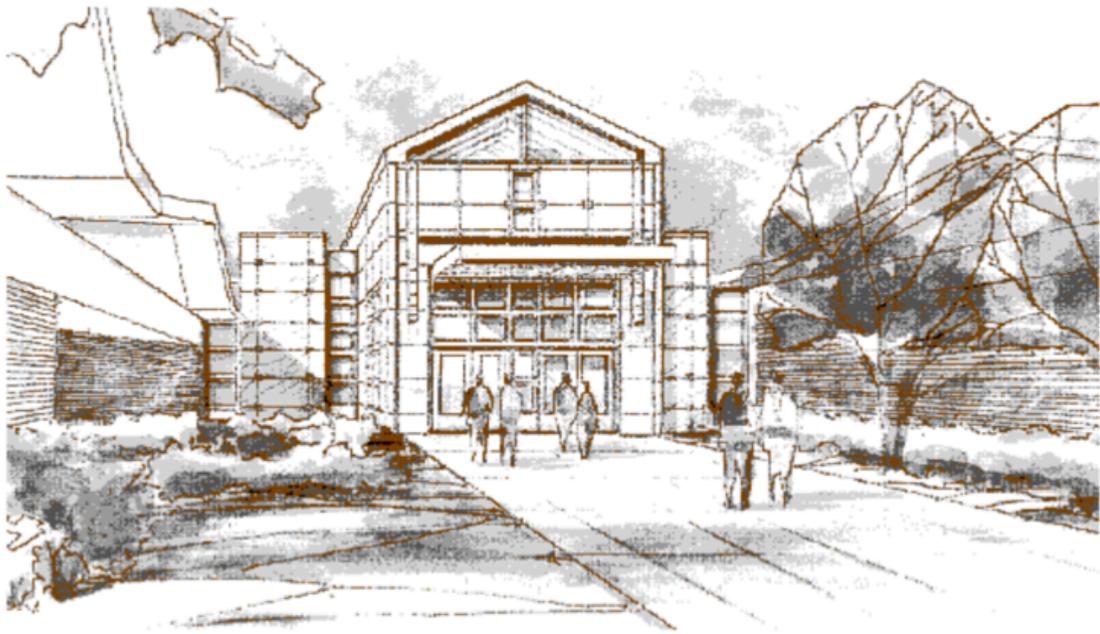


# Westside Middle School

8601 Arbor Street  
Omaha, NE 68124-2199



**2017-2018**  
**CURRICULUM BOOK**



Dear Parents and Students,

We would like to welcome all new students and their parents into the Westside Middle School family. We're also very excited to welcome back eighth grade students and their families.

The mission of Westside Middle School, as an exemplary model of early adolescent education, is to prepare students to become responsible citizens by providing a quality, success-oriented program through a caring school/family/community partnership.

Students will belong to an interdisciplinary team of four core content areas (English, math, science, and social studies) and approximately 125 students. Our teams provide a smaller group setting and identity for the students. Communication with families is facilitated through a combination of the academic team and the individual teachers. The team approach is one major component that sets a middle school apart from a traditional junior high school.

In addition to interdisciplinary teams, Westside Middle School provides a variety of opportunities for students to grow physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially. We provide many exploratory classes. These "Encore" classes provide the opportunity of hands-on learning, cooperative groups, independent exploration, and to enjoy our fine arts facility. We set high expectations and standards for students while taking into consideration the individual needs and the importance of exploration opportunities. Unfortunately students will not always be able to take advantage of all opportunities. They may have to make some choices. Seventh graders will have a few choices, and those choices expand in 8th grade.

One of our most valuable communication tools to monitor progress is PowerSchool. This web-based information management system allows students, parents, and teachers the ability to view attendance, grades/marks, assignments and teacher comments. Instant access via protected passwords provides parents and students with up to date information. With this timely information, parents and students can keep current on student progress and growth. Additionally, students are issued a district e-mail account to communicate with fellow students and teachers. We feel it is extremely important students learn how to access information and think critically to research and solve problems.

Our primary objective is educating and nurturing the "whole" child requiring a great deal of collaboration and communication between the school and home. We look forward to building positive relationships with each student and parent. Even though this is a time when your child wants to become more independent, staying involved in his/her school life is a key to success. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Eymann or myself so we can be of assistance. You can reach me at [olsen.russell@westside66.net](mailto:olsen.russell@westside66.net) or Mrs. Eymann at [eymann.kimberly@westside66.net](mailto:eymann.kimberly@westside66.net), follow our school's webpage at <http://wms.westside66.org>, or follow me on twitter @Principal\_Olsen. We look forward to having you as a member of the Westside Middle School family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russ Olsen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "O".

