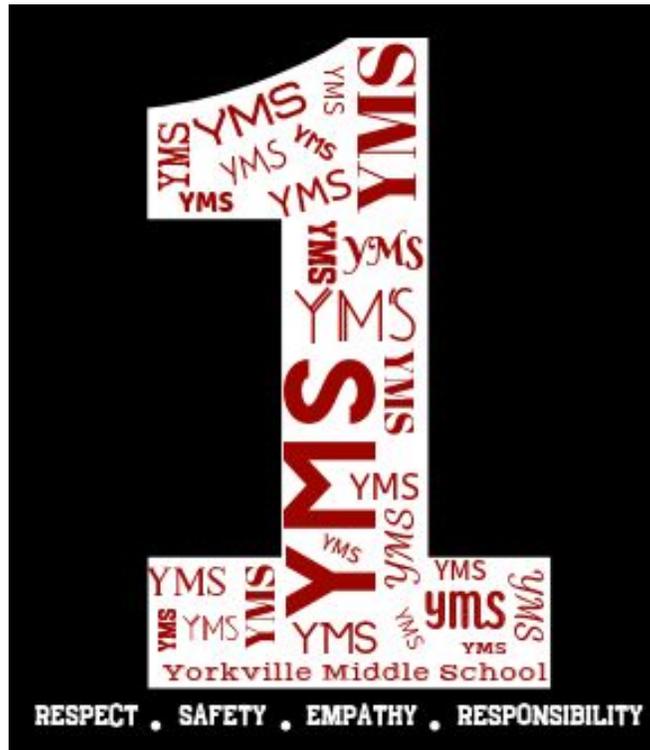


# Yorkville Middle School



## Curriculum & Course Guide

2020 - 2021 School Year

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

Yorkville Middle School is a grade seven and eight school that embraces the middle school philosophy by supporting the cognitive, physical, and social emotional needs of the middle level learner. The learning environment is structured with routines and procedures yet flexible to individual student needs. Teachers challenge and stretch student thinking and encourage students to persevere through these challenges.

While students are part of the larger whole-school community, students are also a part of a much smaller school community through their academic teams. A team of teachers share not only the same location in the building, but the same students.

Students are required to participate in math, science, social studies, and physical education/health courses. English Language Arts (ELA) is offered in a double block of time and is also required. If necessary, students may receive additional support through interventions for reading, math, and executive functioning. Students may also experience a blended learning course, and have opportunities to participate in multiple elective options, including one of three levels of Spanish, German, art, band, orchestra, choir, theater, and four career and technical exploratory courses.

YMS staff members and students strive for a community of kindness and compassion. Advisory lessons support this as well as provide students an opportunity to develop stronger executive functioning skills. Advisory also provides an opportunity for students to receive additional support from a core teacher and to develop the skills needed for college, career, and life readiness.

This course guide contains information about our course offerings at the middle school level. Also included are useful tools to help students explore their academic interests, plan for high school, set goals, and academic resources on attendance and time management. Grade level counselors are also a great resource to support our students' course planning.

Your guidance counselor is the key contact for the course selection process. He or she is available to answer questions and provide you guidance with your course selections.

### Contact Information

Mrs. Monika Sobota, 7th Grade Counselor  
[msobota@y115.org](mailto:msobota@y115.org), 630-553-4544 x 6539

Mrs. Maria Kessler, 8th Grade Counselor  
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Mrs. Meghan Kerr, Assistant Principal for Curriculum & Instruction  
[mkerr@y115.org](mailto:mkerr@y115.org), 630-553-4544 x 5771

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Mrs. Laura Barbanente, Administrative Assistant to Principal  
[lbarbanente@y115.org](mailto:lbarbanente@y115.org), 630-553-4544 x 6282

## **COURSE SELECTION PROCESS**

### **December**

- 6th and 7th grade teachers complete course recommendations for students in Home Access Center.

### **January**

- Rising 7th grade parent information nights at home schools.
- Rising 7th graders pre-registration presentations at home schools.
- Rising 8th graders receive pre-registration and elective course presentations.
- Students access the Curriculum Guide.
- Rising 8th grade students will have the opportunity to work with the school counselor in Advisory.
- Home Access Center opens to families for elective course requests.

### **April**

- Rising 7th Grader Step Up Night
- Rising 7th Graders receive course verification sheets at Step Up Night

### **May**

- Rising 8th grade students receive course verification sheets

### **June**

- Student schedules are finalized.

### **August**

- Students receive schedules via Home Access Center or at Registration in August. Limited changes will be made to class schedules. If an error has been identified or a class has to be added or modified, counselors are available to make necessary changes.

## **YMS COURSE CHANGE REQUESTS**

In the event a student wishes to change a course, the following guidelines will be used.

- Days 1-5: Schedule appointment with guidance counselor to change course. Options will be based on availability.
- Days 6-14: Students must complete the Course Change Request form found in the main office or in the Student Services office. Both student and parent signatures are required. Options will be based on schedule and availability.
- After Day 14: Students are allowed to request a change in elective course with completion of Course Change Request form. Changes after 14 days will only be made based on extenuating circumstances and may involve consultation with administration. Options will be based on schedule and availability.

