

# **East Grand Rapids Middle School**



**Course Description Guide  
2017-2018**

East Grand Rapids Public Schools  
Mission Statement

Educating and Inspiring Each Student to  
Navigate Successfully in a Global Community

# General Information

East Grand Rapids Middle School  
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## Scheduling Process Overview

Individual student schedules are developed within the framework of Board of Education approved coursework and requirements and student learning interests and needs. Students entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade are assigned core academic classes and experience the same elective offerings as their peers. The master schedule of elective courses offered in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade is created based on student elective course choices made during the Skyward registration process each spring. A copy of these selections, requiring a parent signature acknowledging these requests, are sent home with each student after their registration session. It has been communicated to the students that it is critical that they make informed decisions in consultation with their parents when requesting elective classes. For those year-long electives, students should understand that a full school year commitment is being made to that course of study. As outlined in this course guide, specific criteria to meet individual student needs for academic support or rigor are integrated into our placement process. Every attempt will be made to schedule students in their top elective choices, however secondary choices may need to be utilized depending on enrollment capacity or other individual student scheduling factors. Schedules delivered to students at registration reflect the consideration of all factors and variables, and are considered final unless there exists a clear error.

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# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Required Core Academics

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts

This core class is vigorously designed to teach the four elements of English Language Arts: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Classic and contemporary short stories, poems, plays, and novels, as well as nonfiction selections, will be used to teach the reading and writing processes. Heavy emphasis is placed on close textual analysis and critical thinking skills. Units of study include narrative writing, research-based essays, and literary analysis. Vocabulary skills are developed through focused practice with Greek and Latin roots, and students will understand basic grammar functions. Technology will be used for collaboration and publication. Finally, independent reading is a major expectation of this course. All students are expected to read at home every day.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics

This course engages student interest through extensive use of real world problem solving, entertaining video tutorials, and plenty of clearly written examples. It gradually introduces algebra concepts such as solving equations and reinforces these concepts in every chapter. Topics include whole numbers and patterns, decimals, fractions, data analysis, measurement, geometry, integers, and probability.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics

This course engages student interest through extensive use of real world problem solving, entertaining video tutorials, and plenty of clearly written examples. It continues to develop fundamental algebra concepts such as solving equations and reinforces these concepts in every chapter. Topics include algebraic reasoning, integers, rational numbers, percents, data analysis, geometry, probability, and inequalities.

Students will be placed into the appropriate class based upon performance on:

- Fifth grade NWEA MAP Scores
- MSTEP Math Scores
- Fifth grade Placement test scores

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science

Sixth grade science introduces the middle school concepts in physical, earth and biological sciences. Students learn about the scientific method and related measurements, the human body and its systems, how to use a microscope, classification and cells and astronomy. Students are also introduced to basic chemistry, energy and structures of atoms. The course is enriched by the use of videos, demonstrations and laboratory experiences.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies

Sixth grade social studies is a foundational course which has students learning about world wide ancient civilizations c. 10,000 BCE – 500 CE. These studies will integrate the fundamental concepts of a variety of the social sciences with an emphasis on history and geography. To support their work in this academic area, students will utilize the content area skills of reading, writing, researching, and critical thinking. In addition to the study of ancient civilizations, students will be expected to acquire basic geographic knowledge of the world's modern nations, capitols, and physical features. This work will directly support the geographic content to follow in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Required Elective Classes

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Education

Students are engaged in a vigorous program that promotes fitness and progressive mastery of skills from year to year. Emphasis is placed on meeting or exceeding goals set by the Michigan Department of Education. Special attention is given to fundamental motor skills, fitness, socialization, and sports as lifetime activities. Some of the activities include: touch football, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, basketball, volleyball, badminton, softball, recreational games, strength/endurance/flexibility activities, physical fitness testing, and walking/running activities.

*This class meets every other day all year.*

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Spanish

Students will learn basic conversation sentences and begin to create new sentences in conversations. By the end of the year students will be able to answer basic questions about themselves and about others. Students will also learn about the people, cultures, and food of Spain.