Russ Olsen  
Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Eymann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "K" and "E".

Kim Eymann  
Assistant Principal

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## Counseling Program

Westside Middle School has three school counselors who help support the academic, social/emotional, and career awareness needs of all students. Counselors work with students in a classroom setting providing lessons on important middle school topics such as: bullying, cyber bullying, sexual harassment, etc., that help to develop social/peer relationships. The counselors also meet individually with students regarding personal/social concerns, study strategies, academic planning and transitions, class schedules, and student mediation needs.

The counselors, along with the deans, work with students and parents/guardians on attendance and appropriate behaviors that promote a safe and respectful environment for all.

Each counselor works with one group of students based on last names and stays with that group of students the next year while at WMS. Our social worker, Jessica Lowe, is available to assist families with community resources that might be needed. Parents should contact a counselor with questions or concerns about their child.

**Julie Herink**  
School Counselor  
Students A-G  
Department Chair

**Doug Hauserman**  
School Counselor  
Students H-N

**Mike McCann**  
School Counselor  
Students O-Z

**Jessica Lowe**  
School Social Worker

## Excellence In Youth

Though the overall program continues to evolve into a K-12 service, the more formal emphasis is on students in grades third through eighth. As students advance in the high school level, their abilities are challenged through a wide variety of course selections and individual experiences. Some of these opportunities include advanced placement courses, college courses, and externships. Excellence in Youth opportunities occur at four levels – within the classroom, within the school building, district-wide, and at home. Students are expected to perform and participate at a high level. Middle School students will be able to participate in seminars, field trips, and a variety of academic competitions throughout the school year.

## **Special Services**

Westside Middle School meets the unique needs of their learners through a combination of inclusion based Special Education practices along with an array of supplemental support courses and services. Students work in collaboration with their classroom and Assisted Learning teachers to meet Individual Education Program goals.

### **Co-taught Language Arts & Math**

Students in need of extra support in the areas of reading, writing, and math will participate in a co-taught language arts block (90 minutes long), a co-taught math class or both. A certified special education teacher and a certified teacher specific to the curriculum teach both of these classes.

### **Assisted Learning**

Students may be assigned a period of assisted learning each day. This period will be used to work on IEP goals: reading, writing, math, social, behavioral, and organizational skills.

### **Pull Out Language Arts & Math**

Students with more significant academic needs in the areas of reading, writing, and math will be served in a pull out model. These students participate in the alternate assessment.

### **Alternative Curriculum**

Students who participate in the alternate curriculum receive the skills necessary to help them become a successful adult. These skills and activities are based on their IEP goals.

### **Language Support**

May be provided in a general education classroom via co-taught model or on an individual or small group/pull out model depending on the individual needs of the student.

### **Other services include the following:**

Physical therapy, occupational therapy, vision support, hearing support, medical support, assistive technology, social skills, behavior support, etc.

## **GRADE 7 REQUIRED COURSES**

### **Language Arts 7**

Language Arts 7 will be two-periods of instruction in the areas of Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking. Classes will meet everyday for an entire year. All curriculum and related assessments are aligned with program outcomes and essential elements of learning already established for the middle school and the district. Students will apply critical thinking to each area listed below.

#### **Reading Strategies**

- \*Explores methods to facilitate proficiency in reading (e.g. visualization, predicting, inferences, and establishing purpose)
- \*Determine the meaning of words through structural analysis, semantic relationships, or context clues
- \*Paraphrases, summarizes, analyzes, and synthesizes literary genres, elements, and techniques

#### **Writing**

- \*Uses various prewriting strategies and writes a draft that matches the tone and purpose to the audience
- \*Revises writing based on the Six Traits of Good Writing
- \*Applies strategies for proper spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and conventions
- \*Creates mental images for the reader by using the senses and vivid language
- \*Defines, interprets, or explains an idea, event, or process for the reader
- \*Presents a series of arguments to convince the reader to believe or act in a certain way
- \*Creates different forms of poetry by including figurative language, rhythm, emotion, and sometimes rhyme

#### **Speaking and Listening**

- \*Demonstrates appropriate skills in speaking and listening in various settings (i.e. formal speech, small group discussion, and dramatic interpretation)

### **Social Studies 7**

This course studies the relationship between Western European nations and early American history. The goal of this class is to examine such topics as government, perspective, and cultures of early American people, exploration, and early American history. First semester students will focus primarily on the development of economic and political systems in Western Europe, early America, and Native American tribes. During second semester students will look at the movement towards American Independence and the early development of the American Republic.