*Each student's selection of classes involves input from students, parents, teachers, counselors, and administrators. More information about student schedule change requests can be found in the student handbook.*

## **DISTRICT 115 LEARNING & GRADING PHILOSOPHY & PLAN**

### **WE BELIEVE:**

- Academic performance/skills are separate from academic behaviors
- Grades reflect mastery of content
- Learning activities contribute to student growth, guide teacher instruction, and are an essential part of student success

### **FORMATIVE VS. SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS:**

- Formative assessments inform teaching and are not calculated into a formal grade
- Examples of formative assessments include pretests, exit slips, homework, and in-class work
- Formative assessments may be recorded in the grade book as a communication tool, but not counted as a grade
- Summative assessments are used to measure student mastery of outcomes and are used as formal grades
- Examples of summative assessments include projects, labs, papers, essays, performances, presentations, and tests

### **REDEFINING HOMEWORK**

- Homework will still be assigned
- Homework will be considered a type of learning activity
- Learning activities are not graded unless they are part of an extended summative assignment or a project
- Learning activities must be meaningful
- For many students, reading is the primary recommended learning activity outside of the school day

### **REASSESSMENT:**

- Students will get at least one opportunity to retake each summative assessment
- Retake opportunities on summative checkpoint assessments may be up to the discretion of the teacher
- Prior to any re-take, students must successfully complete targeted relearning activities prescribed by the teacher
- The relearning process varies by subject as well as student needs
- Students may only have to retake the parts of the assessment where they were not successful
- If a student scores below 70%, the retake is required (teacher/student initiated)
- Scores above 70% have an optional retake opportunity and are student initiated
- The highest score achieved in this process will stand as the final score

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- All incomplete quarter grades need to be resolved within 3 weeks of the conclusion of the quarter
- Extra credit is not allowed in District 115 schools
- Some departments are utilizing checkpoints. Checkpoints are assessments designed to inform instruction, are worth 10% of the grade, but are not eligible for relearning or retakes

For additional information, please review the [Yorkville CUSD 115 Learning and Grading Plan](#).

## **COURSE GRADING & REPORT CARDS**

The goals of education are accomplished by the pursuit of knowledge and understanding rather than the pursuit of grades.

Beginning in 2020-2021, the middle school uses a hybrid grading system for 7th grade, followed by 8th grade in 2021-2022, that shows student demonstration of mastery in an overall course grade, as well as in a standards-based reporting approach.

The traditional, overall course grade is based on 60% as a passing grade. Grades are issued at the end of each quarter. The grading scale represents different levels of achievement:

**100-90 (A):**

This indicates clear and convincing evidence of deep knowledge and detailed understanding of the concepts and skills learned in the course.

**89-80 (B):**

This indicates evidence of substantial knowledge and consistent understanding of the concepts and skills learned in the course.

**79-70 (C):**

This indicates evidence of basic knowledge and understanding of the concepts and skills learned in the course.

**69-60 (D):**

This indicates evidence of limited knowledge and understanding of the concepts and skills learned in the course.

**59-0 (F):**

This indicates that the student has not met the minimum requirements and will receive no credit. Evidence of knowledge is incomplete or has so many misconceptions the students cannot be said to understand the concepts learned in the course

**Incomplete (I):** This indicates incomplete work due to a medical condition or other reason that disallowed students from completing work during the quarter.

**Medical (M):** This indicates no grade given due to medical exemption.

**Exempt (X):** This indicates no grade given due to exemption for non-medical reason.

**Pass (P):** This indicates passing grade.

The standards-based reporting scale is based on District 115 curriculum standards for each content area, and uses the following scale:

**Meets (M)**

**Progressing (P)**

**Not Met (N)**

**Not Applicable (NA)**

Additionally, teachers report student learner characteristics each quarter, which include completing quality learning activities, advocating for oneself, working collaboratively, and engaging in the learning process. The scale for reporting on these characteristics is as follows:

**Consistently (C)**

**Frequently (FR)**

**Sometimes (S)**

**Needs Attention (NA)**

## **ATHLETICS, CLUBS, & ACTIVITIES ELIGIBILITY**

At the middle school, students must be passing all courses (60% or higher) to participate in athletics, clubs, or activities. Eligibility will be checked on a weekly basis. Any athlete determined to be ineligible will be able to practice, but will not dress or participate in any contest during one full week starting on Monday to the following Sunday. If a student athlete is ineligible for three consecutive weeks, then the Athletic Director reserves the right to remove the student athlete from the team.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

Any student who qualifies for special education services through the individualized education plan (IEP) process receives the support and placement deemed appropriate by the IEP team.

## **ADVISORY PERIOD**

In Advisory, students meet with a teacher daily for approximately 30 minutes for a variety of purposes. Students may receive interventions, engage in re-learning, attend music technique lessons, check their grades in Home Access Center, set MAP goals, meet with other teachers, or read independently. This is also an opportunity to meet with a trusted adult from Student Services for social-emotional support, and our students also receive College and Career Readiness lessons through Advisory. Our district's social-emotional curriculum, Second Step, which focuses on topics such as empathy, bullying, and self-advocacy, is also taught during this period throughout the year.

