

# **East Grand Rapids Middle School**



**Course Description Guide  
2018-2019**

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 (except for a single third trimester elective). 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. In some instances, electives with low interest may not be offered at all in a given school year. 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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# Trimesters at EGRMS

The middle school calendar is broken into three equal parts. Each part of the year is known as a **trimester** and report cards will be issued at the end of each trimester. Each trimester is approximately 60 school days long. Core classes along with Spanish and Music classes meet all year long and do not change from trimester to trimester. A select few elective classes may change from trimester to trimester.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Trimester**

60 Class Periods for Core Classes

30 Class Periods for Every-Other-Day Electives

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester**

60 Class Periods for Core Classes

30 Class Periods for Every-Other-Day Electives

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester**

60 Class Periods for Core Classes

30 Class Periods for Every-Other-Day Electives

# BRIDGES

Every student at East Grand Rapids Middle School is a member of a BRIDGES team. BRIDGES teams meet together on Thursdays for 35 minutes. Additional BRIDGES classes may be added at the start of the school year and for special events. BRIDGES is a class developed by the East Grand Rapids Middle School faculty and the acronym means:

<b>B</b>	Building Relationships
<b>R</b>	
<b>I</b>	Inclusion
<b>D</b>	Diversity
<b>G</b>	Group Experiences
<b>E</b>	
<b>S</b>	Self-Actualization

## PURPOSE STATEMENT

In BRIDGES, we hope to open minds and hearts through intentional moments that foster inclusive relationships, celebrate diverse identities, and develop social and emotional awareness. Our responsibility is to ensure that every voice in our school community is valued and heard.

# 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 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 Exploratory**

In this course students will use a variety of materials to investigate Art movements and themes. An emphasis will be placed on experimenting and trying new techniques. Students will be keeping a sketch journal throughout the class to develop ideas and skills.

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

### **6<sup>th</sup> 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 trimester.*

## 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 trimester 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 trimester 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 trimester 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 trimester (or multiple trimesters as needed).*

### **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 trimester (or multiple trimesters as needed).*

### **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 trimester (or multiple trimesters as needed).*

# 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 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 Physical Education

## **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 first and third trimesters.*

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

During this one trimester course, students will be taught the Board of Education approved Reproductive Health curriculum. A specific parent letter will be sent prior to the start of this course to review parent rights regarding Reproductive Health Education. There are a total of 11 lessons in the Reproductive Health curriculum. The remainder of the course will include lessons on healthy living from the Michigan Model Health Curriculum.

*This class meets every other day during the second trimester only.*

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

## **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 - Drawing and Painting**

In this class students will build on their current level of skill to increase their visual vocabulary. They will experiment with many mediums and learn to control line, composition and space. The use of color and painting techniques will be explored as we move through the class. A sketch journal will be kept as a way to explore techniques and to practice emerging skills. We will take advantage of our location by painting on our beautiful campus.

*This class meets every other day for one trimester. Due to the project-based nature of this course, this course may be repeated allowing students to go further in their Art studies.*

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Art - Handbuilt Pottery**

Students who enjoy working with clay will get a chance to learn many basic handbuilding techniques. We will create sculptural pieces as well as functional pottery. A variety of glazes and finishes will be introduced.

*This class meets every other day for one trimester. Due to the project-based nature of this course, this course may be repeated allowing students to go further in their Art studies.*

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Art - Art of Printmaking**

In this course we will be carving into surfaces to create images that can be printed multiple times. Students will use collage materials, linoleum blacks, the printing press and inks to explore how artists create lasting images and communicate ideas to a large audience. Basic drawing and design methods will be covered.

*This class meets every other day for one trimester. Due to the project-based nature of this course, this course may be repeated allowing students to go further in their Art studies.*

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Art - Art and Design**

Students taking this course will have the chance to envision and prototype products for the future. We will study famous designers, explore careers in the field of Design and create our own new designs for a variety of products. We will look at Architecture, Apparel and Graphic Design as a way to explore options in this fast paced ever changing field. A sketch journal will be kept as a way of understanding the design process.