*This class meets every other day all year.*

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Art

Students will use a variety of art materials to learn how to express their own ideas and interests. There will be a focus on relating their work to the global community by viewing artists from different time periods and cultures. A sketchbook will be used as a way of showing progress and practicing drawing skills.

*This class meets every other day for one semester.*

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading

In this course, the students will learn and apply reading strategies to improve their reading proficiency and comprehension. They will read selections from various genres of fiction and non-fiction in coordination with the academic classes in order to practice the strategies they learn.

*This class meets every other day for one semester.*

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Options

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band

This class is for those who wish to learn to play a band instrument. Students perform as a full band in two to four concerts during the year. Students also participate in the Solo Festival in March to help increase their skills. Home practice is a requirement.

*This class meets every other day all year. No semester class change.*

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir

This class is for those who wish to develop singing skills, skills in reading music, and work as part of an ensemble. Students perform in two to four concerts during the year.

*This class meets every other day all year. No semester class change.*

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra**

This class is for those who wish to learn to play a string instrument. Students perform as a full string orchestra in two to four concerts during the year. Students also participate in the Solo Festival in March to help increase their skills. Home practice is a requirement.

*This class meets every other day all year. No semester class change.*

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Support Classes**

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Lab** (Administrator recommendation only)

This class will help students understand their homework (providing extra examples and help), work on basic facts (become quicker at mental math), and provide opportunities for practice of 6<sup>th</sup> grade objectives. The addition of Math Lab to a class schedule is dependent on students meeting specific qualifications. Parents or guardians will be notified if their child is eligible.

If your student is placed in this support class, one of the required 6<sup>th</sup> grade Elective classes will be excluded.

*This class meets every other day for one semester or all year on as need basis.*

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Study Skills** (Administrator recommendation only)

Study Skills is a class that is tailored to students that can benefit from extra support with organization, re-teaching of content from all core classes, study strategies, test taking strategies, and a time for students to regroup and prioritize during the school day. It is not a class that would resemble a traditional study hall where students have unstructured time to complete tasks. It is teacher driven and directed with the intent of helping students with their individual needs. The class is a combination of small group, individual and large group instruction which depends on the topics being covered in other core classes and the needs of the students. Success strategies are often taught through class content, re-teaching, and review. Staff will also work with students on tests, quizzes, homework assignments, and projects in within the study skills class. A common thread throughout the year will be advocating for individual student needs. Learning the skill of advocating for oneself is crucial in sixth grade and beyond. The addition of study skills to a class schedule is dependent on students meeting specific qualifications. Parents or guardians will be notified if their child is eligible. If your student is placed in this support class, one of the required 6<sup>th</sup> grade Elective classes will be excluded.

*This class meets every other day for one semester or all year on as need basis.*

### **6<sup>th</sup> Title I Reading** (Administrator recommendation only)

This class will help students learn and apply reading and writing strategies to enhance their thinking before, during, and after reading a text. Parents or guardians will be notified if their child is eligible. If your student is placed in this support class, one of the required 6<sup>th</sup> grade Elective classes will be excluded.

*This class meets every other day for one semester or all year on as need basis.*

# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Required Core Academics

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts

This core class is vigorously designed to teach the four elements of English Language Arts: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Classic and contemporary short stories, poems, plays, and novels, as well as nonfiction selections, will be used to teach the reading and writing processes. Heavy emphasis is placed on close textual analysis and critical thinking skills. Units of study include narrative writing, research-based essays, and literary analysis. Vocabulary skills are developed through focused practice with Greek and Latin roots, and students will understand basic grammar functions. Technology will be used for collaboration and publication. Finally, independent reading is a major expectation of this course. All students are expected to read at home every day.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors English Language Arts

This core class is vigorous and fast-paced. It is designed for those students who show both a specific *aptitude* and a *passion* for the language arts. Students interested in applying for this class should expect to work diligently, read approximately twice the number of texts as their ELA counterparts, and enjoy all forms of literary analysis. Candidates should be responsible, self-initiated, motivated, and have a strong desire to challenge themselves as readers and writers. While the content standards taught are the same as ELA, the primary distinctions between the two courses are the pacing and volume of work.