## **ADVANCED, ACCELERATED, & HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSES**

District 115 is committed to providing a range of educational programs that meet the different learning needs of all students. Children who exhibit exceptionally strong intellectual abilities and demonstrate the potential for performing significantly beyond the standard curriculum--when compared to other peers of their age, experience, or environment--have learning needs that require differentiated instruction. This instruction includes content, strategies, and expectations of student performance. Yorkville Middle School actively works to ensure every student receives curriculum that provides high quality assignments and assessments over the significant concepts within each content area.

Advanced Courses: There are many courses offered at the Advanced Level. These courses are designed to challenge students to extend their learning into content concepts that require more independent investigation and autonomous learning inside and outside the classroom. These courses are designed with a rigorous and challenging pace.

<b>Advanced Courses at Yorkville Middle School</b>	
<b>7th Grade Courses</b>	<b>8th Grade Courses</b>
Advanced English Language Arts	Advanced English Language Arts
Advanced Science	Advanced Science
Advanced Social Studies	Advanced Social Studies

Accelerated Courses: Currently, Yorkville Middle School offers accelerated math options for both grade levels. Students engage in content at the next instructional grade level. More information can be found on the District 115 [Acceleration, Gifted, & Talented](#) webpage.

<b>Accelerated Courses at Yorkville Middle School</b>	
<b>7th Grade Courses</b>	<b>8th Grade Courses</b>
8th Grade Mathematics	Algebra I (High School Credit)
	Geometry (High School Credit)

High School Credit Courses: Middle school students may receive high school credit for high school level courses in World Language and math taken in middle school. The curriculum and assessments are completely aligned with the courses at Yorkville High School. For math, high school math credit is issued, but students will still need to take three years of math at Yorkville High School. For World Language courses, World Language (elective) credit is issued, and counts towards the required elective credits needed for high school graduation. Students and families may choose to receive high school credit after the 1st semester. If the student opts to receive high school credit, the high school course will be included on the student’s transcript with a letter grade. The letter grade will count in the student’s grade point average in high school, and the credit will count towards graduation requirements.

<b>High School Credit Courses at Yorkville Middle School</b>	
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>World Language</b>
Algebra 1	Spanish 1
Geometry Honors	Spanish Heritage 1
	German 1

## **SCHOOL & HOME PARTNERSHIP TOOLS**

Canvas: Canvas is our online classroom that is used to enhance technology and the digital experience in the classroom, allowing for streamlining of digital resources, assessments, grading, and discussion. It allows for collaboration between teachers and students and streamlines data, allowing for informed and timely decision-making in the classroom.

College Board: The College Board helps connect students to college success and opportunity. Students can access their SAT and Advanced Placement progress online. This process begins in 8th grade with the PSAT 8/9 in early spring. Access College Board by going to: <https://www.collegeboard.org/>

Home Access Center: Provides quick access to student information. Use this link to view attendance, student grades, registration, and fees. Access eSchool Home Access Center by going to: <https://hac2.y115.org/HomeAccess/Account/LogOn> and enter your Username and Password. If you have any trouble accessing Home Access Center, please contact the YMS main office at 630-553-4544.

Naviance Student: Naviance Student is our College and Career research and tracking tool. Every student will create a personal portfolio with their interests, career, and potential college matches. Access Naviance Student by going to <https://student.naviance.com/yorkvillems>.

Pearson enVision: Pearson enVision is the core resource for math classes in grades K-12. Students are able to access lessons, resources, videos, and more to support their learning in mathematics. Students can access Pearson enVision through their Student Sign On portal.

StudySync: StudySync is the core resource for the English Language Arts classes in grades 6-12. Students have an account and are able to access readings, assignments, and quizzes from their ELA teachers. Students can access StudySync through their Student Sign On portal.

District 115 Website and Mobile App: Access information regarding the district and schools at <https://www.y115.org>. You can also download the mobile app by going to the District 115 Mobile App webpage.

## **DIGITAL LEARNING AT YORKVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Digital learning allows teachers to utilize technology to expand the time, space, and delivery of learning that occurs in our courses. We offer blended learning at Yorkville Middle School. In this format, Yorkville Middle School curriculum is delivered, Yorkville Middle School teachers are the instructors, and students earn the same credit as a traditional face-to-face course experience. Yorkville Middle School supports an open enrollment practice for all blended courses.

### **What is blended and online learning?**

Blended learning allows flexibility to deliver instruction face-to-face and online. In a blended learning course, the instructor decides when and how instruction is delivered. For example, students may be in the classroom one day and the next day complete an assignment or activity on their own time. On days when blended learning is occurring, students are NOT required to be in the classroom. However, students who are not being successful in the course will need to report to class even when blended learning is occurring in order to receive support from their teacher.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **Student Role**

- Productively engage in learning activities both within and outside the physical learning class space.
- Choose learning paths based on skills, interests, or needs within units of the course.
- Learn and demonstrate the characteristics of good digital citizenship by completing assigned, grade-level lessons.
- Practice self-advocacy and ask for help when needed.
- Communicate openly with classmates, teachers, and parents on learning process.
- Check course calendar, assignments, & progress daily.
- Check and respond to school email daily.
- Adhere to the blended procedures and eligibility requirements.