### **Science 7**

7th Grade Science is a hands-on, lab oriented general science course. Students will gain knowledge in the following areas: inquiry, the nature of science and technology, matter, the structure and function of living things, heredity, earth structures and processes, and energy in earth's system.

## Math

Math 7 is a grade level math course with instruction and assessment in the following areas:

- Number Sense
- Decimals
- Integers
- Fractions
- Algebraic Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities
- Rates, Ratios, Proportions, and Probability
- Geometric Concepts and Measurement
- Coordinate Geometry & Transformations
- Data Representation and Analysis

## Honors Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra is an accelerated math course with instruction and assessment in the following areas:

- Number Sense
- Algebraic Equations
- Algebraic Expressions
- Coordinate Geometry
- Geometry Concepts
- Data Analysis
- Inequalities
- Rates, Ratios, Proportions, and Probability

**NOTE: Students should maintain a grade of “B” or higher to remain in the class and to be ready for the next course level in the honors math program.**

## Honors Algebra 7

A fast-paced, challenging high school level algebra course for accelerated math students. Continuation on this path places students in Calculus as a junior in high school. Areas of instruction and assessment include the following:

- Number Sense
- Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities
- Rates, Ratios, Proportions, and Probability
- Graphs and Functions
- Linear and Absolute Value Equations
- Systems of Equations and Inequalities
- Polynomials and Factoring
- Quadratic Equations
- Radical Expressions and Equations
- Data Analysis
- Algebraic Applications

**NOTE: Students should maintain a grade of “B” or higher to remain in the class and to be ready for the next course level in the honors math program.**

## Physical Education 7

Seventh grade students will participate in Physical Education classes every other day for the year. The course will include team activities with emphasis on skill and interest development for lifetime fitness. Students are required to wear appropriate clothing (shorts, shirts, sweats, and tennis shoes).

**\*Leggings and tights are not acceptable PE attire.**

PE activities include: Soccer - Fitness Activities - Aerobics - Flag Football - Fitness Testing - Indoor Hockey - Basketball - Frisbee Golf - Softball - Volleyball - Tennis - Dance

## **GRADE 7 REQUIRED SEMESTER COURSES**

### Art 7

This course will offer a variety of experiences to the beginning art student. A foundation in drawing is the main building block of the quarter. Students will also expand on their knowledge of the elements of art: line, shape, color, space, and texture. Focus will not only include the production of art, but also art history and the critical evaluation of one's own work as well as that of other artists.

### Business and Technology 7

This course includes exploration of computer applications (Pages, Numbers, Keynote, iMovie). Students will learn the Elements of Digital Citizenship (Digital Communication, Digital Etiquette, Digital Rights and Responsibilities, Digital Literacy) and technology communication tools to prepare for being safe, respectful and responsible digital citizens. Computer programming, personal financial management and career education are also integrated into this course. In addition, students will master keyboarding skills.

## **GRADE 7 FULL YEAR ELECTIVE COURSES**

### Band 7

This sequential band course meets every day and is open to all seventh graders meeting prerequisites. Students will acquire a basic knowledge of music theory and listening skills through method books and full-band music. Written and playing assessments will be administered throughout the year. Students are given at least a four-week notice and are required to attend all performances. Members have the opportunity to participate in jazz band or other small ensembles that rehearse before or after school.

**Prerequisites: Successful completion of a 6th grade Band course or audition for director.**

### Band/Music 7

This course is open to those uniquely talented in both vocal and instrumental music. Since the student will be absent from "Band 7" rehearsals two days each week, it is essential that he/she have **above average sixth grade band skills**. Woodwind and brass players must be able to play the following scales: concert Bb and a one-octave chromatic scale. Percussionists must be able to count quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth note rhythms and must be proficient (at a 6<sup>th</sup> grade level) on bells. Students will attend Band on M-W-F and Music on T-TH. Chorus students will be singing soprano/alto/tenor/bass music. Students are required to attend all performances, given at least four weeks notice.

