

# MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Sample Schedule:

- 1) Eastern Hemisphere - Social Studies **Required**
- 2) Language Arts - Reading-Writing **Required**
- 3) Science 7 **Required**
- 4) Mathematics **Required**
- 5) Physical Education **Required** / Alternating elective course
- 6) Health **Required** / Exploratory offering
- 7) Exploratory or elective offering

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Sample Schedule:

- 1) American History **Required**
- 2) Language Arts - Reading-Writing **Required**
- 3) Mathematics **Required**
- 4) Science 8 **Required**
- 5) Physical Education **Required** / Alternating elective course
- 6) Exploratory or elective offering
- 7) Exploratory or elective offering

## 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE **REQUIRED** COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### Communication Arts

#### Language Arts 7

Grade: 7 Full Year Language arts curriculum consists of four major units of study: reading, writing, listening, speaking and information literacy. By reading a variety of materials, students will develop and apply strategies and skills to comprehend and analyze fiction and nonfiction. Working through the writing process, students will write effectively in various forms of writing, especially expository text. Students can also expect to develop and apply listening and speaking skills. Applying research process skills, student will gather, analyze, and evaluate a variety of media in the information literacy strand.

#### Advanced Studies Language Arts 7

Grade: 7 Full Year This course parallels the content of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts course with a more rigorous and in-depth focus on selected topics. Units of study include expository writing; literary analysis using fiction/drama selections; a research project; whole class novel study; grammar/usage study and vocabulary study. Differences from Language Arts 7 will occur in novel selections, independent work & reading, and the nature of performance tasks (projects/assessments). Higher expectations through inquiry based learning, critical thinking strategies, and creativity will also differentiate this class from Language Arts 7. Students are expected to embrace a more rigorous curriculum and must be proficient writers with above grade level reading ability.

#### Language Arts 8

Grade: 8 Full Year Language arts curriculum consists of the following units of study: literature, writing, and grammar/usage. Students will continue to improve their reading skills by reading and studying a variety of literature forms: short stories, novels, poetry and drama. Students will analyze stories, apply the elements of literature, identify figures of speech, and develop critical

thinking skills. The language arts curriculum will provide students with an opportunity to improve writing skills in sentences, paragraphs, short reports, essays and poetry. Reviewing and applying proofreading skills, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, grammar and usage will be included.

### **Advanced Studies Language Arts 8**

Grade: 8 Full Year This course extends units in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade language arts course. It is an in-depth approach which emphasizes literary analysis and composition. Units of study will include persuasive writing (a literature-based persuasive essay); expository writing; literary analysis of drama; study of elements of non-fiction; poetry analysis; whole class novel study; extensive vocabulary and grammar/usage study; a research essay. Differences from language arts 8 will occur in novel & poetry selections and level of independent work. All students will be expected to complete independent reading and self-selected reading projects, and they could work independently on blogs/podcasting. Higher expectations through inquiry-based learning, critical thinking strategies, and creativity will also differentiate this class. Enrichment opportunities are building specific and may include oration contests, spelling bees, culture trips, outside speakers, creative writing, and writing contests. Students are expected to embrace a more rigorous curriculum and must demonstrate above grade level reading and strong proficiency as writers.

## **Social Studies**

### **Ancient World History**

Grade: 7 Full Year This course studies the development of civilizations in the ancient world. Content themes include government, religion/culture, geography, technology, social structures, economics and connections to current events. Emphasis will be given to the Eastern Hemisphere. Students will further develop critical thinking skills including analysis, examination, inference, and prediction. Emphasis will be given to the Eastern Hemisphere. Students will further develop critical thinking skills including analysis, examination, inference, and prediction.

### **Advanced Studies Ancient World History**

Grade: 7 Full Year This course parallels the content of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Ancient World History course with a more rigorous and in-depth focus on selected topics. This course will prepare students for Advanced Studies courses at the high school level.

### **Early American History**

Grade: 8 Full Year This course will survey our nation's early history from 1492 to 1890. The course is designed to provide an understanding of and appreciation for our national heritage. Correlations between past and present events are examined, and cultural literacy is cultivated, through the study of the formation of our national "character." In addition, emphasis is placed on the growth of basic American principles, the contributions of various ethnic and cultural groups, and the development of democratic traditions. Furthermore, thinking skills such as problem solving, cause and effect, and analysis are a focus.

