

# **Mapleton Middle School**

**Course Selection Guide  
2023-2024**

# INTRODUCTION

The 2023-2024 Mapleton Middle School Course Selection Guide outlines the possible courses available to our students as well as the policies and procedures followed in our middle school in regards to academics. Information is also provided to assist students and their parents with future planning. We hope you find this document helpful as you consider your student's scheduling options. Please contact the school counselor, administrators, or teachers at any time throughout the registration process for assistance.

## COURSE OFFERINGS 2023-2024

### GRADE 6 Core/Rotation COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the following required courses:

- English Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Science
- Math
- WIN (All Year)
- Physical Education (9 weeks)
- Art (9 weeks)
- General Music (9 weeks)
- MS Health (9 weeks)

#### **WIN (What I Need)**

This is a structured intervention/extension period. Students will be placed in a specific area of need based on teacher review of study skills and organizational techniques, complete classroom projects, IXL progress, Rewards literacy need, and participate in career exploration and enrichment activities. Students will also be able to utilize the time to seek assistance from the teachers, ask questions, and complete make-up work or assignments.

### GRADE 7 Core/Rotation COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

All 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the following required courses:

- English Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Science
- Math
- Physical Education 7 (9 weeks)
- Art 7 (9 weeks)

- Manufacturing Operations 7 (9 weeks)
- MS Health (9 weeks)

### **WIN (What I Need)**

This is a structured intervention/extension period. Students will be placed in a specific area of need based on teacher review of study skills and organizational techniques, complete classroom projects, IXL progress, Rewards literacy need, and participate in career exploration and enrichment activities. Students will also be able to utilize the time to seek assistance from the teachers, ask questions, and complete make-up work or assignments.

## **GRADE 8 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the following required courses:

- English Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Science
- Math
- WIN
- Physical Education 8 (9 weeks)
- Art 8 (9 weeks)
- Coding 8 (9 weeks)
- MS Health 8 (9 weeks)

**Middle School Electives – Student will have the opportunity to select from the following electives (some are grade level specific) to fill out their scheduled day.**

### **6-7<sup>th</sup> GRADE BAND (8<sup>th</sup> Grade HS Band)**

Course Length: All Year

Band is a course that allows students to excel in instrumental music. Students will participate in instrumental performances throughout the year.

### **INDEPENDENT NOVEL STUDY**

Course Length: Semester

Love to read? Wish you could spend more time in school reading the books YOU want? If you want more time with a book, this class is for you. You will be given the chance to choose your own books to read throughout the 9-weeks while completing independent novel projects with the goal being to enhance your love of reading!

### **MYSTERY & SUSPENSE**

Course Length: Semester

Grade: 7, 8

What makes a reader hang on to the edge of their seat? How do writers and directors build suspense? What are the literary components of the mystery genre, and what do mysteries tell us about our culture? In this course, students will study elements of mystery and suspense through literature and a variety of other sources. Students will examine the story elements and vocabulary that are characteristics of the mystery genre.

### **PUBLIC SPEAKING (SPEECH)**

Course Length: Semester

Grade: 6

This course introduces students to the basic elements of good public speaking and is designed to instill a sense of confidence as they communicate orally with others. Students are introduced to public speaking as an important component of their academic, work, and social lives. In this class we will study speeches in order to develop skills as fair and critical listeners. Students will study types of speeches, read and listen to models of great speeches, and present their own variety of speeches.

### **MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS**

Course Length: 9

Grade: 7

This course is part of Ohio's Engineering and Manufacturing Pathways curriculum and is designed to introduce middle school students to the world of manufacturing. Why manufacturing? Consider this: manufacturing is responsible for almost 17% of Ohio's Gross Domestic Product and our state ranks among the top five in the country in manufacturing. There is a growing movement in Ohio and across the nation to educate students about careers at a young age so they can begin preparing early for successful futures.

In this 10-week course students will learn about the tools, materials and processes used in manufacturing. They begin by studying the three production methods traditionally used in industry; following that they practice their linear measuring skills (reading a ruler) and learn about drafting and design. Finally, they produce two projects using methods similar those used in the real manufacturing world, including modern-day computer numerical control (CNC). Due to the course's short duration, projects are small and power machinery use is limited.