Classic and contemporary short stories, poems, plays, and novels, as well as nonfiction selections, will be used to teach the reading and writing processes. Heavy emphasis is placed on close textual analysis and critical thinking skills. Units of study include narrative writing, research-based essays, and literary analysis. Vocabulary skills are developed through focused practice with Greek and Latin roots, and students will understand basic grammar functions. Technology will be used for collaboration and publication. Finally, independent reading is a basic expectation of this course. All students are expected to read at home every day. *In addition, summer reading is required for this course.*

Students are placed in this class based on the following criteria:

- Standardized NWEA MAP Reading and Language Use scores
- A student application indicating interest and desire
- A writing sample scored against a common rubric
- MSTEP or other state proficiency assessments
- Course performance in subsequent years

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies

Seventh grade social studies has students learning and applying basic geography skills in the study of places and regions, physical and human systems, and our environment and society. Students will also use geography to interpret the past and present and plan for the future. Students will study historical and modern geographical issues in Canada and the United States, Latin America, Europe and Russia, Africa, Southwest and Central Asia, Monsoon Asia, Oceania and Antarctica. Additionally, an emphasis will be placed on the development of the content area skills of reading, writing, researching and critical thinking.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science**

Seventh grade science covers selected topics in earth, life, and physical sciences. Students will review the scientific method; learn about ecology, plants, biological diversity and classification of animals along with forces and motion. A variety of approaches are used, ranging from note taking, reading appropriate material, problem solving, and “hands-on” activities that allow one to learn and apply scientific concepts, method and measurement.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Foundational Math**

This criteria based class is designed to provide a stronger foundation of the concepts for identified students in preparation for 8<sup>th</sup> grade Pre-algebra. The middle school math department designed this course to provide a more suitable pace for mastering the necessary foundational skills while offering support to achieve success and gain confidence in the middle school math progression. These students will work from the same textbook that is used by those currently in Math 7, yet the lessons will be spread out over the course of the entire year.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics**

This course engages student interest through extensive use of real world problem solving, entertaining video tutorials, and plenty of clearly written examples. It continues to develop fundamental Algebra concepts such as solving equations and reinforces these concepts in every chapter. Topics include algebraic reasoning, integers, rational numbers, percents, data analysis, geometry, probability, and inequalities.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Algebra**

This course engages student interest through extensive use of real world problem solving, entertaining video tutorials, and plenty of clearly written examples. It develops student comprehension through multiple representations by relating concepts through words, numbers, and algebra. Topics include principles of algebra, equations, inequalities, functions, exponents, polynomials, and data analysis.

In order to stay in an Advanced Math class or be recommended for continuation, the following criteria must be met:

- Students must maintain a B average in their Math Class
- Students will be checked 8 times each year – four (4) progress reports and four (4) report card markings.
- Students who are below the B average two times during a school year (out of the 8 checks) will either be moved into the regular math class, if during 1<sup>st</sup> semester, or recommended to repeat the math class the following year, if during 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.



# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Required Elective Classes

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Education

Students participate in a wide variety of sports and activities, with an emphasis on building skills. Students engage in a vigorous program, which promotes fitness, and lifetime activities that meet or exceed the goals set by the Michigan Department of Education. Special attention is given to fundamental motor skills, socialization, sportsmanship and cooperation. Activities include: touch football, soccer, speedball, field hockey, basketball, volleyball, badminton, softball, recreational games, floor hockey, lacrosse, strength/endurance/flexibility activities, physical fitness testing and walking/running activities.

