



**8th Grade
Enrollment Packet
Hardin Middle School
2016-2017**

Core & Required Classes for 8th grade

PRE-ALGEBRA: This is a yearlong course. Students study in a rigorous mathematics class with high expectations. Topics covered include a preview of algebra, properties of real numbers, signed numbers, solving equations and inequalities, graphs, slope, formulas, functions, systems of equations, exponents, sentences, radicals, polynomials, factorings, proportions, rational equations and quadratics.

ALGEBRA 1: The objectives of algebra 1 include the development of a foundation in algebra to prepare for further mathematics courses, a better understanding of the real number system, an understanding of the elementary notions of relations and inequalities, ability to interpret equations and equations and inequalities geometrically, facility in using precise mathematical language and symbolism and algebraic techniques to solve practical problems. Students will be required to take the Missouri “End of Course” exam upon completion of Algebra. Upon receiving a letter grade of a C or better and successfully completing the EOC, the student can receive high school credit. Eighth grade students must test into this course.. Teacher recommendation, course grades, and placement exam scores are used to determine placement in high school Geometry. *Must have teacher permission to enroll.*

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA): Eighth grade students will continue the study of grammar, literature, composition, library and research skills, spelling and vocabulary building. Basic literary forms are studied as well as essay format, sentence structure, and paragraph writing.

U.S. HISTORY: The social studies program in the eighth grade utilizes a scope of knowledge that includes topics from Reconstruction to the present such as government, wars, geography, economic growth, civil unrest and the continuing development of the American culture. This course emphasizes the skills of problem solving, critical thinking, cause and effect, debate, analysis of data and the evaluation of current events.

EARTH SCIENCE: Earth Science is the application of other sciences to the study of Earth. Units of study: geology, plate tectonics, astronomy & meteorology. All are applied to study of structure of earth, materials of earth, history of earth, & energy exchanges among earth.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH: The Physical Education Middle School program includes a variety of team sports/activities, individual sports/activities, and recreational games. Sportsmanship, skill development and team building are the major components of these activities. Personal fitness concepts are included to enable students to make informed choices in regards to their own personal fitness.

Design & Modeling:

Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They work in teams to design a playground and furniture, capturing research and ideas in their engineering notebooks. Using Autodesk® design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions

T.C. (Tiger Connection): Students will practice and learn how to implement various character traits such as responsibility, honesty, cooperation and respect into their daily lives. This time may also be used by teams for extra help in daily class work.

Remedial Coursework

READING, ELA, & Math: Students who are identified as needing extra support in Reading, Communication Arts, and/or Math may be enrolled in a support class in the appropriate area. During the class, students will receive extra help to strengthen skills and knowledge in the core areas. These classes will be determined based on MAP scores, diagnostic Reading/CA/Math scores, and teacher recommendation. (Not all 8th graders will be required to enroll in this class). Students who will need to enroll for any of these classes will be notified prior to the school year with specific course information.

Exploratory Classes

COMPUTERS: In this course, students will discover practical applications using word processing skills, spreadsheet functions, presentation skills, and graphic techniques to create various publications such as a magazine cover, menu, and travel brochure. Students will also continue to develop research skills through the use of the Internet. Skills learned will benefit students for future personal use, education, and careers.

VISUAL ART: This class will review & build on skills & concepts covered in Visual Art 7. Students draw, paint, sculpt in metal and clay, & create graphic designs in a variety of media. Students will focus on development in the areas of art making, history & criticism. Each unit is designed to give the opportunity to create an original work of art as they reflect on art & artists of the past & present.

DRAMA: Eighth grade drama develops skills taught in 7th grade drama. New students can learn the concepts taught in 7th grade, & experienced students can enhance their skills in drama. Acting activities focus on developing character, vocal expression, stage movement, memorization skills, improvisations, & monologue. Evaluation is based primarily on in-class performance.