#### **Parent Role**

- Be an informed decision maker regarding best fit for student.
- Monitor weekly progress of student through Home Access Center.
- Communicate in a proactive and consistent manner with teacher throughout coursework.

#### **Teacher Role**

- Utilize Canvas as the primary tool for organizing course and deliver instruction.
- Monitor Canvas Student Contact Card and contact student, parent, and counselor with concerns.
- Implement district curriculum & assessments with fidelity across instructional delivery models.
- Participate in professional development to enhance learner experience.
- Check email daily and respond by end of the next working day.
- Prepare a flexible digital calendar for assistant principal, students, and parents, detailing blended/non-blended days, while maintaining 60% non-blended to 40% blended days.
- On blended days, be available to students online or through office hours for the amount of time equal to a regular class period.

## ART

Course	Grade Level	Course Length
Art	7, 8	Full year
Digital Art and Photography	8	Semester
Introduction to Ceramics	8	Semester

### ART

Grade(s): 7, 8

Length: Full year

In this course, students create artwork, build their artistic skills, and practice creativity. Students will use a large variety of art materials. Students will work with watercolor, tempera paint, collage, clay, digital art, drawing, and sculpture. This class is for all levels of art ability as students work to improve their practice.

### DIGITAL ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Grade(s): 8

Length: Semester

This course focuses on different kinds of digital art. A variety of technology including computers and cameras are used. Students learn how to alter photographs, create videos, animate, and apply technology to make ideas come to life.

### INTRODUCTION TO CERAMICS

Grade(s): 8

Length: Semester

In this semester long course, students will create multiple ceramic projects. Students will leave this class with cups, bowls, and sculptures. Students will also have the opportunity to throw on the pottery wheel.

## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) & THEATER

Course	Grade Level	Course Length
Exploratory Rotation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Applications &amp; Computer Science Explorations</li><li>• Engineering Explorations</li><li>• Elements of Theater</li><li>• Family &amp; Consumer Science</li></ul>	7	One Quarter of Each
Engineering Basics	8	Semester
Computer Science Basics	8	Semester
Business Basics	8	Semester
Family and Consumer Sciences	8	Semester
Elements of Performance	8	Semester

### APPLICATIONS & COMPUTER SCIENCE EXPLORATIONS

Grade(s): 7

Length: One quarter

In this course, students in Applications and Computer Science Explorations will be exposed to the Google and Microsoft fleet of software. Students will work with Docs and Slides all organized within their Google Drive. Students will also become more familiar with Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. Students will get to know basic computer parts and how computers work. Students will be exposed to computer science through coding within problem solving, development of computer algorithms to help with data sorts, and work with binary code as well. Students will learn how to write a proper email and business letter. Students will also have the opportunity to learn how to be safer with online gaming and social networking through peer collaboration and creation.

### ELEMENTS OF THEATER

Grade(s): 7

Length: One quarter

This course is a survey of all things theatre. Topics covered include theatre history, acting games, projects, basic public speaking, and some performance. Elements of Theatre is an exploratory class covering aspects of modern theatre.

### ELEMENTS OF PERFORMANCE

Grade(s): 8

Length: Semester

This course is a more in-depth study of theatre. Successful completion of 7th grade Elements of Theatre is helpful. Topics covered include theatre history from prehistoric to early American times, script analysis, and critical aspects of theatre.

## ENGINEERING EXPLORATIONS

Grade(s): 7

Length: One quarter

This course is designed to introduce students to the world of engineering. The course relies on critical thinking, problem solving, independent and group work as well as basic math skills. Students will begin the quarter working with isometric drawings. Students then move into building various towers using the supplied building materials. Orthographic drawings are then introduced to help reinforce what was learned during the isometric unit. Next students will create a popsicle stick car that is powered by a rubber band. Finally, students learn about basic geometry and are introduced into the world of computer aided design using Autodesk Inventor.

## ENGINEERING BASICS

Grade(s): 8

Length: Semester

This course is designed for students to expand on their knowledge gained from Engineering Explorations. The course relies heavily on critical thinking, problem solving, independent initiative, group work and advanced math skills. Students will utilize the design process to build and test bridge structures. Students will gain a better understanding of technical drawings using the Inventor Software and have the opportunity to participate in the 3D Printer Design Challenge. Architecture will be explored with the use of Google Sketch Up 8. Students will then test their knowledge in the construction of a 1/2" = 1' scale model home and creation of an air skimmer.

## BUSINESS BASICS

Grade(s): 8

Length: Semester

In Business Basics, students take on the role of an entrepreneur. Throughout this semester course students learn the skills and traits an entrepreneur possesses. Students will learn the components of a business plan. Students create logos, slogans, and commercials. Students watch TV shows like Shark Tank and Undercover Boss to supplement important business concepts that relate to real-world scenarios. The class explores how to manage money, write checks, deposit into checking and savings accounts, and learns important math concepts that help businesses survive and thrive. In the International Business unit, students will learn how you are to greet, dress, talk, and behave across the globe while getting to try different "ethnic" foods.

