

Band 7-8: Students will continue to develop the musical performance skills for their instrument. Each band will perform several concerts during the year and participate in MSBOA Band Festivals and Band Bounce. In addition, students will have a number of optional extension opportunities, including: solo and ensemble, honors bands, private lessons, chamber music concerts, or summer camps. Students will be placed into an appropriate band class based on musical audition.

Choir 7-8: Emphasis will be given to developing basic singing skills. Students will learn the rudiments of harmonic singing. They will work on vocal techniques such as breathing, support, vowel production.

Art 7-8: This class introduces students to the world of design using two-dimensional and three-dimensional artwork. They will learn basic drawing principles and explore different types of media and techniques using colored pencils, pastels, oil pastels, and ink. The students will learn to draw in perspective using technical skills to design cities, plates, and scratchboards and will also be able to create tabletop sculptures. The students will also learn how to use color theory and how to use light and dark value with light to complete their work so that it looks three-dimensional. Understanding and appreciation of self and others through art history, culture, and heritage is emphasized.

Creative Writing/Intro to Psychology 7: CW: In the middle of a hectic school schedule, a learner occasionally needs an outlet from the real world. Creative writing provides this escape through an often forgotten tool--one's imagination. Students will learn about and be encouraged to write in many genres including poetry, short story, non-fiction, autobiography, and various others. Students will learn skills and techniques to improve their writing craft and have a platform in which to express it. Psych: This course will provide students with an introduction to the field of psychology. In this course, students will investigate why human beings think and act the way they do. This introductory course broadly covers several areas of psychology. Students will learn about different psychological concepts, theories, and methods that give us a greater understanding of the human mind.

Exploring Scientific Phenomena: A Project Based Experience 7: Students will use the Engineering Design Process along with creativity and collaboration to help solve real-world problems. This is a hands-on class that will allow students to identify problems, do research, find possible solutions, design, test and modify, and redesign to help solve the problems.

Environmental Science 7-8: This class is designed to extend beyond student investigations that began in grades 5-7. It will integrate the study of many components of our environment, including the human impact on our planet. The concepts integrated into this course include: flow of energy & cycling of matter, interconnection of all life, stability and change in an ecosystem, conservation and resource allocation, and evaluation of human activity and technology.

Intro to Foods & Consumer Education 7: Do you think about math as part of your health? Exercise and diet are crucial for sustained healthy lifestyles and math helps you get there. Explore exercise, logs, portions, recipes and many various ways of motivation with math skills. Daily movement, food groups and various hands-on projects for engagement. We will also explore money management and solving real world problems.

STEM 7-8 (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) PLTW (Project Lead the Way): This class incorporates two PLTW classes: Design & Modeling and Automation & Robotics. Design & Modeling explores the role of design in the engineering process and challenges students to solve a series of interconnected real world problems. The projects are fun, imaginative and require lots of hands on, problem based learning. We explore the power of sketching in communicating engineering conventions and ideas. We utilize these skills to create and model 3D designs using a C.A.D. program 3D printers. Automation & Robotics provides a unique opportunity for students to explore the world of automated systems and design. Students are challenged to understand how simple mechanisms transfer movement and power, before exploring robotics using VEX EDR equipment. As the course progresses students learn RobotC, a very accessible programming language that enables students to design, build and program robots to solve real world, automated problems. The course is very hands-on incorporating lots of problem solving.

Technology 7: Students will incorporate real world writing issues and challenges while utilizing word-processing, spreadsheets, blogs, wikis and collaboration tools in the form of project based learning assignments. Students will develop a strong foundation in keyboarding skills, as good typing skills allow for better productivity. Students will develop an intermediate understanding of Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides. The course will help prepare students to become more productive in school and beyond using technology. Students will also learn the rights and responsibilities of being a good cyber-citizen.

PE 7-8: This course is designed to allow students to participate in a variety of activities that will elevate the heart rate for an extended period of time. Students strengthen and/or master basic skills developed at the elementary level. Emphasis is on highly organized lead-up activities, modified games, fitness and wellness activities. Content areas include wellness related testing, fitness planning, and application of skills in selected games and sports.