****Grade 7/8 LEADERSHIP: PEER Helpers:** The content of the Leadership: PEER Helpers course provides the foundation for students transitioning to middle school to be leaders within their school community. The course will focus on: promoting communication skills with peers and adults, developing leadership and teamwork skills that will impact the individual as well as the school community, learning skills to demonstrate personal responsibility, and accountability. These skills will be taught to help participants develop a student voice, become helpers to their peers and serve as role models and ambassadors to other students within the school community. Through a variety of learning experiences and application of these skills students will demonstrate their confidence in serving as a leader not only within the school community but in their daily lives as well.

****Grade 8 ADVANCED LEADERSHIP: PEER Ambassadors:** The content of the Leadership: PEER Ambassadors course provides the foundation for students transitioning to middle school to be leaders within their school community. The course will focus on: promoting communication skills with peers and adults, developing leadership and teamwork skills that will impact the individual as well as the school community, learning skills to demonstrate personal responsibility, and accountability. These skills will be taught to help participants develop a student voice, become helpers to their peers and serve as role models and ambassadors to other students within the school community. Through a variety of learning experiences and application of these skills students will demonstrate their confidence in serving as a leader not only within the school community but in their daily lives as well. This class requires an approval through an application process.

SYMPHONIC BAND: (Pre-requisite - 7th Grade Band) This class is for students who play at an intermediate level & have at least two years of experience in band. The focus of this class will be on the further development of fundamental music skills & techniques learned in beginning band, as well as gaining an appreciation for music as a form of artistic expression. Students enrolled in this class will have the opportunity to participate in school concerts, music festivals, Jazz Band & other types of performances.

WIND ENSEMBLE: (Pre-requisite - 7th Grade Band) This class is for students who play at an advanced level & have at least two years of experience in band. The focus of this class will be on the further development of fundamental music skills & techniques learned in beginning band, as well as gaining an appreciation for music as a form of artistic expression. Students enrolled in this class will have the opportunity to participate in school concerts, music festivals, Jazz Band & other types of performances.

JAZZ BAND: (Pre-requisite - 7th Grade Band) This class is for students who play at an intermediate or advanced level & are interested in an introductory course on playing & performing in a Jazz Ensemble. The focus of this class will be on Jazz styles & techniques, as well as the history & culture of Jazz as an American art form. Any student selected to play in this ensemble **must also be enrolled concurrently in Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble**, with the exception of pianists, guitarists, bass guitarists or string bassists, & vocalists (although these instruments/vocals need instructor approval for enrollment). Students enrolled in this class will have the opportunity to participate in school concerts, music festivals, & other types of performances.

ORCHESTRA: Students must have two years of recent experience or permission of the instructor to enroll. Violin, viola, cello and string bass are taught. Students acquire performing skills necessary to enter high school orchestra in 9th grade. Students are responsible for providing an instrument, method book, & various supplies needed for participation. Supplemental materials & sheet music will be provided. Orchestra performance & small group skills are stressed with advanced playing technique being developed. At-home practice will be expected, & participation at all performances is required.

8TH GRADE TREBLE CHOIR: (Prerequisite: audition) This course is an auditioned performance choir for female students who wish to improve singing ability & learn more about music. Auditions for this group will take place during January prior to the next school year (specific times will be announced). A minimum of three concerts are scheduled for this group with other potential performance opportunities available. The Choir will perform a variety of musical selections, including some which contain religious subject matter. The choir will also learn some simple choreography for one concert to better their understanding of rhythms in music. Students will study vocal music performance practices, music notation & music history using two & three-part choral music in order to prepare for membership in high school choirs & for lifelong music enjoyment.

MEN'S CHOIR: (prerequisite: approval from instructor)

This course is a performance choir for male students who wish to improve singing ability & learn more about music. A minimum of three concerts are scheduled for this group with other potential performance opportunities available. The Choir will perform a variety of musical selections, including some which contain religious subject matter. The choir will also learn some simple choreography for one concert to better their understanding of rhythms in music. Students will study vocal music performance practices, music notation & music history using two & three-part choral music in order to prepare for membership in high school choirs & for lifelong music enjoyment.

