

Drexler Middle School

2023 - 2024

Curriculum Guide

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It is the policy of the Western Dubuque County Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the district's Equity Coordinator, Dan Butler, Superintendent, 310 4th Street SW, Farley, Iowa 52046, email at dan.butler@wdbqschools.org.

Drexler Middle School

Middle school students are at the most exciting stage of their life. Making the transition from elementary school and preparing for high school is a crucial part of your child's development. We encourage our students to get involved and try new things. Take advantage of the opportunities to try new and exciting courses and activities that Drexler Middle School has to offer. This is also a time to build and create new relationships as we merge our different communities into one caring environment. This is also a time to safely try new things as you develop into the person you will become.

We offer a wide range of courses designed to meet the needs of our students. Our staff is committed to providing you with quality of programming and the flexibility and support you need to be successful. Learn to advocate for yourself. Ask for what you need and communicate with your principals, counselor and teachers. We are all here to help you! Please do not hesitate to contact one of us. We want your time here to be meaningful and worthwhile. On behalf of all of us at Western Dubuque Community School District good luck to you as you register for another year of courses!

Success for All

Mr. Scott Firzlaff
DMS Principal

Better Every Day

Mr. Cole Pederson
DMS Assistant Principal

Registration and Scheduling Rules and Regulations

The registration process is an important part of the educational process. Once students have registered for classes for the upcoming year, many decisions are made. We hire teachers, develop curriculum, and purchase instructional resources. To make the best use of these resources once they are secured, we have developed these Rules and Regulations.

1. Students sign up for courses. School personnel schedule students into these courses in such a way as to maintain as balanced of sections as possible. *Students will not be granted a schedule change in order to be with friends, to change teachers, or to change periods of the day.*
2. Any and all proposed schedule changes need to be approved by the Administrative team and must be complete within 5 days of the beginning of the trimester.
3. Middle school registration will begin and priority of electives will be given to our incoming 8th grade students and follow with incoming 7th and 6th graders.

Art

SUBJECT: Art 6**LENGTH: ONE TERM****GRADES: 6**

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Art 6 is an introduction to the foundations of art. In Art 6, students are introduced to a wide variety of skills, mediums, and processes working two-dimensionally and three-dimensionally. Throughout the course, the students will be exposed to drawing techniques in which they will learn to see accurately and directly, breaking away from relying only on their visual memory. Students will focus on developing their drawing, sculpting, and creativity skills.

SUBJECT: Art 7**LENGTH: ONE TERM****GRADES: 7**

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Art 7 builds upon the skills learned and practiced in Art 6. This class is designed to help improve students' basic art skills; drawing, painting and sculpting, and design artwork using a variety of media and techniques. Students will develop creativity and self-expression, and recognize and use the elements of art.

SUBJECT: Art 8**LENGTH: ONE TERM****GRADES: 8**

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Art 8 builds upon the skills learned and practiced in Art 7. Students will continue to improve their art skills; drawing, painting and sculpting, and design artwork using a variety of media and techniques. This class is designed to teach students to become critical thinkers and visual problem solvers. In Art 8, students will be made aware of the creative process, which includes brainstorming, problem solving, and analyzing and evaluating art. Design problems are solved using visual art structures and functions, while leaving room for a student's own personal ideas and artistic style.

SUBJECT: Art 3D**LENGTH: Trimester 1****GRADES:6-7-8**

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will be an exploration of new materials and techniques with a focus of sculptural three-dimensional forms. Some of the materials used may include clay, wood, metal, cloth, paper mache, and plaster. This course will focus on the imaginative use of new materials in a three-dimensional manner.

SUBJECT: Art Digital**LENGTH: Trimester 2****GRADES:6-7-8**

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an introduction in exploring a variety of creative digital art activities. The art that students create will be two-dimensional and entirely created on the computer or with a camera. These may include the creation of photographs, videos, animations, graphic designs, illustrations, and digital paintings. Emphasis will be placed on using digital tools to create artwork in a new and exciting way.