### **Advanced Studies Early American History**

Grade: 8 Full Year This course parallels the content of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Early American History course with a more rigorous and in-depth focus on selected topics. This course will prepare students for Advanced Studies courses at the high school level.

## **Mathematics**

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

Grade: 7 Full Year Students are recommended for this class based on their achievement and previous successful experience with mathematics. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics topics include fraction, decimal, and percent relationships; integers; algebraic expressions; solving two step equations and inequalities; ratios and proportions; angle relationships; two- and three-dimensional geometry; probability and problem-solving strategies. Remediation of basic mathematics skills will be provided for selected students. **Daily homework will be assigned.**

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

Grade: 7 Full Year Students are recommended for this class based on their achievement and previous successful experience with mathematics. AS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics parallels the content of the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics course and contains a more rigorous and in-depth focus on selected topics. AS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics also includes the topics taught in the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-Algebra curriculum which are necessary to prepare students for Algebra I. Students are expected to have a strong background in mathematics. Creative thinking is used in problem solving as well as the decision-making processes used in higher level mathematics. Projects are required. Work includes independent study. **Daily homework and projects will be assigned.** This course will prepare students for Algebra I.

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

Grade: 8 Full Year Students are placed in this class based on their achievement and previous successful experience with mathematics. 8th Grade Pre-Algebra topics include real numbers, the Pythagorean Theorem, integer exponents, scientific notation, solving multi-step equations, graphing equations, functions, bivariate data, systems of equations, angle relationships, and problem-solving strategies. Remediation of mathematics skills will be provided for selected students. **Daily homework will be assigned.**

### **Algebra I**

Grade: 8 Full Year **PREREQUISITE:** Semester grades of B- or better in Adv. Studies recommended

This course parallels high school Algebra I with a more rigorous and in-depth focus on selected topics. Algebra I encompasses abstract ideas; the use of patterns and generalizations; solving linear, quadratic and rational functions; simplifying radicals; and solving word problems. Projects are required. Work includes independent study. **Daily homework and projects will be assigned. Students successfully completing the Algebra I course will earn a high school elective math credit towards graduation. Students are still required to earn three additional math credits in high school. The grade earned in Algebra I will appear on the high school transcript and the high school GPA.**

## **Science**

### **Science 7**

Grade: 7 Full Year This course is designed to investigate our world through the study of Earth Science. Students will learn inquiry skills by using the science and engineering practices developed within the Next Generation Science Standards. While using the science and engineering practices, students will learn about Earth's Systems, Earth's Place in the Universe and humans impact our planet. Students will use hands on activities and inquiry based instruction to learn about our Earth and its place in the Universe.

### **Advanced Studies Science 7**

Grade: 7 Full Year **PREREQUISITE:** Strongly recommended concurrent enrollment in Advanced Studies 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math Students are recommended for this class based on their prior achievement and successful experience with science. This course parallels the content of 7<sup>th</sup> Science curriculum with a more rigorous and in-depth investigation of selected topics in science and technology. There is an emphasis on laboratory investigation and inquiry. Creative thinking is useful in problem solving as well as the decision-making processes used in higher level science processes. Projects will require independent study and time management skills.

### **Science 8**

Grade: 8 Full Year This course is designed to investigate science using an integrated approach. The focus is to instill sound investigative and critical thinking skills in our students so they will be able to design their own experiments. The Science and Engineering Practices are a significant, embedded part of this course, and integrated units will include the following topics: Temperature and Heat, the Elements, Forces, and Waves and Magnets.

### **Advanced Studies Science 8**

Grade: 8 Full Year **PREREQUISITE:** Strongly recommended semester grades of B- or better in Advanced Studies Science 7; concurrently enrolled in Algebra 1

This course parallels the content of 8<sup>th</sup> Science with a more rigorous and in-depth investigation of selected topics in science and technology with an emphasis on the Science and Engineering Practices. Creative thinking is useful in problem solving as well as the decision-making processes used in higher level science processes. Projects will require independent study and time management skills.

## **Health/Physical Education**

### **Physical Education**

Grade: 7 and 8 Full Year Fitness is the foundation of the middle school physical education curriculum. Middle school physical education activities will include a variety of team sports, individual sports, and lifetime activities. Our goal is to promote physical activity, other healthy behaviors and fitness throughout life. The objectives of physical education are to develop motor skills in a variety of activities; to establish lifelong foundations of physical fitness; to acquire knowledge of physical activities; to incorporate technology; and, to develop positive character traits through social interaction with other students. The Fitnessgram, a fitness test administered twice a year, measures; cardio-respiratory endurance, flexibility, muscular strength, and muscular endurance. Class activities are designed to enhance each of these areas while encouraging and developing each student's individual level of fitness.