**Prerequisites: Successful completion of a 6th Band course and teacher's recommendation.**

## **Strings**

Seventh grade strings will meet every day for the full year. In this class students will review the basics learned at the elementary level and continue with exploring 3rd position and perform four-part playing. Each student will attend all performances, given four weeks notice

**Prerequisites: Successful completion of a 6th grade Strings course or audition for director.**

## **Strings/Music 7**

This course is open to those uniquely talented in both vocal and instrumental music. Since the student will be absent from "Strings " rehearsals two days each week, it is essential he/she have **above average** sixth grade skills. Chorus will include two rehearsals per week on soprano/alto/tenor/bass music. Students are given a four-week notice and are required to attend all performances.

**Prerequisites: Successful completion of a 6th grade Strings course and teacher's recommendation.**

## **GRADE 7 SEMESTER ELECTIVE COURSES**

### **World Languages 7**

WMS World Language courses for 7<sup>th</sup> grade are one semester long, and students may take one course per semester. They are helpful, but are **NOT** a pre-requisite for 8<sup>th</sup> grade World Language courses.

### **Exploratory French**

Students will be introduced to the French language and culture. They will learn basic conversation skills, vocabulary, and structures. We will learn about where French is spoken around the world and where we find it in our everyday lives. Students will work independently and in groups to explore a variety of language and cultural topics.

### **Exploratory German**

Students will be introduced to the German language and culture. They will learn basic conversation skills, vocabulary, and structures. We will learn about where German is spoken around the world and where we find it in our everyday lives. Students will work independently and in groups to explore a variety of language and cultural topics.

### **Exploratory Spanish**

In this course, students will review and build upon the Spanish that they have learned. They will practice basic conversation skills, vocabulary, and structures. We will learn more about where Spanish is spoken around the world and where we find it in our everyday lives. Students will work independently and in groups to explore a variety of language and cultural topics.

## **Fundamentals Of Fitness**

The Fundamentals of Fitness class is a lecture/lab course. Students will spend time in the classroom discussing the current fitness, nutrition, and health trends and topics that they see in society today. During the lab portion of the class students will apply the concepts learned in the classroom. Topics include: sports nutrition, basic anatomy and physiology, physical activity vs. physical fitness, aerobic vs. anaerobic activity, stress management, health and skill components, obesity, and current fitness trends. The use of technology will enhance this course as well as track student progress. Students will experience many different types of workouts (Yoga, Cross-fit, P90X, Pilates, Kettle bells and resistance) during the lab portion of the class.

## **Music 7**

Students will explore music of varying styles and cultures, by developing listening skills and musical understanding and sensitivity. This course will also emphasize developing good vocal production (with special attention to the changing voice) and the skills necessary to participate in unison, two-part, and three-part choral singing. Students will be involved in at least one public performance a year and attendance is mandatory. (Any student planning to audition for show choir must be in a chorus class.)

## **World Religions**

World Religions is a study of world cultures from a religious perspective. Students will examine global issues from multiple perspectives as they learn about five of the world's most commonly practiced religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Students will gain an understanding of the major beliefs, religious practices, customs and traditions of these five major religions to become more culturally competent as members of a multi-cultural, global society.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Required Courses:**

**Language Arts**  
**Math**  
**Science**

**Social Studies**  
**Art (Semester)**  
**Physical Education**  
**Business & Technology 7**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Special Education\*** - Resource (Only students on an IEP)  
\*(This eliminates one full year Elective)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Assisted Learning\*** (Teacher Recommendation)  
\*(This eliminates one full year Elective)

\_\_\_\_\_ **English Language Learner\*** (Permission only)  
\*(This eliminates one full year Elective)

Elective Choices: 1) One full year elective and one semester elective  
2) No full year electives and three semester electives

**Year Long Elective, if Appropriate**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Band** \_\_\_\_\_  
Instrument played  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Band/Music\*\*** \_\_\_\_\_  
Instrument played AND Permission from 6th grade band teacher  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Strings** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Strings/Music\*\*** \_\_\_\_\_  
Permission from 6th grade strings teacher

**Semester Electives Number 1 – 6 with 1 being your top choice and 6 being your last choice**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Exploratory French**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Exploratory German**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Exploratory Spanish**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Fundamentals Of Fitness**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Music \*\***  
\*\*(Students who are in show choir must be in the music class)  
\_\_\_\_\_ **World Religions**

## **GRADE 8 REQUIRED COURSES**

### **Language Arts 8**

All eighth grade curriculum choices and related assessments are aligned with program outcomes and essential learnings already established for the middle school and the district. Students will apply critical thinking skills to each area listed below.