SUBJECT: Art Mixed-Media**LENGTH: Trimester 3****GRADES:6-7-8**

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will give students an overview of fiber work using natural and man-made materials. Areas of weaving, beadwork, sewing, printmaking, and the use of other materials will be explored. Many of the techniques can be applicable to wearable art and 3-D forms. Emphasis will be placed on creative design concepts, craftsmanship, and skillful and imaginative use of materials.

MUSIC

SUBJECT: Music 6 COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a required course for 6 th grade students. Students will learn about the fundamentals of music including the basics of various instruments and styles of music. This class will also include the study of singing and vocal music. Students will also participate in performances outside of the school day as a culmination event of material learned. Students do not need to take this course if they will be taking band or choir but may take all three.	LENGTH: ONE TERM	GRADES: 6
SUBJECT: Choir 6 COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a traditional boys/girls' choir that meets every other day. The focus of this class will be on vocal music and the participation in concerts is required and part of the grade.	LENGTH: OFFERED EACH TERM	GRADES: 6
SUBJECT: Choir 7/8 PRE-REQUISITES: Music 6 and/or Choir 6 COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a traditional boys/girls' choir that meets every other day. The focus of this class will be on vocal music and the participation in concerts is required and part of the grade.	LENGTH: OFFERED EACH TERM	GRADES: 7-8
SUBJECT: Select Choir PRE-REQUISITES: Audition and Acceptance into Class COURSE DESCRIPTION: This group is an advanced version of our 7/8 choir. Students must audition for this class and it is designed to continue/enhance the learning of our entry-level 7/8 choir for those students interested in pursuing more challenging music and singing techniques. Students who audition but are not immediately accepted into this course will be placed in 7/8 choir and will be able to audition to join this class in the future. Participation in concerts is required and part of the grade.	LENGTH: OFFERED EACH TERM	GRADES: 7-8
SUBJECT: Musical 7/8 COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a class designed for students who wish to sing and act out a story as well as learn about the backstage work of putting on a musical. Students will perform at the end of the trimester.	LENGTH: OFFERED TRIMESTER 3	GRADES: 7-8
SUBJECT: Exploring Instruments COURSE DESCRIPTION: Class designed for students who wish to learn about and play the guitar, keyboard, and drums. Students will learn to read music of each style and perform each instrument.	LENGTH: OFFERED EACH TERM	GRADES: 7-8
SUBJECT: Music Appreciation COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a study of music from all areas of the world. We discuss music as a part of each country's culture, as well as the musical elements of composition and the instruments and techniques used. We will play some instruments in class but listening and describing music will be the focus.	LENGTH: OFFERED TRIMESTER 2	GRADES: 7-8
SUBJECT: Composition COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will allow students to explore music literacy/reading as well as playing instruments and writing music for those instruments. We will also study the historical and cultural/societal aspects of music and composition.	LENGTH: OFFERED TRIMESTER 3	GRADES: 7-8
SUBJECT: Band 6	LENGTH: THREE TERMS	GRADES: 6

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed for the student who has an interest in studying instruments only. Students will continue to learn fundamentals of reading music and playing instruments individually and as an ensemble. The focus of this class will be on instrumental music and the participation in concerts is required and part of the grade.

SUBJECT: Band 7

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 7

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed for the student who has an interest in studying instruments only. Students will continue to learn fundamentals of reading music and playing instruments individually and as an ensemble. The focus of this class will be on instrumental music and the participation in concerts is required and part of the grade.

SUBJECT: Band 8

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed for the student who has an interest in studying instruments only. Students will continue to learn fundamentals of reading music and playing instruments individually and as an ensemble. The focus of this class will be on instrumental music and the participation in concerts is required and part of the grade.