*This class meets every other day all year.*

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Classes

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band

This class is a continuation of 6<sup>th</sup> grade band. Solo-ensemble, field trip opportunities and concert performances make this class unique. Attendance at all performances is mandatory. Students will perform in three to four concerts per school year. Home practicing is a requirement of this class. Students will like this class if they enjoy playing their instrument and would like to develop their talents to a more advanced degree as well as being part of a full band.

*This class meets every other day all year. No semester class change.*

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir

This class is for those who wish to develop singing skills, skills in reading music, and work as part of an ensemble. Students perform in three to five concerts during the year. Due to the nature of a performing ensemble and the importance of each individual, attendance at all concerts and festivals is required. Students will like this class if they enjoy cooperative group performance, singing, learning music and performing in public as part of a group.

*This class meets every other day all year. No semester class change.*

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra

This class is a continuation of 6<sup>th</sup> grade strings. Solo-Ensemble, field trip opportunities and concert performances make this class unique. Attendance at all performances is mandatory. Students will perform in three to four concerts per school year. Home practicing is a requirement of this class. Students will like this class if they enjoy playing their instrument and would like to develop their talents to a more advanced degree as well as being part of a full orchestra.

*This class meets every other day all year. No semester class change.*

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Spanish *Prerequisite – Successful completion of 6<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish.*

Spanish 7 is a continuation of sixth grade Spanish. Students develop their ability to communicate in Spanish as they write and talk about celebrations in the US and Latin America, describe themselves, friends and family, and talk about routine activities. Students will also listen to and create stories, and experience a restaurant simulation. Students work in partners and in small groups to create short presentations and conversations. Daily practice at home and quizzes reinforce student learning. Successful completion of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish earns one credit toward high school graduation requirements. *This class meets every other day all year.*

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Art**

Students will learn how to apply the elements of art and principles of design to communicate to a wider audience. They will explore a variety of art materials and themes. Students will develop an awareness of Art History and how it parallels events in the world.

*This class meets every other day for one semester.*

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Drama**

Acting skills will be developed through individual and group exercises, games and activities. Monologues, scenes, skits, one-act play productions and improvisations will provide further opportunity for exploration. Stage movement, gesture, story telling, and scene development are all a part of the drama curriculum.

*This class meets every other day for one semester.*

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Innovation Lab**

Students will begin to explore the “maker movement” and will learn how to design, create, and tinker with various projects and applications. Using the Innovation Lab students will learn how to code, use a 3D printer, build robots, create apps, learn how to program using raspberry pi and Arduino, and build various devices from scratch.

*This class meets every other day for one semester.*

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Journalism**

Students learn to write in the style of composition used in publishing newspapers. Students take part in creative and journalistic writing, editing, photography, and graphic design. Students will work as a team to produce a variety of publications.

*This class meets every other for one semester.*

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Links Connect**

Students learn, through participation in the curriculum, to act as an advocate and mentor for a student with a disability as they master content standards. The interactive nature of instruction enables the Connect student to consistently broaden the range of opportunities for the student who has a disability. Connect students are engaged with students who have disabilities in a special education classroom or environments outside of the classroom. Application and Orientation is required to be involved in this class. Orientation sessions will be offered both before and after school on the following dates: Morning orientation dates: May 4, 2017 and May 9, 2017 starting at 7:20 am in Mrs. Fouch’s room. After school dates: May 11, 2017 and May 16, 2017 at 3:00 in Mrs. Fouch’s room. Applications may be picked up outside of Mrs. J. Fouch’s Room (106).

*This class meets every other day for one semester.*

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Media Presentation**

Ever wonder how to sell your ideas? This class will show students how to create and design presentations using digital photography, presentation and animation software. Find out the best way to research a topic and the best method of presenting your story to an audience. Plus, learn how to never lose a file on your computer again and take your presentations “on the road!” Students will create, write, and produce a variety of presentations using the latest popular technologies. *This class meets every other day for one semester.*

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade History of Graphic Design**

This is an introductory course in computer game development and design. Combining creativity and technology in this class, students will learn how to design and program amazing interactive games. Students will learn how to bring their ideas to life using coding as they create object based actions and events to control games of their own design. Students will discover how to transform simple artwork into a digital video game and explore aspects of character and level design. Having had experience with a variety of game creation platforms in this hands-on and interactive class, students will design their own game for a final project at the end of the semester. Skills that will be learned: Fundamental Programming Concepts, Game Development, Game Design, Art and Animation, Creativity and Problem Solving.