### **Health**

Grade: 7 Semester Increased awareness in lifelong wellness includes understanding the basic structures and function of human body systems, adolescent health issues that affect physical health, social health and mental/emotional health. These include personal safety, healthy relationships, and nutrition, responding to emergencies, drug awareness, disease and disease prevention. By participating in this course, students will develop an understanding of and the skills necessary to choose healthy

lifelong habits through a variety of class activities.

## 7<sup>th</sup> AND 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE ELECTIVE AND EXPLORATORY COURSE INFORMATION

### Grade: 7 Elective and Exploratory Class Enrollment Information:

To alternate with Physical Education, you must indicate your preference of Art I or Music I, Library, Office, or Science Lab Assistant. (Only students who fill out applications for Library, Office, or Science Lab Assistant will be considered for those classes.) Physical Education meets every other day and you will attend the alternate class on the day your Physical Education class does not meet.

Students in either band or strings will take Health and their choice of two exploratory classes. Students **not** in band or strings will take Health plus all six exploratory classes. **(A)** Application must accompany enrollment card

### Alternating Class Choices Daily Elective/Exploratory Class Choices

Physical Education - Art Strings - *full year*

Physical Education - Music I Band - *full year*

Physical Education - Office **(A)** Health - *semester*

Physical Education - Library **(A)** Discovering Family & Consumer Science (FACS) - *quarter* Physical

Education – Science Lab Asst. **(A)** Introduction to Engineering and Industrial Technology - *quarter* Exploring

Speech & Theatre - *quarter*

Computer Explorations - *quarter*

Students Maximizing Academic Resources To Succeed (SMARTS) - *quarter*

Exploring Languages and Cultures-*quarter*

### Grade: 8 Elective and Exploratory Class Enrollment Information:

Students are required to select one alternating class (opposite physical education) and the equivalent of 4 semesters (full year or semester courses) of daily elective classes. **(R)** Recommendation needed; **(P)** Prerequisite - see course description; **(A)** Application must accompany enrollment card

### Alternating Classes Choices Daily Elective/Exploratory Class Choices

Physical Education – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Art Strings - *full year* Industrial Technology - *semester* Physical Education – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Art Band - *full year* Engineering Technology - *semester* Physical Education – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Adv. Art **(R)** French I - *full*

*year* **(P)** Living Skills - *semester* Physical Education - Music II **(P)** German I - *full year* **(P)** Personal Skills - *semester*

Physical Education - Select Choir **(R)** Spanish I - *full year* **(P)**

Chinese (Mandarin) I – *full year* **(P)**

Physical Education - Library **(A)** Speech & Theatre - *semester*

Physical Education - Office **(A)** Broadcasting & Video Technology - *semester* **(P)** **(R)**

Physical Education – Science Lab Asst. **(A)** Introduction to Computer Science - *semester*

Technology, Innovation, & Entrepreneurship – *semester*

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE ALTERNATE TO P.E. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### Fine Arts - Art

#### 7th Grade Art

Grade: 7 Semester (Alternating days for a full year) Through the exploration of a variety of art materials, students are introduced to fundamental concepts and techniques as well as art history and appreciation. Grades are based on mastery of art concepts per art curriculum. Successful completion of this class and a teacher recommendation are required to enroll in 8th Grade Advanced Art.

#### 8th Grade Art

Grade: 8 Semester (Alternating days for a full year) This course is designed for students who would like to continue their art studies as 8<sup>th</sup> graders, or experience art for the first time at the Middle School level. This course content builds upon fundamental art concepts while introducing students to new media and techniques. Grades are based on mastery of art concepts per art curriculum.

#### 8th Grade Advanced Art

Grade: 8 Semester (Alternating days for a full year) **Teacher recommendation REQUIRED** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Art is designed for students who have excelled in all aspects of the visual art classroom and who have demonstrated their interest and their

ability to meet the challenge of a more intensive art curriculum. This class will focus on art history and developing individual problem-solving skills through art concepts, techniques and a variety of media. Students are expected to be self-motivated and disciplined. Grades are based on mastery of art concepts per art curriculum. Teacher recommendation is required.