SUBJECT: Jazz Band

LENGTH: Trimester 3

GRADES: 7-8

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This class will prepare students to perform as a part of the Drexler Jazz Band. No prior experience in jazz is necessary but band experience on a jazz instrument or approval by band teacher is required. This class will serve as an introduction to the rich history of jazz music. Through ensemble rehearsal, individual practice, and a variety of performance opportunities, the student will gain an understanding and appreciation for this art form. Emphasis will be placed on rudimentary improvisational skills, a sense of personal accountability, and musicianship as well as performance techniques. Members will study and perform different forms of music including jazz, funk, and blues. Each student is expected to show musical and technical growth through participation in this ensemble. Public and outside of school day performances are a requirement of the course

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

COURSE: Woods I

LENGTH: ONE TERM

GRADES: 6

DESCRIPTION: This is an introductory course that will explore the basics in carpentry and working with wood material. A majority of this class will be hands-on, allowing students to complete projects. This class will also emphasize safety and career exploration. This course will be **required for all 6th graders**. Safety glasses and a tape measure are required for each student.

COURSE: Woods II

LENGTH: ONE TERM

GRADES: 7

DESCRIPTION: This is a continuation course that will explore additional machinery and tooling in carpentry. A majority of this class will be hands-on, allowing students to complete projects. This class will also emphasize safety and career exploration. This course will be **required for all 7th graders**. Safety glasses and a tape measure are required for each student.

COURSE: Woods III

LENGTH: ONE TERM

GRADES: 8

DESCRIPTION: This is a continuation course that will explore additional machinery and tooling in carpentry. A majority of this class will be hands-on, allowing students to complete projects. This class will also emphasize safety and career exploration. This course will be **required for all 8th graders**. Safety glasses and a tape measure are required for each student.

COURSE: Manufacturing

LENGTH: ONE TERM

GRADES: 8

DESCRIPTION: This course will allow students to use what they have learned in woods 6-8 to create, produce, and distribute a product. Students will work together as a class to create a product, manufacture this product, market, sell, and distribute this product. Students will learn about the manufacturing process and how to create, sustain, and run a business.

COMPUTERS

COURSE: Keyboarding

LENGTH: ONE TERM

GRADES: 6-7-8

DESCRIPTION: Students will have the opportunity to practice touch-type on the computer to develop correct techniques, speed, and accuracy. Students will work on typing drills and timed writings to improve their typing abilities. Emphasis of the class is place on letters, numbers, keypad, and basic word processing applications.

COURSE: Computers 6

LENGTH: ONE TERM

GRADES: 6

DESCRIPTION: Students in this class will be exposed to a variety of computer skills. We start with Microsoft Office (Word & PowerPoint), developing a foundation of proficiency. In this class students will also be involved in digital citizenship and digital etiquette units to discuss proper ways to use technology, along with certain aspects of technology we want to avoid. This course finishes with a coding unit to develop problem-solving skills.

COURSE: Computers 7

LENGTH: ONE TERM

GRADES: 7

DESCRIPTION: An interactive course that focuses on the three areas of Office 365, Microsoft PowerPoint and Microsoft Word. Also within this curriculum is Coding basics and Digital Citizenship.

COURSE: STEM 8

LENGTH: ONE TERM

GRADES: 8

DESCRIPTION: A hands-on project-based course. Time is spent throughout the trimester learning measurement and three-dimensional drawing which are used to create compressed air cars and three-dimensional printed keychains.

COURSE: STEM II

LENGTH: ONE TERM

GRADES: 8

DESCRIPTION: A hands on project-based course. Time is spent throughout the trimester designing and building magnetic levitation vehicles and programming and building robotic devices using VEX Robotics.

HEALTH/PE

COURSE: Health 6

LENGTH: ONE TERM

GRADES: 6

DESCRIPTION: Health education provides students with knowledge, attitudes, and skills to make health-promoting decisions. Each class will have projects and activities to enhance critical thinking skills, improve collaborative participation, develop communication skills, and build self-confidence through writing and discussions about health. Topics that will be covered in 6th grade health are physical, mental, emotional, and social health; character and relationships; growth and development; and personal health and safety.

COURSE: Health 7

LENGTH: ONE TERM

GRADES: 7

DESCRIPTION: Health education provides students with knowledge, attitudes, and skills to make health-promoting decisions. Each class will have projects and activities to enhance critical thinking skills, improve collaborative participation, develop communication skills, and build self-confidence through writing and discussions about health. Topics that will be covered in 7th grade health are physical, mental, emotional, and social health; decision making and goals; relationships and conflict resolution; mental and emotional disorders; and nutrition.