*This class meets every other day for one semester.*

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Painting/Print Making**

This course will introduce students to a variety of printmaking and painting techniques. Printmaking techniques will include linoleum, collographs, monoprints, and styrofoam printing. They will become aware of the history of printmaking and how it has evolved into a contemporary art form. Painting with acrylics, watercolors and oil sticks will excite and challenge the 7th graders. Different applications of paint will be taught along with student led projects for our school community. Projects will include painting on various surfaces such as canvas, paper, outdoor sculptures and or murals. A study of famous painters will add context to the student work.

*This class meets every other day for one semester.*

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading/Writing Workshop**

Do you have a great idea for a story you have been longing to write? Have you always wanted to try writing in a particular genre but it never happens to be one your teachers assign? Do you have a stack of books waiting on your bedroom shelf, but you just can't find time to read them? Do you love to talk about books with others who are just as passionate about reading as you are? Maybe you have been curious about writing poetry or reading a graphic novel. If the thought of having time in your busy school day to relax with a book of your choice, and to experiment with writing under the guidance of a teacher who also loves to read and write...then Reading/Writing Workshop is an elective class you will love. Creating, exploring, sharing, with no pressure, no homework, no tests. You may occasionally find our class heading outside with our books and our writing. If this sounds like the retreat you need, Reading/Writing Workshop is waiting for you!

*This class meets every other day for one semester*

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Support Classes**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Lab** (Administrator recommendation only)

Have you ever been in a math class that you wish would slow down or do a few more examples? This class is designed to help students who need a little extra help in dealing with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade objectives. This class will help students understand their homework (providing extra examples and help), work on basic facts (become quicker at mental math), and provide opportunities for practice of 7<sup>th</sup> grade objectives. The addition of Math Lab to a class schedule is dependent on students meeting specific qualifications. Parents or guardians will be notified if their child is eligible.

*This class meets every other day for one semester or all year on as need basis.*

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Study Skills** (Administrator recommendation only)

Study Skills is a class that is tailored to students that can benefit from extra support with organization, re-teaching of content from all core classes, study strategies, test taking strategies, and a time for students to regroup and prioritize during the school day. It is not a class that would resemble a traditional study hall where students have unstructured time to complete tasks. It is teacher driven and directed with the intent of helping students with their individual needs. The class is a combination of small group, individual and large group instruction which depends on the topics being covered in other core classes and the needs of the students. Success strategies are often taught through class content, re-teaching, and review. Staff will also work with students on tests, quizzes, homework assignments, and projects in within the study skills class. A common thread throughout the year will be advocating for individual student needs. Learning the skill of advocating for oneself is crucial in sixth grade and beyond. The addition of study skills to a class schedule is dependent on students meeting specific qualifications. Parents or guardians will be notified if their child is eligible.

*This class meets every other day for one semester or all year on as need basis.*

**7<sup>th</sup> Title I Reading** (Administrator recommendation only)

This class will help students learn and apply reading and writing strategies to enhance their thinking before, during, and after reading a text. Parents or guardians will be notified if their child is eligible. If your student is placed in this support class, one of the required 7<sup>th</sup> grade Elective classes will be excluded.