Coursework consists of a balance of conventional classroom work (including lessons and tests) and hands-on project work. Students are expected to approach all work enthusiastically and safely, and be able to interact positively with peers in a group setting. A lab fee covers the cost of safety glasses and supplies for the required projects.

### **6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE CHOIR**

Course Length: All Year

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Choir is a course that allows students to excel in vocal music. Students will participate in instrumental performances throughout the year.

## **UTOPIA/DYSTOPIA NOVEL STUDY & CREATIVE WRITING**

Course Length: Semester

Grade: 6

What does that even mean?! Students will discuss what these terms mean and what elements make a society “work.” We will read a novel, short stories, and articles that feature utopian and dystopian societies, and make connections to current events. The course will culminate with the creation of their own utopian society. Students will also participate in engaging writing activities to explore the six traits of writing.

## **MYTHOLOGY**

Course Length: Semester

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Mighty heroes. Angry gods and goddesses. Cunning animals. Learn how the ancient Greeks and Romans believed the Gods of Mount Olympus shaped the world of men. The Class will cover the following: the birth of the world, how the world works, the epic Trojan War, Heracles, Achilles, Odysseus, Romulus and Remus, and the mythology still around us today.

## **SPORTS ANALYTICS**

Course Length: Semester

Grade: 7, 8

Students will gain a better understanding of the world of sports by looking at measurable statistics and data. Michael Jordan or LeBron James? Who should really be playing quarterback for the Browns? Students will learn to answer questions like these by making use of statistics and mathematical analysis.

## **AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS**

Course Length: Semester

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms. (STEAM)

## **CHARACTER MATTERS**

Course Length: Semester

Grade: 7, 8

Character Matters is a course that builds on an established foundation of strengths to develop social and emotional competencies in students. Teamed with coming of age novels, the Thriving Learning Communities curriculum asks students to develop self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship skills.

## **AGRICULTURE, FOOD & NATURAL RESOURCES (AFNR)**

Course Length: All Year

Grade: 8 (HS Credit)

This is the first course in the Agricultural and Environmental Systems career-technical pathway. Students will be introduced to the scope of the Agricultural and Environmental Systems career field. They will examine principles of food science, natural resource management, animal science & management, plant & horticultural science, power technology and bioscience. Students will examine the FFA organization and Supervised Agricultural Experience programs. Throughout the course, students will develop communication, leadership and business skills essential to the agriculture industry. *NOTE: Students will earn 1.25 high school credits upon successful completion of the course.*

### **CURRENT/CONTEMPORARY ISSUES**

Course Length: 9 weeks

Grade: 8

The goal of this class is to give students the opportunity to understand and explore local, national, international, social and political issues in a meaningful and active way. During the nine weeks, students will stay up to date on current issues and trends. Because the subject of this class is “contemporary,” topics will be added and subtracted depending on current news.

### **CONSPIRACY THEORIES**

Course Length: Semester

Grade: 7, 8

This class will allow students to explore US conspiracy theories in an informed, critical, and engaging manner. Activities include background research for and against conspiracy theories, critical website analyses, and student presentations.

### **CREATIVE WRITING**

Course Length: Semester

Grade: 6

If you have a strong imagination and you like to write for pleasure, you'll LOVE this course! Participate in writer's workshops that challenge you to think outside of the box and exercise your creativity. Take part in a variety of activities and experiences that will enhance your writing skills. You may even get the opportunity to travel to compete in Power of the Pen, Ohio's creative writing competition for middle school students!

### **YEARBOOK**

Course Length: All Year

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Learn about all different aspects of journalism, and put your skills to practice by publishing the Mapleton Middle School Yearbook! You'll have the opportunity to write feature articles, reviews, sports articles, and editorials. You'll get to try your hand at taking photos, editing, designing, and more. Expect a very hands-on experience as you create an awesome publication for your peers!