## COMPUTER SCIENCE BASICS

Grade(s): 8

Length: Semester

This semester course has students learning programming languages, such as JavaScript, CSS and HTML. As the semester progresses, students will plan and design a personal website. Students will also create their own Java Game (an example of a Java game is the snake game or Minecraft). Students will also have the opportunity to plan and develop their own App Idea. Robotic Kits are available for students as extended learning opportunities. Experience with computers or coding is not required.

## FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Grade(s): 7

Length: One quarter

This exploratory class introduces students to the Family and Consumer Science curriculum. Topics covered include early child development (focus on birth to pre-kindergarten), appropriate family and peer relationships, hand sewing, and basic nutrition and cooking skills and techniques. Students work together throughout the class to complete projects and activities.

Grade(s): 8

Length: Semester

This elective class will continue to develop skills and knowledge in child development, sewing, and cooking. Students will go more in-depth with child development, and create educational practices for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Students will learn how to operate a sewing machine and create items from scratch. The cooking unit will include more elaborate recipes and give the students an opportunity to create their own recipe. This class also introduces the students to the world of interior design.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Course	Grade Level	Course Length
7th Grade English Language Arts	7	Full Year
7th Grade Advanced English Language Arts	7	Full Year
8th Grade English Language Arts	8	Full Year
8th Grade Advanced English Language Arts	8	Full Year
Functional English Language Arts <i>*Indicates these courses are for students receiving special education supports and services, and are determined through the IEP process.</i>	7, 8	Full Year

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade(s): 7

Length: Full year

This course emphasizes reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Students will exhibit critical thinking and comprehension of a variety of media while providing evidence to support the development of analytical skills. Grade level media may include short stories, novels, speeches, poetry, podcasts, videos, advertisements, newspaper and magazine articles, and blog posts. Moreover, students will be encouraged to collaborate to explore a variety of perspectives.

Grade(s): 8

Length: Full year

This course provides an opportunity to enhance and develop skills and concepts in the areas of writing, reading, grammar, and communication. Students will engage in the study of literature and informational texts, including identifying the main idea or theme of a text, making inferences, citing textual evidence, and comparing and contrasting texts with similar themes. In addition, students will apply a variety of reading strategies, such as using context clues, analyzing figurative language, annotating texts, and objectively summarizing key ideas. Students create a variety of organized pieces of writing throughout the year, including narratives, informational essays, and argumentative essays. Each unit will include researching, drafting, editing, and publishing final writing pieces. Public speaking skills will also be strengthened through various individual and group presentations throughout the year.

## ADVANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade(s): 7

Length: Full year

This course emphasizes reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Students will exhibit critical thinking and comprehension of a variety of media while providing evidence to support the development of analytical skills. Above grade level media may include short stories, novels, speeches, poetry, podcasts, videos, advertisements, newspaper and magazine articles, and blog posts. Moreover, students will be encouraged to collaborate to explore a variety of perspectives. Additionally, advanced ELA students engage in additional novel studies and in literary criticism.

Grade(s): 8

Length: Full year

This course provides an opportunity to enhance and develop skills and concepts in the areas of writing, reading, grammar, and communication. Students engage in the study of literature and informational texts, including identifying the main idea or theme of a text, making inferences, citing textual evidence, and comparing and contrasting texts with similar themes. In addition, students will apply a variety of reading strategies, such as using context clues, analyzing figurative language, annotating texts, and objectively summarizing key ideas. Students will also be creating a variety of organized pieces of writing throughout the year, including narratives, informational essays, and argumentative essays. Each unit will include researching, drafting, editing, and publishing final writing pieces. Public speaking skills will also be strengthened through various individual and group presentations throughout the year. Additionally, advanced ELA students engage in additional novel studies and in literary criticism.

## FUNCTIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS\*

Grade(s): 7, 8

Length: Full year

This course teaches reading comprehension, writing, vocabulary, and functional activities. Students will participate in class discussions, group work projects, improve their use of technology and will be engaged in hands-on writing manipulatives. Skills learned will be applied in community based activities.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Course	Grade Level	Course Length
EL English Language Arts	7, 8	Full Year
EL Resource	7, 8	Full Year

### EL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade(s): 7, 8

Length: Full year

This course emphasizes reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills, and is co-taught by the reading and EL specialists. Students are placed in this class using ACCESS scores and other data. In this small group setting, students will exhibit critical thinking and comprehension of a variety of media while providing evidence to support the development of analytical and language skills. Grade level media may include short stories, novels, speeches, poetry, podcasts, videos, advertisements, newspaper and magazine articles, and blog posts. Moreover, students will be encouraged to collaborate with peers to explore a variety of perspectives.

### EL RESOURCE

Grade(s): 7, 8

Length: Full year

This course provides English Learners with an opportunity to receive additional support with reading, writing, speaking, and listening, as well as goal setting with the EL specialist. Students also receive additional help with their core classwork during this time.