*This class meets every other day for one semester or all year on as need basis.*

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Core Academics

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts

This core class is vigorously designed to teach the four elements of English Language Arts: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Classic and contemporary short stories, poems, plays, and novels, as well as nonfiction selections, will be used to teach the reading and writing processes. Heavy emphasis is placed on close textual analysis and critical thinking skills. Units of study include narrative writing, research-based essays, and literary analysis. Vocabulary skills are developed through focused practice with Greek and Latin roots, and students will understand basic grammar functions. Technology will be used for collaboration and publication. Finally, independent reading is a major expectation of this course. All students are expected to read at home every day.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors English Language Arts

This core class is vigorous and fast-paced. It is designed for those students who show both a specific *aptitude* and a *passion* for the language arts. Students interested in applying for this class should expect to work diligently, read approximately twice the number of texts as their ELA counterparts, and enjoy all forms of literary analysis. Candidates should be responsible, self-initiated, motivated, and have a strong desire to challenge themselves as readers and writers. While the content standards taught are the same as ELA, the primary distinctions between the two courses are the pacing and volume of work.

Classic and contemporary short stories, poems, plays, and novels, as well as nonfiction selections, will be used to teach the reading and writing processes. Heavy emphasis is placed on close textual analysis and critical thinking skills. Units of study include narrative writing, research-based essays, and literary analysis. Vocabulary skills are developed through focused practice with Greek and Latin roots, and students will understand basic grammar functions. Technology will be used for collaboration and publication. Finally, independent reading is a basic expectation of this course. All students are expected to read at home every day. *In addition, summer reading is required for this course.*

Students are placed in this class based on the following criteria:

- Standardized NWEA MAP Reading and Language Use scores
- A student application indicating interest and desire
- A writing sample scored against a common rubric
- MSTEP or other state proficiency assessments
- Course performance in subsequent years

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies

Eighth grade Social Studies focuses on the history, geography, and civics of the United States. Students begin their studies by examining the causes of the American Revolution and the struggle for independence. Students then analyze both the development of the United States Constitution and how that Constitution applies today. Students then judge the leadership of Presidents Washington through Grant as the nation deals with growth, change, slavery, and civil war. Throughout the course, an emphasis will be placed on the application of skills learned during the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade years as well as reinforcement of content area reading, writing and data analysis.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science**

This year completes the middle school science experience. Correct use of the scientific method, graph creation and interpretation, and science writing skills is emphasized and reviewed. Each student will demonstrate their understanding of these skills with a Scientific Investigation Project on a topic of their choice. The Major units of study include heredity/genetics where students will learn about DNA, traits, and how genetic information is passed from one generation to another. Our weather unit will focus on the atmosphere, oceans, local and global weather causes and effects, and climate. Students will monitor and record daily weather, create weather instruments, and will learn how this information can be used to help predict future weather events. The geology unit will focus on the various geologic processes of the Earth including volcanoes, earthquakes, and plate tectonics. Students will also learn through many hands-on labs about rocks, minerals, fossils, and the geologic history of the Earth. Throughout the year, Science investigations, activities and projects may include individual and/or group work. Formal lab reports are assigned throughout the year.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-Algebra**

This criteria based class is designed to provide a stronger foundation of the concepts for identified students in preparation for high school Algebra 1. The middle school math department, in conjunction with the high school math department, designed this course to provide a more suitable pace for mastering the necessary foundational skills while offering support to achieve success and gain confidence in the high school math progression. These students will work from the same textbook that is used by those currently in eighth grade Algebra, yet the lessons will be spread out over the course of the entire year. In addition, Pre-Algebra will be taught with an additional member of our staff to provide math strategies for the entire class.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Algebra**

This course engages student interest through extensive use of real world problem solving, entertaining video tutorials, and plenty of clearly written examples. It develops student comprehension through multiple representations by relating concepts through words, numbers, and algebra. Topics include principles of algebra, equations, inequalities, functions, exponents, polynomials, and data analysis.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Geometry**

This course engages student interest through extensive use of real world problem solving, entertaining video tutorials, and plenty of clearly written examples. It develops student comprehension through multiple representations by relating concepts through words, numbers, and graphs. Topics include geometric reasoning, parallel and perpendicular lines, triangles, polygons, quadrilaterals, similarity, circles, and transformations.

### **Parents please note:**

In order to stay in an advanced math class or be recommended for continuation, the following criteria must be met:

- Students must maintain a B average in their Math Class
- Students will be checked 8 times each year – four (4) progress reports and four (4) report card markings.