*This class meets every other day for one trimester. Due to the project-based nature of this course, this course may be repeated allowing students to go further in their Art studies.*

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

In this course students will use non-traditional materials to investigate 3-dimensional design problems. We will use plaster, wire, paper-mache as well as found objects to create individual and group projects. We will have the opportunity to explore sculptural pieces in our community and create work that will inspire a large audience.

*This class meets every other day for one trimester. Due to the project-based nature of this course, this course may be repeated allowing students to go further in their Art studies.*

### **7<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 trimester.*

### **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 trimester.*

### **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 trimester. Due to the project-based nature of this course, this course may be repeated allowing students to go further with these technologies.*

### **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 trimester.*

### **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 may be picked up outside Mrs. Fouch’s room 106.

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

### **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 trimester*

# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Music 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 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 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 class change.*

# 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 trimester (or multiple trimesters as needed).*

## **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 trimester (or multiple trimesters as needed).***

**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 trimester (or multiple trimesters as needed).***

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

## **8th 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 Physical Education

The Board of Education approved changes to the required curriculum in March 2018. Starting with the 2018-2019 school year, all eighth grade students are required to take at least two (2) trimesters of Physical Education. All students enrolled in Band or Orchestra may elect to waive one (1) trimester of Physical Education in order to experience an additional elective class. Eighth grade students may enroll in up to four (4) Physical Education courses, with Health counting as one of the four, during their eighth grade year. During student counseling sessions, students will rank order all Physical Education Options. Although every effort will be made to assign students to their highest preferences, students may be assigned to the Core Elements class if scheduling conflicts prevent this possibility.

All 8th grade students will be required to take Health during the 2nd trimester of their 8th grade year. This trimester of Health will count as one of the required Physical Education courses for the 2018-2019 school year

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Education – Core Elements (Traditional PE)**

Students engage in a variety of activities that make up the core elements of the Physical Education program. With a strong focus on physical fitness as the central goal, 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. Depending on the trimester taken, activities may vary with the season with the intention of maximizing outdoor opportunities when possible.

***This class meets every other day for one trimester. Due to the nature of this course, this course may be repeated allowing students continued growth in the skills taught.***

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Education - Exploration of Dance**

Students will explore many aspects and understanding of dance, through the discoveries in fitness, culture, and history. Students will create, collaborate, and learn elements of dance, and different dance genres. Students will engage in dance activities communicating facts, feelings, skills, and stories. This class is designed for all abilities and does not require any dance background to be successful! Come develop a positive attitude toward lifelong active living through dance!

***This class meets every other day for one trimester. Due to the nature of this course, this course may be repeated allowing students continued growth in the skills taught.***

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Education - Yoga and Mindfulness**

This class creates a mindful and holistic approach to health and the seven dimensions of wellness. Students will practice and engage in many different approaches to Yoga and Mindfulness to optimize physical, mental, emotional, and social benefits. Students will learn

skills and tools to best support their academic achievement and success, in conjunction with their overall lifetime health and wellness.

***This class meets every other day for one trimester. Due to the nature of this course, this course may be repeated allowing students continued growth in the skills taught.***

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Education – Sports Officiating**

Students will learn the basic mechanics and philosophies of sports officiating, primarily focusing on the sports of baseball/softball, basketball, and football. Students will study the rules of each sport, as well as learn the proper methods used to officiate each individual sport. Students will be active participants in the various activities and games played in class each day, and will have opportunities to be both players and officials in student-officiated games played during class.

***This class meets every other day for one trimester. Due to the nature of this course, this course may be repeated allowing students continued growth in the skills taught.***

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Education – Net Games**

Students will learn about participation in the following activities: Badminton, Tennis, Pickleball, Footvolley (combination of soccer and volleyball) plus other games that involve a net separating the court. The class will cover the rules, basic fundamental skills involved in each sport, plus daily fitness activities that will assist in the students' performance in the games played in this course.

***This class meets every other day for one trimester. Due to the nature of this course, this course may be repeated allowing students continued growth in the skills taught.***

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

During this one trimester course, students will be taught the Board of Education approved Reproductive Health curriculum. A specific parent letter will be sent prior to the start of this course to review parent rights regarding Reproductive Health Education. There are a total of 11 lessons in the Reproductive Health curriculum. The remainder of the course will include lessons on healthy living from the Michigan Model Health Curriculum.