## MATHEMATICS

Course	Grade Level	Course Length
7th Grade Mathematics	7	Full Year
8th Grade Mathematics	7, 8	Full Year
Algebra I	8	Full Year
Functional Math <i>*Indicates these courses are for students receiving special education supports and services, as determined through the IEP process.</i>	7, 8	As needed

### 7TH GRADE MATHEMATICS

Grade(s): 7

Length: Full year

This course builds on students' previous understandings of numbers and how they relate to each other. Course content will include topics such as integers, rational numbers, expressions, equations, proportional relationships, 2d and 3d geometry, statistics and probability. This course also builds the foundation for developing critical thinking and reasoning skills.

### 8TH GRADE MATHEMATICS

Grade(s): 7, 8

Length: Full year

This course focuses on these 3 areas: (1) Formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations. (2) Grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships. (3) Analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

### ALGEBRA I

Grade(s): 8

Length: Full year

Prerequisite: Department placement based on teacher recommendation, past, and projected performance

*Next course: Geometry or Geometry Honors*

Course content will include topics such as expressions, real numbers, linear equations and inequalities, graphing relations and functions, systems of linear equations, polynomials and factoring, radical and rational expressions, and as time allows, rational equations and other real-world applications. Some sections of this course will receive extended time during the day to accommodate the mathematical needs of the students. This course is typically the first high school mathematics course. Students who complete this coursework are eligible to receive high school credit.

## FUNCTIONAL MATH

Grade(s): 7, 8

Length: Full year

This course emphasizes transition-based consumer and basic math skills. Skills will include money/budgeting, time, patterns, and number concepts. The students will learn skills that will functionally assist them with math in the workplace, math at home, and math to be used while shopping.

## MUSIC

Course	Grade Level	Course Length
Choir	7, 8	Full Year
Orchestra	7, 8	Full Year
Band	7, 8	Full Year
Percussion	7, 8	Full Year

### CHOIR

Grade(s): 7

Length: Full year

This course is a vocal ensemble that rehearses daily and performs songs at an intermediate level. Students will read, perform, and compose music while developing their skills in reading music notation. In addition to the choir's four main concerts, there are opportunities to perform in Solo & Ensemble day, and audition for an honors festival. We also offer field trip opportunities to see musical productions.

Grade(s): 8

Length: Full year

This course is a vocal ensemble that rehearses daily and performs songs at an advanced level. Students will read, perform, and compose music while developing their skills in reading music notation. In addition to the choir's four main concerts, there are opportunities to perform in Solo & Ensemble day, audition for an honors festival, and Music in the Parks at Six Flags. We also offer field trip opportunities to see musical productions.

### ORCHESTRA

Grade(s): 7

Length: Full year

This class is open to all students who play violin, viola, cello, or string bass that have previous instrumental experience on an orchestra instrument. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra rehearses daily and performs pieces at an intermediate level along with weekly small group technique classes. In addition to the orchestra's four main concerts, there are opportunities to perform in Solo & Ensemble contest, audition for honors festivals, and perform in community events.

Grade(s): 8

Length: Full year

This course is open to all students who play the violin, viola, cello, or string bass that have previous instrumental experience on an orchestra instrument. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra rehearses daily and performs pieces at an advanced level along with weekly small group technique classes. In addition to the orchestra's four main concerts, there are opportunities to perform in Solo & Ensemble contest, audition for honors festivals, and perform in community events.

## BAND

Grade(s): 7

Length: Full year

This course is an instrumental performance ensemble made up of students who have previous experience playing a band instrument. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band rehearses daily as a regularly scheduled class during the school day. Small instrument specific groups meet once a week for technique classes with a band director. The band performs in seasonal school concerts, at select local and school events, and takes a field trip to work with a college-level conductor and perform at Elmhurst College. Students will continue to expand their knowledge of instrumental technique and introductory music theory with an increased focus on concert band ensemble playing, tone, balance, blend, and intonation.

Grade(s): 8

Length: Full year

This course is an instrumental performance ensemble made up of students who have previous instrumental experience on a band instrument. The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band performs numerous times per year including seasonal concerts at school, festivals such as Music in the Parks at Six Flags Great America, and local events. Students will continue to expand their knowledge of instrumental technique with an increased focus on concert band ensemble playing, tone, balance, blend, and intonation.

## PERCUSSION

Grade(s): 7

Length: Full year

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade percussion class is made up of percussion students who have previous experience in band as well as one year of private percussion lessons or two years of private piano lessons. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade percussionists perform numerous times per year with the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band at seasonal concerts, Elmhurst College, the Night of Percussion and local events. Students will continue to expand their knowledge of instrumental technique with an increased focus on concert band ensemble playing, tone, balance, blend, and intonation.