#### **Reading (Literature)**

- The student will identify, understand, and apply vocabulary to challenging fiction and nonfiction texts.
- The student will analyze how literature reflects the issues of its culture, era, and environment.
- The student will identify and understand connections between literature and life.
- The student will analyze essential elements of nonfiction, fiction, and drama.

#### **Writing**

- The student will understand and demonstrate the writing process (prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing), and the student will know and use the Six Traits of Good Writing, including content, organization, voice, word choice fluency, and conventions (appropriate mechanics, spelling, and usage).
- The student will explore writing as a vehicle for reflection and self-assessment.
- The student will effectively compose descriptive, informative, and persuasive writing, using formal and informal formats.

#### **Speaking and Listening**

- The student will participate productively in both small and large group discussions.
- The student will follow spoken directions.
- The student will use appropriate and effective listening skills in a variety of settings.

### **American History 8**

This course studies the development of the United States from early American History to the present. Students learn about the major events and concepts that have shaped our nation. The goal of this class is to help students see the connections of our nation's past to current events and issues in America. The first semester the focus is on US History and the major events and issues between the years of 1790 to 1900. During second semester the focus will be on US History and the major events and issues between the years of 1900 to 1990.

### **Science 8**

Eighth grade science is a course in which students explore and learn about a variety of physical, life, and Earth science topics. Throughout the year, students will study earth science by examining the rock and fossil record of the earth, and by exploring the dynamics between the sun, moon, and Earth. Physical Science leads to an in-depth study of forces and motions, while the Life Science unit exposes students to the biodiversity and the interactions of living things.

## **Mathematics 8**

Math 8 is a grade level math course with instruction and assessment in the following areas:

- \* Geometric Properties
- \* Number Sense
- \* Computation
- \* Rates, Ratios, Proportions, Probability
- \* Data Representations and Analysis
- \* Expressions, Equations, Inequalities

## **Honors Algebra 8**

Algebra is an accelerated math course with instruction and assessment in the following areas:

- \* Number Sense
- \* Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities
- \* Rates, Ratios, Proportions, and Probability
- \* Graphs and Functions
- \* Linear and Absolute Value Equations
- \* Systems of Equations and Inequalities
- \* Polynomials and Factoring
- \* Quadratic Equations
- \* Radical Expressions and Equations
- \* Data Analysis
- \* Algebraic Applications

**NOTE: Students should maintain a grade of “B” or higher to remain in the class and to be ready for the next course level in the honors math program.**

## **Honors Geometry**

A fast-paced, challenging high school level algebra course for accelerated math students. Continuation on this path places students in Calculus as a junior in high school. Areas of instruction and assessment include the following:

- \*Understand and properly use the language of Geometry
- \*Use inductive and deductive reasoning to solve problems and prove theorems based on Euclidean geometry
- \*Be able to do indirect proofs, paragraph proofs and two column proofs
- \*Deduce properties of and relationships between figures from given assumptions
- \*Continue in the study of Algebra

**NOTE: Students should maintain a grade of “B” or higher to remain in the class and to be ready for the next course level in the honors math program.**

### **Health 8** (Alternate days with PE)

This class will focus on enabling students to become independent problem solvers. Students will understand the impact certain health decisions can have on their overall health. Health topics will encourage students to make educated daily decisions regarding their physical, mental, and social health.

Health topics include: Self-concept/self-esteem - Goal setting - Decision Making - Nutrition - Relationships - Skeletal and Muscular System - Drug and Alcohol Prevention - Communicable Diseases - Human Growth and Development

### **Physical Education 8** (Alternate days with Health)

Eighth grade students will participate in Physical Education classes every other day for the year. The course will include advanced team activities and interest development for lifetime fitness. Students are required to wear appropriate clothing (shorts, shirts, sweats, and tennis shoes).

**\*Leggings and tights are not acceptable PE attire.**

PE activities include: Soccer - Fitness Activities - Aerobics - Flag Football - Fitness Testing - Floor Hockey - Basketball - Frisbee Golf - Softball - Volleyball - Tennis - Dance.

