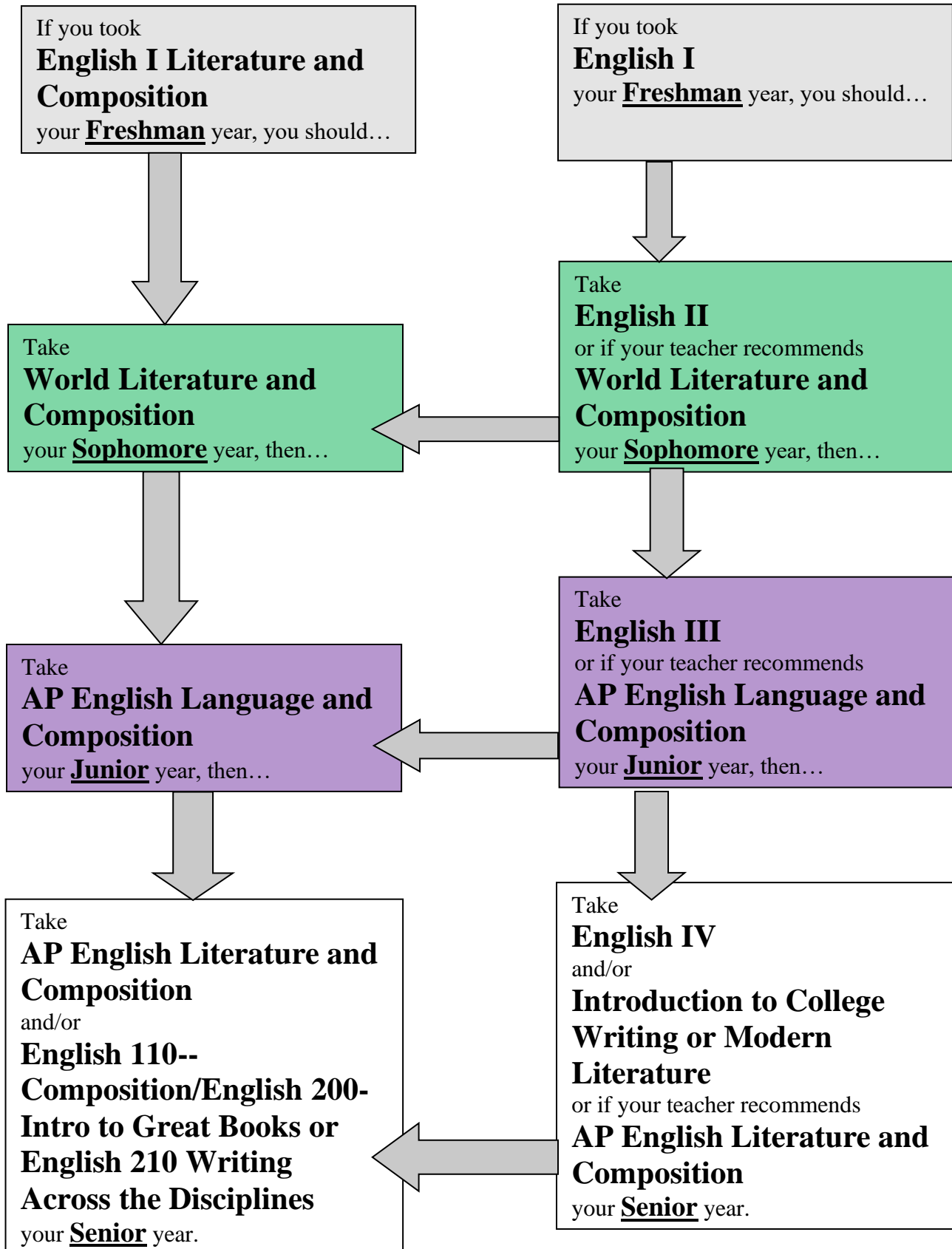
### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Options

- AP American Government
- Civil War
- Contemporary Issues
- Economics
- Global Issues
- Sociology I
- Sociology II
- World Religions
- World War II

### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Options

- AP American Government
- Civil War
- Contemporary Issues
- Economics
- Global Issues
- Sociology I
- Sociology II
- World Religions
- World War II
- Psychology
- AP Psychology

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS HIGH SCHOOL COURSE MAP



# MATH HIGH SCHOOL COURSE MAP

Honors Course Progression	GRADE	Traditional Course Progression
Honors 6th Grade	6th Grade year	6th Grade Math
Honors 7th Grade	7th Grade year	7th Grade Math
Algebra 1	8th Grade year	8th Grade Math
Honors Geometry	9th Grade year	Algebra 1
Sophomore Algebra 2	10th Grade year	Geometry
College Pre-Calculus	11th Grade year	Algebra 2
College Calculus AP BC Calculus	12th Grade year	College Algebra College Statistics College Trigonometry Advanced Algebra



## 24-25 High School Course Book



## 24-25 Middle School Course Book