Grade(s): 8

Length: Full year

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade percussion class is made up of percussion students who have previous experience in band as well as one year of percussion private lessons or two years of piano private lessons. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade percussionists perform numerous times per year with the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band at seasonal concerts, festivals such as Music in the Parks at Six Flags Great America, the Night of Percussion and local events. Students will continue to expand their knowledge of instrumental technique with an increased focus on concert band ensemble playing, tone, balance, blend, and intonation.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION / HEALTH

Course	Grade Level	Course Length
Physical Education	7, 8	Full Year
7th Grade Health	7	Quarter
8th Grade Health	8	Quarter
Functional Health <i>*Indicates these courses are for students receiving special education supports and services, and are determined through the IEP process.</i>	7, 8	As needed

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Grade(s): 7, 8

Length: Three quarters

This course stresses fitness, lifelong activity, setting goals, and striving to attain those goals. Throughout the year, students will be given opportunities to improve their fitness through a variety of activities. Daily activity helps to reinforce and encourage students to lead healthy lifestyles. Students participate in various team and individual sports and activities.

### HEALTH

Grade(s): 7

Length: One quarter

This course is designed to allow students to learn and understand healthful and mature decision-making skills, consequences of risky behaviors, and risk factors affecting their personal health. Topics include health and wellness, body systems, nutrition, as well as eating disorders and body image.

Grade(s): 8

Length: One quarter

This course is designed to allow students to learn and understand healthful and mature decision-making skills, consequences of risky behaviors, and risk factors affecting their personal health. Topics include conflict resolution, violence prevention, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, human growth and development, and sexual education.

### FUNCTIONAL HEALTH\*

Grade(s): 7, 8

Length: One quarter

This course is designed to allow students to learn and understand healthful and mature decision-making skills, consequences of risky behaviors, and risk factors affecting their personal health. Topics will cover health and wellness, body systems, nutrition, as well as life and functional skills to support a healthy lifestyle.

## SCIENCE

Course	Grade Level	Course Length
7th Grade Science	7	Full Year
7th Grade Advanced Science	7	Full Year
8th Grade Science	8	Full Year
8th Grade Advanced Science	8	Full Year
Functional Social Studies/Science <i>*Indicates these courses are for students receiving special education supports and services, and are determined through the IEP process.</i>	7, 8	As needed

### SCIENCE

Grade(s): 7

Length: Full year

This course explores topics related to: cells, genetics, energy transfer, thermal energy, history of the Earth, and plate tectonics. A variety of hands-on techniques and interactive resources to explore these topics are used.

Grade(s): 8

Length: Full year

This course analyzes and interprets data to determine human impact on the world around us through exploring technology, weather, chemistry, natural selection, and resources. Students interact with the Next Generation Science Standards to develop skills that will encourage them to think like a scientist, master content and develop solutions to reduce human impact on the environment.

### ADVANCED SCIENCE

Grade(s): 7

Length: Full year

This course explores the same topics as 7th grade science. However, advanced science increases course rigor by requiring an independent study project each semester. This increases the pace of the course. One class period per week is provided for independent study project work completion.

Grade(s): 8

Length: Full Year

Students analyze and interpret data to determine human impact on the world around us through exploring technology, weather, chemistry, natural selection, and resources. Students interact with the Next Generation Science Standards to develop skills that will encourage them to think like a scientist, master content and develop solutions to reduce human impact on the environment. Students also explore phenomena in the electromagnetic spectrum, weather forecasts, plasma, chemical bonding, types of chemical reactions, and radioactive decay.

## FUNCTIONAL SOCIAL STUDIES / SCIENCE\*

Grade(s): 7, 8

Length: Full year

This course is designed to increase awareness of the local community, state, nation, and world; discuss current events; research topics of interests; communicate results of research in oral presentations; and increase understanding of the functions of government. This course also increases understanding of topics by using scientific reasoning and practice. Practical applications are made through hands on experiences.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Course	Grade Level	Course Length
7th Grade Social Studies	7	Full Year
7th Grade Advanced Social Studies	7	Full Year
8th Grade Social Studies <i>This course is also offered in a blended format.</i>	8	Full Year
8th Grade Advanced Social Studies	8	Full Year
Functional Social Studies/Science <i>*Indicates these courses are for students receiving special education supports and services, and are determined through the IEP process.</i>	7, 8	As needed

### SOCIAL STUDIES

Grade(s): 7

Length: Full year

This course focuses on American government and early American history. The course begins with a look at the early years of the American republic followed by intensive study of political ideologies and the Constitution. The second semester looks in depth at America's westward expansion and the root causes of the Civil War.

Grade(s): 8

Length: Full year

This course engages in a developed study of the major political, social, geographical, economic, cultural, and military events that have shaped the United States and our world since the 1870's. This course offers the opportunity for students to understand the significance of these events and how they are intertwined with each other in our past, present, and future.

### ADVANCED SOCIAL STUDIES

Grade(s): 7

Length: Full year

This course focuses on American government and early American history. The course begins with a look at the early years of the American republic followed by intensive study of political ideologies and the Constitution. The second semester looks in depth at America's westward expansion and the root causes of the Civil War. The advanced course will utilize reading texts above the seventh grade reading level, which will result in higher level discussions about the content.

Grade(s): 8

Length: Full Year

This course engages in a developed study of the major political, social, geographical, economic, cultural, and military events that have shaped the United States and our world since the 1870's. This course offers the opportunity for students to understand the significance of these events and how they are intertwined with each other in our past, present, and future. The advanced course goes deeper into concepts and content, resulting in higher level discussions and rigorous coursework.