- Students who are below the B average two times during a school year (out of the 8 checks) will either be moved into the regular math class, if during 1<sup>st</sup> semester, or recommended to repeat the math class the following year, if during 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Required Elective Classes

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Education

Students engage in a vigorous program which meets or exceeds the goals set by the Michigan Department of Education. Special attention is given to fundamental motor skills, socialization, sportsmanship and cooperation. Activities include: touch football, soccer, speedball, field hockey, basketball, volleyball, bowling, badminton, softball, recreational games, floor hockey, lacrosse, strength/endurance/flexibility activities, and physical fitness testing. During the course of the year, students will receive lessons in Reproductive Health Education.

*This class meets every other day all year*

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Classes

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band

In 8<sup>th</sup> grade band, students advance to a very high level of playing while continuing to prepare for high school. Students perform in three to five concerts during the year. Due to the nature of a performing ensemble and the importance of each individual, attendance at all concerts and festivals is required. Students will like this class if they enjoy cooperative group performance, playing an instrument, learning music and performing in public as part of a group. Home practice is an expectation of this class.

*This class meets every day all year. No semester class change.*

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir

This class is for those who wish to develop singing skills, skills in reading music, and work as part of an ensemble. The level of music continues to advance in preparation for high school. Students perform in three to five concerts during the year. Due to the nature of a performing ensemble and the importance of each individual, attendance at all concerts and festivals is required. Students will like this class if they enjoy cooperative group performance, singing, learning music and performing in public as part of a group.

*This class meets every other day all year. No semester class change.*

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra

In 8<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra, students advance to a very high level of playing while continuing to prepare for high school. Students perform in three to five concerts during the year. Due to the nature of a performing ensemble and the importance of each individual, attendance at all concerts and festivals is required. Students will like this class if they enjoy cooperative group performance, playing an instrument, learning music and performing in public as part of a group. Home practice is an expectation of this class.

*This class meets every day all year. No semester class change.*

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Spanish Prerequisite – Successful completion of Spanish 7

This class is a continuation of 7<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish. Students continue to develop their ability to communicate in Spanish as they learn about the music of Latin America, write and listen to

stories and begin to use different verb tenses. Regularly assigned homework and quizzes reinforce what is learned in class. Successful completion of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade course prepares students to enroll in the second year of high school Spanish. Successful completion of 8<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish earns a 2nd credit toward the high school requirement.

*This class meets every other day all year.*

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Art**

In this course we will use painting, drawing and sculpture mediums to explore the way in which artists communicate. Students will identify their favorite mediums and have the time to focus a bit more on those. They will build an awareness of contemporary art and how it connects to our lives.

*This class meets every other day for one semester.*

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Broadcasting**

Students learn to write in the style of composition used in television and radio broadcasts. Students deliver the morning announcements and broadcast a televised daily news update covering East Middle School to the entire school. Students will write, perform, videotape and edit a variety of public service and news features. Students will also learn studio cues, countdowns and production vocabulary.

Students assume the roles of producer, reporter, announcer, editor and camera crew.

*This class meets every other day for one semester*

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chess**

In this course the game of chess will be taught starting with how the pieces move. In step-by-step progression chess strategies and tactics will be introduced. An emphasis on fostering higher thinking skills will take place through out the course. This will be a “hands on learning” activity.

*This class meets every other day for one semester.*

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Innovation Lab**

Students will begin to explore the “maker movement” and will learn how to design, create, and tinker with various projects and applications. Using the Innovation Lab students will learn how to code, use a 3D printer, build robots, create apps, learn how to program using raspberry pi and Arduino, and build various devices from scratch.