## Fine Arts - Music

### Music I

Grade: 7 Semester (Alternating days for a full year) Vocal music is the first part of a sequential program, Music I and Music II. The first course for either grade level is Music I. This general music class is designed for those who enjoy music regardless of their musical ability. The basic areas included are (1) singing (2) listening and appreciation, and (3) two required performances. This first class is designed primarily as an exploratory course in music. Students who show a desire to continue in music and demonstrate ability in music are recommended for Music II or a select choir for grade eight.

### Music II

Grade: 8 Semester (Alternating days for a full year) **PREREQUISITE:** Music I or teacher recommendation  
This class is a continuation of Music I in areas of singing, listening, and historical periods, with two required performances. Purchase of concert attire/uniform is required for this class.

### Select Choir

#### Black/Gold Choir (PLMS)

#### Summit Lakes Singers (SLMS)

#### Concert Choir (BCMS)

Grade: 8 Semester (Alternating days for a full year) **PREREQUISITE: 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher recommendation**

This select choir is an eighth grade auditioned choir. Students meet as a class in place of Music II. Concert Choir sings at two formal concerts yearly, attends the Middle School Choral Clinic and performs at elementary schools in attendance area.

## Library Assistant

### Library Assistant

Grade: 7 and 8 (**Must have filled out application**) Credit: Semester (Alternating days for a full year) The major objective of Library class is to provide students with a foundation in library skills. Time will be devoted to specialized skills needed to work in the media center. Students will become proficient with circulation processes and with using the catalog for searching. They will also help students locate materials. Grades will be based on performance of assigned duties in the media center and completion of individual projects. Library class can be taken during either the seventh or eighth grade year, but not both years. Students may sign up during spring enrollment and may pick up an application in the media center. The librarian will determine final placement. Students should also choose an art or music class in the event they are not chosen to work in the library.

## Office Assistant

### Office Assistant

Grade: 7 and 8 (**Must have filled out application**) Semester (Alternating days for a full year) Office Assistant classes offer an introduction to general office procedures and management for students with no previous training. The student will be introduced to general office procedures - operation of various office machines, filing, and miscellaneous school errands. Grades will be based on student performance and attitude toward the assigned duties in the office. Office Assistants will meet on alternate days of the week with Physical Education. On the days students are not in Physical Education class, they will assume office duties. Students may sign up during spring enrollment. The principal will decide final placement. Students must also choose an art or music class in the event they are not assigned to work in the office. \*Office Assistants are not available at SLMS.

## Science Laboratory Assistant

### Science Laboratory Assistant

Grade: 7 and 8 (**Must have filled out application**) Semester (Alternating days for a full year) The science laboratory assistant classes offer an introduction to general laboratory techniques and organization. These students would be responsible for setting up and taking down labs, cleaning glassware and equipment, and maintaining an organized stockroom. Students will also design, conduct and analyze scientific investigations. Grades will be based on performance of assigned duties, completion of individual projects and attitude toward laboratory responsibilities. Science Laboratory Assistant class can be taken during either the seventh or eighth grade year, but not both years. Students will sign up during spring enrollment and may pick up an application from any science teacher. The lead science teacher will decide final placement. Students must also choose an art or music class in the event they are not chosen to work in the science laboratory.

## 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE EXPLORATORY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### Exploring Speech & Theatre

Grade: 7 Quarter The Speech and Drama curriculum consists of the following units of study: communication speech process, listening, outlining, speech delivery, informative speeches, pantomime, staging, analyze plays, and perform plays. The curriculum provides students with an opportunity to practice their oral and written communication skills. The projects in the class improve listening skills, increase creativity and critical thinking skills, improve vocal expression and promote confidence in public speaking situations.

### Computer Explorations

Grade: 7 Quarter Interested in one of the fastest growing industries in the world? This course is designed to develop and enhance computer science and application skills that are needed by all students as they prepare for high school, college, and future careers. Students will be introduced to basic coding and networking concepts. Career fields such as cyber security, networking, and programming will be explored. The functionality of Microsoft Office spreadsheets, documents, and presentations will be used to increase productivity and enhance critical thinking. This class will also introduce and build keyboarding skills.

### Students Maximizing Academic Resources to Succeed (SMARTS)

Grade: 7 Quarter This nine-week course is designed with the 21st Century learner in mind. Course topics include time management, organizational skills, communication, and collaboration. Because technology is such an important part of education and our lives, an emphasis will be placed on cloud-based productivity tools to support those topics and in using the G-suite tools to support classwork and critical thinking.