COURSE: Health 8

LENGTH: ONE TERM

GRADES: 8

DESCRIPTION: Health education provides students with knowledge, attitudes, and skills to make health-promoting decisions. Each class will have projects and activities to enhance critical thinking skills, improve collaborative participation, develop communication skills, and build self-confidence through writing and discussions about health. Topics that will be covered in 8th grade health are physical, mental, emotional, and social health; alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; body systems; and communicable and noncommunicable diseases.

COURSE: Phys Ed 6

LENGTH: ONE TERM

GRADES: 6

DESCRIPTION: Students are taught the necessary skills to be successful in a variety of sport and recreational games such as: football, track and field, bowling, archery, volleyball, floor hockey, basketball, and so many more. Along with sport and recreational games, students also have the opportunity to participate in a fitness unit that incorporates muscular strength and endurance exercises in hopes of students finding an exercise(s) they enjoy and will be able to do for the rest of their lives'.

COURSE: Phys Ed 7-8

LENGTH: ONE TERM

GRADES: 7-8

DESCRIPTION: Students are taught the necessary skills to be successful in a variety of sport and recreational games such as: football, track and field, bowling, archery, volleyball, floor hockey, basketball, and so many more. Along with sport and recreational games, students also have the opportunity to participate in a fitness unit that incorporates muscular strength and endurance exercises in hopes of students finding an exercise(s) they enjoy and will be able to do for the rest of their lives'.

COURSE: Strength & Conditioning 7th Grade

LENGTH: TERM 3

GRADES: 7

DESCRIPTION: 7th grade students that are planning on participating in high school athletics are strongly recommended to participate in strength and conditioning. In this course, students will be taught foundational movements that student-athletes regularly complete at the high school at a very basic level. Students will learn proper form and technique for many strength exercises such as: squat variations, clean variations, and snatch variations.

COURSE: Strength & Conditioning 8th Grade

LENGTH: TERM 3

GRADES: 8

DESCRIPTION: This course builds on skills and techniques learned in the first year (7th grade). 8th grade students that are planning on participating in high school athletics are strongly recommended to participate in strength and conditioning. In this course, students will be taught foundational movements that student-athletes regularly complete at the high school at a very basic level. Students will learn proper form and technique for many strength exercises such as: squat variations, clean variations, and snatch variations.

Other Courses Offered

COURSE: Book Club

LENGTH: OFFERED EACH TERM

GRADES: 7-8

DESCRIPTION: Individualized Reading is a class designed for those students who would like an opportunity to talk and write about what they are reading. This class will combine all of the elements of language arts: reading, writing, vocabulary development, and presentation skills. Students will self-select their reading materials and keep track of the number of pages completed. A writing element offers students the chance to reflect on books they have completed. This class will be based on pass/fail.

COURSE: Yearbook

LENGTH: OFFERED EACH TERM

GRADES: 8

DESCRIPTION: Yearbook is a class designed for students who would like an opportunity to learn about graphic design as it relates to the school yearbook publication. Students in trimester 1 and 2 will work on designing the yearbook cover, choosing layouts, color schemes, photo layouts, captions, and overall process of putting a yearbook together. Third trimester students will edit the yearbook, distribute the yearbook, and work on the end of the year video for 8th grade.

COURSE: Journalism

LENGTH: OFFERED EACH TERM

GRADES: 7-8

DESCRIPTION: Journalism is a class designed for students who would like an opportunity to engage in multi-media as a form of written and digital communication. Students will also work on written articles to be submitted to local newspapers and other school publications. Students will also have the opportunity to develop our school social media communication. This class may require after school commitments such as taking pictures or conducting interviews during/after school events. The main focus of this class is writing to inform.

COURSE: Independent Learning

LENGTH: OFFERED EACH TERM

GRADES: 7-8

DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to offer students the ability to select their own topic of study and design their own learning project. Students will work with the instructor to outline the direction of their learning. Students will share their project and learning as a culminating assessment with an authentic audience. Students will work on questioning skills, research, and ultimately learn about something they are passionate about.