## **GRADE 8 REQUIRED SEMESTER COURSES**

### **Family and Consumer Science 8**

Family and Consumer Science is a semester course designed to help students learn life skills that they need to be responsible, productive family and community members. FCS units have been developed to allow students to explore nutrition and food science, human science, careers, textiles, and consumerism. Since Family and Consumer Science covers much of what is fundamental to everyday living, the subject matter is engaging and useful to all students.

### **Engineering & Technology 8**

Engineering & Technology 8 is a semester class in which students will build their foundation for technological literacy. Students will learn about the fundamentals of Engineering & Technology using Design Briefs to creatively solve problems while following the Engineering Design Process. They will apply what they learn about the types of technology and engineering to technical drawings, 3D models, floor plans, and other areas of design. Students will also learn how to use Sketch Up and the safe and proper use of tools, materials, and design. Students will also be involved in large group lectures, discussions, and lab activities. As they work with a partner, students will develop their own solutions to creatively solve problems. An Engineering Notebook will be used to record class work, ideas, notes, and sketches.

**GRADE 8  
FULL YEAR ELECTIVE COURSES**

**Band 8**

This sequential yearlong band course meets every day and is open to all eighth graders meeting prerequisites. The main emphasis is on playing, with a continuation of performance fundamentals and music theory. Students have the opportunity to participate in jazz bands or other small ensembles. Students are given at least a four-week notice and are required to attend all performances.

**Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7th grade Band at WMS or previous school.**

**Chorus 8**

This sequential yearlong choir course meets every day and is open to all eighth graders meeting prerequisites. This course will develop and refine skills in part singing and note reading. Sight singing will be emphasized. The concept of choral sound will be developed. Students will be introduced to choral selections of representative choral styles. Students will present at least four public performances a year at which attendance is mandatory. (Any student planning to audition for show choir must be in a chorus class)

**Prerequisites: Successful completion of Music 7 at WMS or previous school.**

**Band/Chorus 8**

Students interested in participation in both Chorus 8 and Band 8 will be expected to fulfill the requirements of each course.

**Prerequisite: Permission of both Band and Choral directors.**

**Strings 8**

Students will continue to build the techniques required for orchestral performance and develop an appreciation of orchestra music. Each student will attend all performances, given four weeks notice.

**Prerequisites: Successful completion of a seventh grade Strings course or audition for Director.**

**Strings/Chorus 8**

This course is open to those uniquely talented in both vocal and instrumental music. Since the student will be absent from "Strings " rehearsals two days each week, it is essential he/she have **above average** skills. Students are given a four-week notice and are required to attend all performances

**Prerequisites: Permission of both Strings and Choral directors.**

## **Reading Skills (Teacher Recommendation)**

In this class, students will strengthen fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary skills. Reading strategies will be a major focus of classroom instruction. Students will be recommended for reading based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation. This class is designed for students who are reading below grade level. Frequent progress monitoring will determine whether students are enrolled in reading Skills for one semester or the entire year.

## **World Languages 8**

WMS World Language courses for 8<sup>th</sup> grade are full year courses, and students who successfully complete them (with a grade of C or higher) should be prepared for level 2 courses at WHS.

### **French 1**

In this course, students will learn vocabulary and structures to communicate in simple French language; they will practice listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills. They will be introduced to the culture and people of France and many French-speaking regions of the world and begin to develop an understanding of how those cultures relate to our own.

### **German 1**

In this course, students will learn vocabulary and structures to communicate in simple German language; they will practice listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills. They will be introduced to the culture and people of Germany and many German-speaking regions of the world and begin to develop an understanding of how those cultures relate to our own.

### **Spanish 1**

In this course, students will learn vocabulary and structures to communicate in simple Spanish language; they will practice listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills. They will be introduced to the culture and people of Spain and many Spanish-speaking regions of the world and begin to develop an understanding of how those cultures relate to our own.

## **GRADE 8 SEMESTER ELECTIVE COURSES**

### **8th Grade Current Events**

This course will expose students to an array of current event topics with an emphasis on national and international issues. Students will research, analyze, and evaluate current events topics, write arguments to develop positions on debatable issues, and engage in discussion and debate to support their arguments. Additionally, students will assess the role that media and bias play in the portrayal of current events.