*This class meets every other day for one semester.*

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Links Connect**

Students learn, through participation in the curriculum, to act as an advocate and mentor for a student with a disability as they master content standards. The interactive nature of instruction enables the connect student to consistently broaden the range of opportunities for the student who has a disability. Connect students are engaged with students who have disabilities in a special education classroom or environments outside of the classroom. Orientation sessions will be offered both before and after school on the following dates: Morning orientation dates: May 4, 2017 and May 9, 2017 starting at 7:20 am in Mrs. Fouch’s room. After school dates: May 11, 2017 and May 16, 2017 at 3:00 in Mrs. Fouch’s room. Applications may be picked up outside of Mrs. J. Fouch’s Room (106).

*This class meets every other day for one semester.*



### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Links Connect**

This is the next class if you had the opportunity to be part of Links Connect in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. This class will further your understanding of people with disabilities, as well as give you the chance to use your already learned skills outside of my classroom. If you are selected for Advanced Connect you will have the opportunity to accompany a student from my classroom out to another classroom, such as computers, art, PE, etc. You will help this student engage, access and take part in the classroom environment. You will also help your peers gain a better understanding of how to interact, learn with and use strategies to help everyone be successful.

*This class meets every other day for one semester.*

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pottery & Sculpture**

Want to see your creative ideas take form but need the space and materials to make it happen? In this class you will have an opportunity to use the potters wheel, make clay sculptures and glaze finished pieces. In addition to clay, students will be using wire, paper-mache, plaster, metal, cardboard and wood to create three-dimensional works of art. As part of this class, large group sculptures may be completed for outdoor display on the school campus.

*This class meets every other day for one semester.*

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Yearbook**

In this year-long elective course, students work as a team to capture life at East Middle School by producing and publishing the yearbook. Students gain experience with writing, editing, photography, and layout design. This class requires students to meet deadlines and photograph events outside of the class period, and students must regularly turn in original, high quality photos as part of their grade. Students will also produce various computer-generated and manipulated videos. This class requires students to work with all different types of people, so open minds and kind hearts are a must! Deadlines are also a key component to work in this class, so candidates must be organized, responsible, and self-motivated.

Those students who are interested in taking yearbook are required to fill out an application with parent signature. All applications must be turned in on time to receive full consideration. Applications may be picked up outside of Mrs. D. Smith's Room (007).

*This class meets every other day all year.*

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Support Classes**

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Lab** (Administration recommendation only)

Have you ever been in a math class that you wish would slow down or do a few more examples? This class is designed to help students who need a little extra help in dealing with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade objectives. This class will help students understand their homework (providing extra examples and help), work on basic facts (become quicker at mental math), and provide opportunities for practice of 8<sup>th</sup> grade objectives. The addition of Math Lab to a class schedule is dependent on students meeting specific qualifications. Parents or guardians will be notified if their child is eligible.

*This class meets every other day for one semester or all year on as need basis.*

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Study Skills** (Administration recommendation only)

Study Skills is a class that is tailored to students that can benefit from extra support with organization, re-teaching of content from all core classes, study strategies, test taking strategies, and a time for students to regroup and prioritize during the school day. It is not a class that would

resemble a traditional study hall where students have unstructured time to complete tasks. It is teacher driven and directed with the intent of helping students with their individual needs. The class is a combination of small group, individual and large group instruction which depends on the topics being covered in other core classes and the needs of the students. Success strategies are often taught through class content, re-teaching, and review. Staff will also work with students on tests, quizzes, homework assignments, and projects in within the study skills class. A common thread throughout the year will be advocating for individual student needs. Learning the skill of advocating for oneself is crucial in sixth grade and beyond. The addition of study skills to a class schedule is dependent on students meeting specific qualifications. Parents or guardians will be notified if their child is eligible

***This class meets every other day for one semester or all year on as need basis.***

**8<sup>th</sup> Title I Reading** (Administrator recommendation only)

This class will help students learn and apply reading and writing strategies to enhance their thinking before, during, and after reading a text. Parents or guardians will be notified if their child is eligible. If your student is placed in this support class, one of the required 8<sup>th</sup> grade Elective classes will be excluded.

***This class meets every other day for one semester or all year on as need basis.***