COURSE: Leadership

LENGTH: OFFERED EACH TERM

GRADES: 7-8

DESCRIPTION: This course will focus on leadership skills that are important in the classroom, at school, and in your community. Students will also serve as a liaison for their peers to improve the culture and climate of Drexler. An application must be filled out and returned to counseling office to be considered for this class. Students will be selected based on their application.

COURSE: Service-Learning

LENGTH: OFFERED EACH TERM

GRADES: 7-8

DESCRIPTION: This course will focus on providing opportunities for students to serve our school and our community. Students will participate in service projects that teach them the importance of helping others and giving back to our school and community. An application must be filled out and returned to counseling office to be considered for this class. Students will be selected based on their application.

COURSE: Mock Trial Competition

LENGTH: OFFERED EACH TERM

GRADES: 7-8

DESCRIPTION: This course will have students playing the roles of attorneys and witnesses for either the plaintiff or prosecution and defense, engage in trial of a fictional civil or criminal case. The main focus of this class will be reading a court case and preparing to defend or prosecute through a mock trial competition. Students will read and write daily as they prepare for their mock trial competition. Students chosen to be in trimester 1 of this class will compete at the regional level with the possibility of qualifying for the state competition. This competition will take place in November and will be limited to 20 students (10 students per team). This class may require after school commitments for additional competition practice. Students in trimester 2 and 3 will compete within our school.

MATH

COURSE: Math 6**LENGTH: THREE TERMS****GRADES: 6**

DESCRIPTION: Students will learn math content such as data displays and number systems, operations with fractions and decimals, ratios and proportions, introductory algebraic concepts such as expressions and equations, and geometry concepts such as area and volume. The 6th grade math curriculum focuses heavily on introducing algebraic concepts throughout the year. For many students, this is the first time working with algebraic concepts.

COURSE: Adv Math 6**LENGTH: THREE TERMS****GRADES: 6**

DESCRIPTION: This course is the 6th Grade Math curriculum for trimesters 1 and 2 and then the first half of the 7th grade curriculum in trimester 3. To make this possible the pacing of this course is set to complete half of a textbook each trimester. Students taking this course should expect nightly homework and expect to be challenged.

COURSE: ALT Math I**LENGTH: THREE TERMS****GRADES: 6-7-8**

DESCRIPTION: Students placed in Alternative math will engage in a curriculum from Transmath. Transmath is a comprehensive mathematics intervention that provides key foundational skill-building and problem-solving experiences through multisensory strategies. Transmath simultaneously teaches foundational computation skills while providing the rich, grade-level problem-solving experiences necessary for improving.

COURSE: Math 7**LENGTH: THREE TERMS****GRADES: 7**

DESCRIPTION: This course emphasizes ratios and proportions, percent's, integers, and fractions. This course provides basic introductory knowledge of simplifying algebraic expressions, solving basic algebra expressions, slope and geometry. Word problems are taught throughout the course along with basic problem-solving skills. This course requires a calculator with a fraction button.

COURSE: Adv Math 7**LENGTH: THREE TERMS****GRADES: 7**

DESCRIPTION: This course covers the second half of the 7th grade curriculum during trimester 1 and the 8th Grade Algebra Concepts curriculum in semesters 2 and 3. See description below. By taking this class, they would be ready for high school algebra in the 8th grade. Students should expect the pacing of this class to move quickly and receive nightly homework.

COURSE: ALT Math II**LENGTH: THREE TERMS****GRADES: 6-7-8**

DESCRIPTION: Students placed in Alternative math will engage in a curriculum from Transmath. Transmath is a comprehensive mathematics intervention that provides key foundational skill-building and problem-solving experiences through multisensory strategies. Transmath simultaneously teaches foundational computation skills while providing the rich, grade-level problem-solving experiences necessary for improving.

COURSE: Math 8**LENGTH: THREE TERMS****GRADES: 8**

DESCRIPTION: The goal of 8th grade math (pre-algebra) class is to prepare and provide students with basic skills in order to succeed in a high school level algebra class. Basic facts taught include fractions/decimals, monomials, solving equations, solving/graphing linear equations, and functions. This course also introduces basic geometry skills such as angle relationships, transformations, area/perimeter, and surface area/volume.