## **All About Business and Entrepreneurship**

Do you want to be your own boss in an online business? Do you have the goal of owning a highly successful brick and mortar company? In this course, students learn the basics of planning and launching their own successful business. They will hear stories from entrepreneurs and business professionals who have turned their ideas into reality. Students will learn skills necessary to run their own business including: ethics, marketing, acquiring finance, managing, and the legal requirements of owning and operating a small business. Students will participate in a project utilizing online marketing and selling strategies. Investments and international business will also be covered.

## **Animal Kingdom**

Animal Kingdom is a course for students interested in Biology. The primary focus in this course is on the animal kingdom. Topics covered include animal characteristics, classification of animals, scientific naming, animal behavior, and basic animal anatomy in dissection labs. Students need to be prepared to study every night and be ready to dissect three animal specimens to help them learn about body systems and functions.

## **Art Plus**

Art Plus is a challenging art course, which will build off of the drawing and painting skills taught in 7th and 8th grade art. This course will be geared toward those students who anticipate taking more art classes at the high school level. Extensive project work will revolve around a self-portrait, which will require a great deal of dedication in and outside of class. **This is an advanced art class for the serious art student.**

## **Digital Media and Literacy**

In this course, students will identify the meaning of digital media and explore different types of digital media used in today's world of technology. Students will also learn digital literacy skills needed to help them be safe, respectful, and responsible digital citizens. Throughout the course, students will complete a variety of independent digital media projects. Course projects will include infographics, stop motion animation, computer programming, and website development. Upon completion of these projects, student will have had the opportunity to demonstrate 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills: Creativity and Innovation, Communication and Collaboration, Research and Information Fluency, Problem Solving, Digital Citizenship, and Technology Operations and Concepts.

## **Drama**

Drama is a single semester, basic acting and theater class. Students learn terminology, skills, and the fundamental concepts necessary for being involved in a theater production. At the end of the semester, students will showcase their work in a final performance in front of an audience. Drama 8 aligns national academic theater outcomes with district academic indicators for success, and prepares students for further theater training at Westside High School.

## **Mixed Media (Art)**

Students choosing this class will experience a variety of two and three dimensional art units. These might include: sculpture, printing, art history, and pottery. Students opting for this class should want to continue their interest in art. Students should also have had a successful experience in their 7<sup>th</sup> grade art class.

## **School Services**

Students can sign up to assist in ONE of the following areas: Administration (main) Office or Counseling Office for one semester. Character, responsibility, and leadership are some of the qualities considered in the selection process. Students will be asked to complete an application form along with a written paragraph stating why you would be a good school services worker. These forms will be available in the Counseling Office. If selected for this position, some expectations are the following:

- \*Maintain good academic standing
- \*Show appropriate school behavior
- \*Keep confidential information as a priority
- \*Keep a pleasant, cooperative, working attitude

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Required Courses:**

**Language Arts**  
**Math**  
**Science**  
**Family Consumer Science (Semester)**

**American History**  
**Physical Education/Health**  
**Engineering & Technology (Semester)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Special Education\*** - Resource (Only students on an IEP)

\*(This eliminates one full year Elective)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Assisted Learning\*** (Teacher Recommendation)

\*(This eliminates one full year Elective)

\_\_\_\_\_ **English Language Learner\*** (Permission only)

\*(This eliminates one full year Elective)

**Electives:** (Read Carefully)

Select one of the following three options: **(1)** Two full year electives, or **(2)** One full year and Two semester electives, or **(3)** Four semester electives.

**Full Year Electives**

\_\_\_\_\_ **French I**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **German I**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Spanish I**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Reading**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Chorus \*\***

\_\_\_\_\_ **Band** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Instrument Played)  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Strings**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Band/Chorus\*** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Instrument Played)  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Strings/Chorus\***

\*(Students in Band/Chorus or Strings/Chorus must get permission from Band/Strings/Chorus Teacher)

\*\* (Students who are in show choir must be in the music class)

**Semester Electives**

If you are taking semester electives, please number them in order 1 thru 6 with 1 being your top choice.

\_\_\_\_\_ **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Current Events**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **All About Business**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Animal Kingdom**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Art+** (Permission Required)  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Digital Media & Literacy**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Drama**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Mixed Media**

**Student Services** (Select One)  
(Recommendation Required)  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Guidance Office**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Main Office**