### **MEDICAL DETECTIVES**

Course Length: Semester

Grade: 7, 8

In this course, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene.” They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.

### **AG-XPLORE**

Course Length: Semester

Grade: 7

AgXplore introduces students to the plants, resources, energy, and animals we use and consume due to agricultural technologies. Every lesson includes unique and engaging hands-on activities and projects encouraging student exploration of the agricultural value chain from industry to consumer. In addition, the class includes leadership training, laboratories, games and exciting lessons. Projects throughout the course prepare students for selecting Exploratory SAE projects they can implement after completing the course in future agricultural coursework.

### **REWARDS**

Course Length: Semester

Grade: 6, 7, 8

The REWARDS course focuses on strengthening literacy skills so that students can become more skilled readers. The course helps to develop fluency rate, which allows students to read more quickly and with better accuracy. The program also focuses on helping students learn prefixes and suffixes to increase their word reading and understanding of multisyllabic words. Lastly, this course embeds texts that focuses on Science and Social Studies which builds students’ academic vocabulary knowledge over a variety of topics.

### **SOIL DESIGN / YETI CONSTRUCTION**

Course Length: Semester

Grade: 6, 7

In this hands-on science elective class, students are given the opportunity to explore a real-world task by answering the following question: How can we create a topsoil design that will most successfully grow plants? Students will work in teams of three to design a successful topsoil. The goal is to find the best ingredients and recipe to grow the best plants (most fastest growing and healthy specimens) and record the best measurements from a soil analyzer. Students are also given the opportunity to explore a real-world task by answering the following question: How can we redesign the Yeti drink tumbler so that it does not include metal, vacuum technology, and Styrofoam as an insulator? Students will be working in a team of three to design the Yeti tumbler. The goal is to keep ice from melting for 1 hour in the redesigned tumbler. Students will use a combination of alternative insulators and various tumbler-building supplies. We will examine designs for elements of successful heat preservation drink tumblers. Ultimately, we will find the design that works the best, putting the best designs from the class into a competition against one another.

## **INTRO TO SPANISH CULTURE**

Course Length: Semester

Grade: 8

Intro to Spanish teaches students how to greet people, describe family and friends, talk about hobbies, and communicate on other topics such as home life, school, food and clothing. This course will introduce students to the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, in a cultural context. Students will also become familiar with Ohio proficiency standards for language learners. Intro to Spanish is a middle school elective credit designed to give students a preview of concepts they will learn in Spanish 1. It is not Spanish 1 and does not count as a high school credit. Students considering taking this course should have strong English

## **HOLOCAUST**

Course Length: Semester

Grade: 7,8

Learn about the period of time from 1933–1945 when there was the systematic, state-sponsored persecution of six million European Jews by the Nazi German regime. The Holocaust era began in January 1933 when Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party came to power in Germany. It ended in May 1945, when the Allied Powers defeated Nazi Germany in World War II. The Holocaust is also sometimes referred to as “the Shoah,” the Hebrew word for “catastrophe.”

## **Ancient Civilizations Through MINDCRAFT**

Course Length: Semester

Grade: 6,

Study the lifestyles, cultures and architecture of different ancient civilizations, and build these worlds in Minecraft. Using Minecraft students will complete assessments to demonstrate their knowledge that they’ve learned.

## **ENERGY & THE ENVIRONMENT**

Course Length: Semester

Grade: 6, 7, 8

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) courses at the middle school will engage students in activities that not only build knowledge and skills in areas including computer science, engineering, and biomedical science, but also empower students to develop essential skills such as problem solving, critical and creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and perseverance.

In this course, students are challenged to think big and toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption.



**GREEN ARCHITECTURE**

Course Length: Semester

Grade: 6, 7, 8

In this follow up course to Energy and the Environment (7<sup>th</sup> grade), students use sustainable architecture principles and computer modeling skills to plan residential spaces, modeling the interior and exterior features in Autodesk Revit® and using physical modeling materials. Projects include building a scale model of a properly insulated shed and designing an affordable housing unit meeting the customer's budget and design limits.