COURSE: Algebra**LENGTH: THREE TERMS****GRADES: 8**

DESCRIPTION: This course is an advanced math class for 8th grade students. Students who receive a grade of 80% or higher in trimesters 2 and 3 of this course, will receive high school credit and this grade will be part of their high school GPA.

The course emphasizes linear equations, linear inequalities, and operations with polynomials, linear systems, quadratic equations, and irrational numbers. Word problems are taught throughout the course. The student is expected to put forth consistent, daily effort and steadily improve his/her study skills. (TI83 Plus or TI84 will be required for Algebra 2)

COURSE: ALT Math III

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 6-7-8

DESCRIPTION: Students placed in Alternative math will engage in a curriculum from Transmath. Transmath is a comprehensive mathematics intervention that provides key foundational skill-building and problem-solving experiences through multisensory strategies. Transmath simultaneously teaches foundational computation skills while providing the rich, grade-level problem-solving experiences necessary for improving.

SCIENCE

COURSE: Science 6**LENGTH: THREE TERMS****GRADES: 6**

DESCRIPTION: The 6th Grade Science curriculum covers a wide assortment of topics throughout the entire school year. Students begin the year reviewing outer space, while focusing heavily on rockets and the engineering and design process. Students then switch to the Chemical Interactions Unit and focus on identifying an assortment of chemical and physical changes/reactions while completing hands-on laboratory experiences. Students will transition into the Diversity of Life Unit and focus primarily on the different cell types and functions of the parts of the cell. The final unit that students experience is the Earth's History Unit. During this time, students will focus on the rock & soil formation process.

COURSE: Science 7**LENGTH: THREE TERMS****GRADES: 7**

DESCRIPTION: 7th Grade Science begins with an introduction to force that includes testing of magnetism and electrical circuits. We then move to Planetary Science where we look at Earth as part of a larger system but is made up of smaller subsystems, and we investigate reasons for day, night, and seasons. Looking beyond Earth, we explore phases of the moon, craters on the moon & speculate about similar impacts on Earth. Continuing to move outward we identify and classify objects in outer space and discuss the composition and physical differences of planets. We wrap up this section by examining scientific techniques used to search for other planetary systems. The last trimester is spent learning about Ecosystems. We look at population dynamics and the interactions of biotic and abiotic factors within ecosystems, then focus on photosynthesis and transfer of energy through the feeding relationships within an ecosystem. We wrap up by evaluating possible solutions to minimize human involvements and impact on natural ecosystems.

COURSE: Science 8**LENGTH: THREE TERMS****GRADES: 8**

DESCRIPTION: In the 8th grade science curriculum, each trimester is committed to one of the three main branches of science: physical, life, and earth science. The physical science trimester is focused on speed, acceleration, and the force of gravity. Also included in this semester is the properties and behavior of the different types of waves. Life science's trimester discusses the history of life on Earth, how traits are inherited from parents, and the process of evolution. Students will use Punnett Squares to determine the probability of traits in offspring and analyze how mutations can lead to useful adaptations. The final trimester is focused on the earth sciences and specifically how the properties of water affect our weather and atmosphere. Using their understanding of convection, radiation, and conduction, students design solar ovens to bake a chocolate chip cookie. Students also gather a complete understanding of what the water cycle looks like.

COURSE: ALT Science (I/II/III)**LENGTH: THREE TERMS****GRADES: 6-7-8**

DESCRIPTION: An individualized, modified program for students significantly behind their peers in reading and math skills. Students may be involved in independent or small group lessons. Individual student need is determined through formal and informal teacher assessment and IEP goals. Students will have access to grade level science standards (6-8 rotation) in a modified plan/curriculum.

READING/WRITING

COURSE: Language Arts 6

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 6

DESCRIPTION: In this course students work towards meeting 6th grade standards in reading fiction and non-fiction, language/grammar, writing, and speaking/listening. Students will engage in whole group lessons, small group guided reading/writing with the teacher, and independent reading and writing at the students' level. Students will also produce three formal writing pieces throughout the year.