****GENERAL MUSIC:** This course will last for one semester and provides focused study on musical style, history, composition, and notation. Students listen to and study examples of music from different historical periods and cultures. Students analyze how music is constructed through listening to many different musical examples. Students are introduced to how music is used in various careers they may pursue in the future. This course will benefit students who are currently involved in performance ensembles as well as those who have musical aspirations but do not wish to participate in rigorous performance schedules.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE (FACS): This course provides students the opportunity to learn essential life skills. It allows them to develop skills in food and nutrition and consumer resource management. Students will examine consumer rights and responsibilities and apply decision making skills to the purchasing of goods and services. Making healthy food choices and menu planning will also be explored. Students will demonstrate culinary skills required for safe food production while working in the kitchen. Cooperation, problem solving, and evaluation skills are enhanced during all lab experiences. Lab fee of approximately \$10 for upgraded materials for projects.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY: This program is an 18 week course exploring industrial technology. The curriculum revolves around three major areas of study: communication, production, and transportation. This program responds to the needs of all students undergoing rapid physical, emotional, social, and intellectual growth of this middle school age group. This course is designed to provide active learning situations in technology emphasizing problem solving, creativity, and cooperation. Lab fee of approximately \$20 for upgraded materials for projects.

A.P.E.X. – Advanced Program for Exploration: A.P.E.X. is the 3rd GATE in the Gifted & Talented Education Studies (G.A.T.E.S.). The A.P.E.X. program builds upon knowledge & skills presented in elementary and 5-6 grade programs. The A.P.E.X. program is designed to promote research skills, problem solving, critical thinking & affective awareness. The units for middle school are interdisciplinary in nature & offer elements from the four core education areas, along with creative & fine arts elements. The Units are theme based and focus on real world questions & problems. Technology is used extensively, providing students access to computers, digital, still & video cameras & smart board technology. Students have access to computer programs such as Microsoft Word, Power Point, Publisher, Excel & Movie Maker along with source programs offered on the internet. Students enrolled in APEX will attend for ½ of a school day during the week.

FRENCH LEVEL I: This year long course is equivalent to the high school Level 1 course. The student acquires basic vocabulary concerning the family, food, travel, sports, and geography. Through the use of a text, tape recordings, videos, and other supplemental materials, the student learns to listen, speak, read, and write this lively language. Short studies of the French culture and the importance of French as an international language will be undertaken. Students can receive high school credit based on the successful completion of this course. **Prerequisite: 7th Grade Exploration of World Cultures and Languages.**

SPANISH LEVEL I: This year long course is equivalent to the high school Level 1 course. The student acquires basic vocabulary concerning the family, food, travel, sports, and geography. Through the use of a text, written activities, CDs/tapes, music, videos and guest speakers, the student learns to listen, speak, read and write in this lively language. Short studies of Hispanic culture and celebrations, with comparisons of several Spanish-speaking countries are emphasized. Students can receive high school credit based on the successful completion of this course. **Prerequisite: 7th Grade Exploration of World Cultures and Languages.**

GERMAN LEVEL I: This year long course is equivalent to the high school Level 1 course. Students will be introduced to grammatical structures of the language along with a basic vocabulary of high frequency words and phrases. Students will develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, and study a variety of areas such as geography, social structures, differences in values and human relations between German and North American cultures. Students can receive high school credit based on the successful completion of this course. **Prerequisite: 7th grade Exploration of World Cultures and Languages.**

EXPLORATION OF WORLD CULTURES AND LANGUAGES: In this semester class students will experience all three language offerings: German, French, and Spanish. Students will get an introduction to each language including phonics, basic conversation, numbers, colors, and geography.

Note: Students who enroll in semester elective PE classes will also be enrolled in the 8th grade year long PE class.

****All classes are strictly based on enrollment numbers. In past years, these classes have not had enough requests by students to include the classes in the schedule.**