***This class meets every other day during the second trimester only.***

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

### **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 - Art and Design**

Students taking this course will have the chance to envision and prototype products for the future. We will study famous designers, explore careers in the field of Design and create our own new designs for a variety of products. We will look at Architecture, apparel and Graphic

Design as a way to explore options in this fast paced ever changing field. A sketch journal will be kept as a way of understanding the design process.

*This class meets every other day for one trimester. Due to the project-based nature of this course, this course may be repeated allowing students to go further in their Art studies.*

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Art - Drawing and Painting**

In this class students will build on their current level of skill to increase their visual vocabulary. They will experiment with many mediums and learn to control line, composition and space. The use of color and painting techniques will be explored as we move through the class. A sketch journal will be kept as a way to explore techniques and to practice emerging skills. We will take advantage of our location by painting on our beautiful campus.

*This class meets every other day for one trimester. Due to the project-based nature of this course, this course may be repeated allowing students to go further in their Art studies.*

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Art – Handbuilt Pottery**

In this course students will be able to build objects with clay and get their hands on the pottery wheel to create functional pottery. Students will experiment with glazes and finishing techniques to create different surfaces on their work. A team approach is often used in this class as we move through the pottery wheel process.

*This class meets every other day for one trimester. Due to the project-based nature of this course, this course may be repeated allowing students to go further in their Art studies.*

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Art - The Art of Printmaking**

In this course students will be carving into surfaces to create images that can be printed multiple times. Students will use collage materials, linoleum blocks, the printing press and inks to explore how artists create lasting images and communicate ideas to a large audience. Basic drawing and design methods will be covered.

*This class meets every other day for one trimester. Due to the project-based nature of this course, this course may be repeated allowing students to go further in their Art studies.*

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

In this course students will use non-traditional materials to investigate 3-dimensional design problems. We will use plaster, wire, paper-mache as well as found objects to create individual and group projects. We will have the opportunity to explore sculptural pieces in our community and create work that will inspire a large audience.

*This class meets every other day for one trimester. Due to the project-based nature of this course, this course may be repeated allowing students to go further in their Art studies.*

### **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 trimester*

### **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 trimester.*

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Culture, Travel, and Food**

In this course students will explore some different cultures from around the globe. While we may not be able to travel to countries like Peru, Cuba, Israel, Vietnam, Congo, and Libya, we will explore their rich cultural traditions through some unique film study and cooking. Through these adventures, we will get a small taste of the history, government, and culture of these amazing places.

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

### **8<sup>th</sup> Film as Literature**

Throughout this introductory genre study, students will learn about and *analyze* the basic elements of film, including: set design, lighting, make-up, costuming, casting, dialogue and screenplays, sound effects, music, camera work, and editing. Students will not only be required to watch a variety of films (contemporary and classic), but there will be a mix of hands-on, collaborative, *and* writing assessments as they work to analyze the effectiveness of filmmakers’ storytelling choices. *This course meets every other day during the third trimester.*

### **8<sup>th</sup> Genre Studies**

This course is designed for students who are looking for opportunities to pursue a literary interest during an immersive study of an individually chosen genre. Some of these genres may include but are not limited to: poetry, drama, graphic novels, public speaking, argument, digital publishing, podcasts, etc. The course will be taught in a workshop format, and students will create a portfolio of their work throughout the term. *This course meets every other day for one trimester.*

### **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 trimester. Due to the project-based nature of this course, this course may be repeated allowing students to go further with these technologies.*

### **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. Application may be picked up outside Mrs. Fouch’s room 106.

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

### **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 trimester.*

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor Appreciation**

In this course students will be introduced to some of the amazing opportunities that await us in nature. Have you ever wanted to learn how to make homemade maple syrup or plan a camping trip? How about exploring the basics of fly fishing or learning some basic outdoor safety and survival skills? These are just a few of the experiences students will engage in to gain an increased appreciation of the outdoors.

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

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

In this 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. Collaboration with many people in the school population is essential, 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. *This class meets every other day all year for two trimesters.*

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Music 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 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 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 class change.*

## 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 trimester (or multiple trimesters as needed).*

### **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 trimester (or multiple trimesters as needed).*

### **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 trimester (or multiple trimesters as needed).*