COURSE: Language Arts 7

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 7

DESCRIPTION: In this course students work towards meeting 7th grade standards in reading fiction and non-fiction, language/grammar, writing, and speaking/listening. Students will engage in whole group lessons, small group guided reading/writing with the teacher, and independent reading and writing at the students' level. Students will also produce three formal writing pieces throughout the year.

COURSE: Language Arts 8

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 8

DESCRIPTION: In this course students work towards meeting 8th grade standards in reading fiction and non-fiction, language/grammar, writing, and speaking/listening. Students will engage in whole group lessons, small group guided reading/writing with the teacher, and independent reading and writing at the students' level. Students will also produce three formal writing pieces throughout the year.

COURSE: Alt Reading I

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 6-7-8

DESCRIPTION: Student placed in Alternative reading will engage in a modified curriculum focused on guided reading at their instructional level with a focus on comprehension strategies and word work.

COURSE: Alt Reading II

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 6-7-8

DESCRIPTION: Student placed in Alternative reading will engage in a modified curriculum focused on guided reading at their instructional level with a focus on comprehension strategies and word work.

COURSE: Alt Reading III

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 6-7-8

DESCRIPTION: Students will be provided with an alternative curriculum in the area of reading. Alternative reading is a three-term course that focuses on developing and strengthening reading skills necessary for high school. Students will deepen their understanding of the elements through fiction and nonfiction texts. Students will also focus on listening, speaking, and writing through the analysis of literature.

COURSE: Alt Writing I

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 6-7-8

DESCRIPTION: Student placed in Alternative writing will participate in a writer's workshop type of environment while continuing to practice grammar, word work, organization, and idea formation. Students will have the exposure to opinion, narrative, and informative writing at a level that meets their needs.

COURSE: Alt Writing II

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 6-7-8

DESCRIPTION: Student placed in Alternative writing will engage in a modified curriculum focused on foundational writing skills and formation of ideas necessary to draft formal papers.

COURSE: Alt Writing III

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 6-7-8

DESCRIPTION: Student will be provided with an alternative writing curriculum. This is a course that focuses on developing and strengthening writing skills necessary for high school. The focus areas include claim and paragraph development, informative, argumentative, and narrative writing, MLA format, and oral presentations. Students will analyze mentor texts to expand their writing knowledge.

SOCIAL STUDIES

COURSE: Social Studies 6

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 6

DESCRIPTION: The 6th Grade Social Studies curriculum focuses on world regions and cultures. Students will focus on geography, history, and culture in regions around the world. Students will investigate regional, physical, and cultural characteristics of places. They will engage in inquiry learning as they analyze how regional, physical and cultural characteristics influence people who live there and how people and characteristics have changed over time.

COURSE: Social Studies 7

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 7

DESCRIPTION: In 7th grade social studies, students will learn through inquiry-based methods that use evidence to make conclusions. We will observe and study many different topics including challenges facing the world community such as hunger, population, conflict, global environmental challenges, human rights, poverty, energy scarcity, global health, education, immigration, globalization, and other political, economic, social, and ecological concerns. By analyzing many different sources with a wide range of topics, we are hoping to better prepare our students for the rapidly changing world around us. Our focus will also be on students learning to form their own opinions through research to help them become better problem solvers.

COURSE: Social Studies 8

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 8

DESCRIPTION: This course covers U.S. History from the 13 colonies to the end of the Civil War. Topics included would be the Development of the Colonies, the American Revolution, Creating the Constitution, Westward Movement and Manifest Destiny, Reforms of the 1800s, Events leading to the Civil War, and the Civil War. This course is required for all trimesters.

COURSE: ALT Social Studies (I/II/III)

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 6-7-8

DESCRIPTION: An individualized, modified program for students significantly behind their peers in reading skills. Students may be involved in independent or small group lessons. Individual student need is determined through formal and informal teacher assessment and IEP goals. Students will have access to grade level social studies standards (6-8 rotation) in a modified plan/curriculum.

SPECIAL NEEDS

COURSE: Gifted and Talented

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 6-7-8

DESCRIPTION: Talented and Gifted classes are only offered to students who qualify based on the district identification process. Families will be notified if your student has qualified for Talented and Gifted classes.