### Discovering Family & Consumer Sciences

Grade: 7 Quarter In this nine-week Family and Consumer Science course seventh grade students will have the opportunity to explore the following topics: discovering self, family and friends, babysitting, nutrition and food preparation, and basic sewing construction. Class projects include hands-on activities, presentations, and written assignments. A list of supplies needed for sewing will be given to the students at the beginning of the quarter.

### Introduction to Engineering and Industrial Technology

Grade: 7 Quarter This is the introductory course of the Gateway to Technology, Project Lead the Way, Industrial Technology and pre-Engineering courses. This nine-week class is a brief introduction to the hands-on activities and careers available in the field of Industrial and Engineering Technology. This course is based around the design process to solve problems and understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on our lives. Students will use industry standard 3D modeling software to create a virtual image of their design and creative solutions.

### Exploring Languages and Cultures

Grade: 7 Quarter Exploring Languages and Cultures is a quarter course that introduces the basics of the languages and cultures of French, German, Spanish, and Chinese speaking countries. Students will learn some basic vocabulary of all four languages, including greetings, numbers, and colors, as well as some vocabulary to tell simple stories. Through class projects, students will learn about the geography, history and cultures of France, Germany, Spain, and China. Grades will be based on their tests, projects, and daily work. This class is highly recommended for students who are planning to take a Modern Language in eighth grade.

## 7<sup>th</sup> AND 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES

### Fine Arts - Music

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

Grade: 8 Full Year **Prerequisites: Previous playing experience in this school district or consent of teacher following an audition** This band is a full year course that continues to develop the skills and proficiencies acquired in the earlier grades. Fundamentals are stressed with much time devoted to rhythmic skills, scales, dynamic contrast, intonation, ear training, breath control, musicality, articulations and music appreciation. Public performances are required. Placement is determined by director recommendation. Purchase of concert attire/uniform is required for this class.

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

Grade: 7 Full Year **Prerequisites: Previous playing experience in this school district or consent of teacher following an**

**audition** This band is a full year course that continues to develop the skills and proficiencies acquired in the earlier grades. Fundamentals are stressed with much time devoted to rhythmic skills, scales, dynamic contrast, intonation, ear training, breath

control, musicality, articulations and music appreciation. Public performances are required. Placement is determined by director recommendation. Purchase of concert attire/uniform is required for this class.

### **String Orchestra**

Grade: 7 and 8 Full Year **PREREQUISITES: Previous playing experience in this school district or consent of teacher following an audition** String students will have the opportunity to participate in string orchestra. Music theory, music history, string orchestra literature, rhythm, chords, and melody will be studied as related to playing a string instrument. Emphasis on intonation studies, vibrato, positions, and bowing techniques will help the string student to progress to senior high. Grade requirements will be based on skill in producing the desired sound and improvement shown when needed. Practice is essential. Several concerts will be required during the school year. Each student should be equipped with an instrument approved by the teacher. Private lessons are helpful but not required. Purchase of concert attire/uniform is required for these classes.

## **Speech & Theatre - Broadcasting/Video Technology**

### **Speech & Theatre**

Grade: 8 Semester The Speech and Theatre curriculum consists of the following units of study: personal communication, public speaking, and theatre arts. The curriculum provides students with an opportunity to practice their oral and written communication skills. The projects in the class improve listening skills, increase creativity and critical thinking skills, improve vocal expression, and promote confidence in public speaking situations and theatrical performances.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Broadcasting & Video Technology**

Grade: 8 Semester The 8<sup>th</sup> Broadcasting & Video Technology curriculum consists of the following units of study: analysis of television viewing, the use of production equipment, the creation of projects such as: news reports, interviews, and music videos. The class provides students with an opportunity to create scripts and storyboards for productions. The students perform editing work as they create titles, use the video mixer, and add sound. As part of the curriculum, students will work in groups to create a weekly news show. Students in the class should expect to come in before and after school to complete projects.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Broadcasting: Special Projects**

Grade: 8 Semester **Placement is determined by application and teacher recommendation.** Enrollment in special projects is by application only and is designed to build on the concepts and skills learned in the Intro to Broadcasting/Video Technology classes. The projects required will require higher-level skills to translate an idea into an effective video segment for the school and members of the community. **Students will be expected to mentor the introduction to broadcasting and video production students and help develop their skills.**

## **Practical Arts – Business, Marketing, & Information Technology (BMIT)**

### **Introduction to Computer Science**

Grade: 8 Semester Create your own app. The course combines the creation of mobile apps along with programming that goes beyond the virtual world into the physical world. Students are challenged to creatively use sensors and actuators to develop systems that interact with their environment. They will code and upload programs to microcontrollers to create wearable technology, interactive art, or other devices. Students will also collaboratively design and develop an android mobile app to solve a real-world problem. This course is based around the 'App Creators' and 'Computer Science for Innovators and Makers' units of the Project Lead the Way Gateway program.