## FUNCTIONAL SOCIAL STUDIES / SCIENCE\*

Grade(s): 7, 8

Length: Full year

This course is designed to increase awareness of the local community, state, nation, and world; discuss current events; research topics of interests; communicate results of research in oral presentations; and increase understanding of the functions of government. This course also increases understanding of topics by using scientific reasoning and practice. Practical applications are made through hands on experiences.

## EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Course	Grade Level	Course Length
Math Plus	7, 8	As needed
ELA Plus	7, 8	As needed
Study Skills	7, 8	As needed
Social Skills	7, 8	As needed
Skills for Independence	7, 8	As needed

The following courses take the place of an elective in a student’s schedule. The goal of these courses is to offer additional support in the content area of need. Students in these classes work on skill building and can receive additional help with in class learning activities. Placement into these courses is determined with the student, parents, teachers, Student Services members, and administration. An asterisk (\*) indicates these courses are for students receiving special education supports and services, and are determined through the individualized educational plan process.

### MATH PLUS

Grade(s): 7, 8

Length: Full Year

This course supports students who need additional skills, pre-teaching, and re-teaching of mathematical concepts. Students are placed into this course based on grades, data, and teacher recommendation, and monitored weekly for progress and growth. Students may exit at the semester based on growth and progress, and this course replaces an elective choice.

### ELA PLUS

Grade(s): 7, 8

Length: Full Year

This course supports students who need additional skills and support with reading comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, and other reading and writing skills. Students are placed into this course based on grades, data, and teacher recommendation, and monitored weekly for progress and growth. Students may exit at the semester based on growth and progress. This course is taught by the reading specialist and replaces an elective choice.

### STUDY SKILLS\*

Grade(s): 7, 8

Length: Full year

This course is taught by a Learning Behavior Specialist and focuses on helping students manage daily learning activities, study habits, goal setting, and assessment preparation.

## SOCIAL SKILLS\*

Grade(s): 7, 8

Length: Full year

In this course, students focus on the social skills necessary to be successful in middle school and beyond. It provides direct instruction in many of the skills typical middle schoolers take for granted. Units within the course will provide strategies for dealing with anxiety, frustration, and social situations, and practice using them. Social Skills also provides students with practice in conversational situations, allowing students to try out new skills in a supportive and structured setting.

## SKILLS FOR INDEPENDENCE\*

Grade(s): 7, 8

Length: Full year

This course is designed to provide students with skill-based instruction that stresses career-oriented activities, work related social and communication skills and independent living skills. This course may include in-school jobs and participation in community career exploration activities.

## WORLD LANGUAGES

Course	Grade Level	Course Length
Middle School Spanish	7, 8	Full Year
Spanish I	8	Full Year
Spanish Heritage I	8	Full Year
German I	8	Full Year

### MIDDLE SCHOOL SPANISH

Grade(s): 7, 8

Length: Full year

This course will establish the basic, fundamental Spanish skills to be successful in Spanish 1. Students will experience repetition through song, movement, games, and other engaging activities to help students gain a deep understanding of fundamental topics and basic vocabulary/expressions used in common everyday situations. Practice in listening, speaking, reading, and writing will be emphasized. Students will also experience an overview of the culture of various Spanish-speaking countries through such hands-on activities as making food, participating in Spanish caroling, and exploring Spanish cultural festivals and holidays such as Day of the Dead. Much of the class is project-based, including a fashion show, creating Spanish childrens' books, and simulating a Spanish weather broadcast.

### SPANISH I

Grade(s): 8

Length: Full year

This course will allow students the opportunity to learn basic expressions used in common everyday situations. Practice in listening, speaking, reading, and writing will be emphasized. The students will be exposed to contemporary life in Spanish-speaking countries, which makes the culture meaningful and alive. This course engages students in games and interactive learning activities to learn the high school curriculum, while also experiencing cultural foods, holidays, and traditions. 8th graders who complete Spanish 1 at YMS can decide to take the course for high school credit. There is no prerequisite for Spanish 1. However, since Spanish 1 is a high school course, it is very important that students have strong academic and study skills as incoming 8th graders and/or take Middle School Spanish as 7th graders. Spanish 1 moves at about twice the pace of the introductory Middle School Spanish course.

### SPANISH HERITAGE I

Grade(s) 8

Length: Full year

This course is designed to introduce literacy skills and oral fluency in Spanish while building pride and knowledge base in the heritage culture. This will be developed through participating in communicative activities which incorporate a variety of literary, cultural, and current topics. Students in this course are expected to speak and understand Spanish at a native or near native fluency. Students who complete the coursework at the middle school are eligible to receive high school credit.

## GERMAN I

Grade(s): 8

Length: Full year

This course will give students the opportunity to learn basic expressions used in common everyday situations. Practice in listening, speaking, reading, and writing will be emphasized. The students will be exposed to contemporary life in German-speaking countries, which makes the culture more meaningful and alive. Students who complete the coursework at the middle school are eligible to receive high school credit.