COURSE: Excel 6-7-8

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 6-7-8

DESCRIPTION: Excel is a class designed for students who have been identified as at-risk. Class time is dedicated to giving students extra help with their personal and academic needs. Issues addressed in this course are study skills, organizational skills, behavioral/social skills, personal goal setting, building positive relationships, and becoming better problem solvers

COURSE: Enrichment (Reading 6)

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 6

DESCRIPTION: This course assists students with their individual needs in the area of reading comprehension. Students qualify for this course by scoring non-proficient per national norms on the Iowa Assessment. The students work to master a number of essential reading skills by reading independent books of their choices, reading and analyzing teacher-selected non-fiction texts, and writing and speaking about what is being read independently and as a whole class. The primary goal for this course is for each student to make significant growth in his or her reading comprehension.

COURSE: Enrichment (Math 6)

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 6

DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to assist students with their individual needs in the area of math. Students qualify for this course by scoring non-proficient per national norms on the Iowa Assessment. In this course, student's skill gap areas will be identified, and individual and small group instruction will be used to make improvements in needed areas. The primary goal for this course is for each student to make significant growth in his or her math skills.

COURSE: Enrichment (Reading 7)

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 7

DESCRIPTION: This course assists students with their individual needs in the area of reading comprehension. Students qualify for this course by scoring non-proficient per national norms on the Iowa Assessment. The students work to master a number of essential reading skills by reading independent books of their choices, reading and analyzing teacher-selected non-fiction texts, and writing and speaking about what is being read independently and as a whole class. The primary goal for this course is for each student to make significant growth in his or her reading comprehension.

COURSE: Enrichment (Math 7)

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 7

DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to assist students with their individual needs in the area of math. Students qualify for this course by scoring non-proficient per national norms on the Iowa Assessment. In this course, student's skill gap areas will be identified, and individual and small group instruction will be used to make improvements in needed areas. The primary goal for this course is for each student to make significant growth in his or her math skills.

COURSE: Enrichment (Reading 8)

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 8

DESCRIPTION: This course assists students with their individual needs in the area of reading comprehension. Students qualify for this course by scoring non-proficient per national norms on the Iowa Assessment. The students work to master a number of essential reading skills by reading independent books of their choices, reading and analyzing teacher-selected non-fiction texts, and writing and speaking about what is being read independently and as a whole class. The primary goal for this course is for each student to make significant growth in his or her reading comprehension.

COURSE: Enrichment (Math 8)

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 8

DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to assist students with their individual needs in the area of math. Students qualify for this course by scoring non-proficient per national norms on the Iowa Assessment. In this course, student's skill gap areas will be identified, and individual and small group instruction will be used to make improvements in needed areas. The primary goal for this course is for each student to make significant growth in his or her math skills.

COURSE: AIM (Achieving Individual Mastery)

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 6-7-8

DESCRIPTION: Intensive reading, writing, and/or math instruction in a special education setting, which will include small group instruction with frequent opportunities to practice skills, receive feedback, and monitor and analyze progress in goal areas. This instruction will support the instruction in the general education classroom. This class intended for students that have IEP learning goals. Students in this class will be placed in an AIM section that aligns with their IEP goal area(s). For example, if a student has an IEP in both math and reading the student would be placed in an AIM RM (AIM Reading/Math) where they would receive specially designed instruction in both deficit areas.

COURSE: Essential Math

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 6-7-8

DESCRIPTION: An individualized program for students four or more grade levels behind their peers in math skills. Students may be involved in independent or small group lessons. Individual student need is determined through formal and informal teacher assessment and IEP goals.

COURSE: Essential Reading

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 6-7-8

DESCRIPTION: An individualized program for students four or more grade levels behind their peers in reading skills. Students may be involved in independent or small group lessons. Individual student need is determined through formal and informal teacher assessment and IEP goals.

COURSE: Essential Writing

LENGTH: THREE TERMS

GRADES: 6-7-8

DESCRIPTION: An individualized program for students four or more grade levels behind their peers in writing skills. Students may be involved in independent or small group lessons. Individual student need is determined through formal and informal teacher assessment and IEP goals.