### **Technology, Innovation, & Entrepreneurship**

Grade: 8 Semester It's been said that entrepreneurs are the ones who really change the world. Through hands-on activities and technology, students will be inspired to think like an entrepreneur. You will find solutions to real world problems using curiosity, creativity, and collaboration. Learn new ways for effective brainstorming, how to apply design thinking, conduct market research and pitch your idea. To produce promotional materials, you will also develop technology skills in graphic design. No matter your area of interest (i.e. sports, music, science, etc.), you can become an entrepreneur! Whether you want to start your own money-making business or create a non-profit to help others, this course will help you get started on your goals.

## **Practical Arts - Family & Consumer Sciences (FACS)**

### **Living Skills**

Grade: 8 Semester Living Skills is a semester course exploring the following topics: nutrition and food preparation, health and wellness, child development, and family relationships. Class projects include oral/written/research assignments, and foods lab opportunities.

### Personal Skills

Grade: 8 Semester Personal Skills is a semester course exploring the following topics: Personal wellness, interior design, personal finance, event planning and sewing construction. Class projects include oral/written/research assignments, and a variety of sewing projects. The school furnishes sewing machines, and basic sewing equipment. Students will be required to purchase fabric and sewing supplies.

## Practical Arts – Engineering & Industrial Technology

### Industrial Technology

Grade: 8 Semester This 18-week course will provide an exciting project-based, hands-on approach to learning. Students will be introduced to and use the design process to solve problems and understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on our lives. Students use industry standard 3D modeling software to create a virtual image of their design. Projects that will be completed are as follows, Wooden Bridge, Metal Tool Tray, and Trebuchet / Catapult. This course is based around the Design and Modeling unit of the Gateway to Technology, Project Lead the Way program. **There is a \$20.00 cost for take home projects.**

### Engineering Technology

Grade: 8 Semester This 18-week course will provide an exciting project-based, hands-on approach to learning. Students will trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics. They learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. The students will also acquire knowledge and skills in basic circuitry design and examine the impact of electricity on our lives. This course is based around the Automation & Robotics and Magic of Electrons units of the Gateway to Technology, Project Lead the Way program. **There is a \$20.00 cost for take home projects.**

## Modern Language

### Exploring Languages and Cultures

Grade: 7 Quarter Exploring Languages and Cultures is a quarter course that introduces the basics of the languages and cultures of French, German, Spanish, and Chinese speaking countries. Students will learn some basic vocabulary of all four languages, and the geography, history and cultures of France, Germany, Spain, and China. Grades will be based on their tests, quizzes, homework, in-class activities, and daily work. This class is highly recommended for students who are planning to take a Modern Language in eighth grade.

### French I, German I, Spanish I, Mandarin Chinese I

Grade: 8 Full Year **PREREQUISITE:** Semester grades of B or better in 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts recommended and a grade of B or better in Exploring Languages and Cultures (if that class is taken in 7<sup>th</sup> grade).

Each middle school modern language class contains the same coursework as level I at the high school. Upon successful completion, the student will earn high school graduation credit and be ready to enroll in level II in the ninth grade. French I, German I, Spanish I and Mandarin Chinese I are full year courses that introduce the fundamentals of each modern language and the cultures represented by that language. Emphasis is on listening, speaking, reading and writing skills through acquisition of practical vocabulary such as greetings, school, sports, family, food, hobbies, numbers, the weather, clothing, body parts, places and the household. Grammar will often be included as part of vocabulary stories. There will be a focus on the present tense. Semester grades will be based on class participation, vocabulary quizzes, tests, speaking activities, writing activities, listening activities, reading activities and a final exam. The final exam will count 10% of each semester's overall grade.

- These classes are not intended for native speakers.
- At the high school level, French, German, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese enrollment includes the International Baccalaureate program and options for college credit.

**Students successfully completing an 8<sup>th</sup> grade Modern Language course will earn a high school graduation credit. The grade earned in the 8<sup>th</sup> Modern Language course will appear on the high school transcript and the high school GPA.**