

Wellsville Middle School



**Course Description Handbook
2021-2022**

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English Language Arts

6th English: Mr Soden

Language Arts builds upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing. This course includes the four aspects of language: reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

7th English: Mrs. Bentley

What will we do in this class?

- 1) Students will be reading from novels, library books, and a variety of other resources.
- 2) Students will expand his/her writing skills using the 6-trait writing model.
- 3) Students' vocabulary will expand as we learn new words from novels, other reading resources, writing activities and affix handouts.
- 4) Students will be expected to participate in group/individual presentations for the class throughout the year and participate in Socratic Circles

8th English: Mr. Savage

We will concentrate on four areas of study in Eighth Grade ELA: Literary Fluency, Grammar Fundamentals, Vocabulary, and Writing for a Purpose. These areas and their related skills will be explored. Our goal is to provide a wealth of opportunity for you to grow as a competent writer, a perceptive reader, and a critical thinker.

Math

6th Math: Mr. Kindle

Sixth grade Mathematics is taught using an online program called Reveal. This is a course designed to bridge the gap between basic math skills and the necessary number and algebraic skills needed to be successful in Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, etc. During the year, topics in ratios/rates, fractions/decimals/percents, compute with multi-digit numbers and fractions, integers/rational numbers/coordinate plane, numerical/algebraic expressions, equations/inequalities, relationships between two variables, area, volume/surface area, and statistical measures/displays will be covered. Course objectives are aligned with the state standards.

7th Math: Ms. Hylton

Seventh grade Mathematics is taught using an online curriculum textbook called Reveal by McGraw Hill. This is a course designed to bridge the gap between basic math skills and the necessary number and algebraic skills needed to be successful in Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, etc. During the year, topics in number computation, probability, geometry, and basic algebra will be introduced and assessed via hands-on activities, manipulatives, technology integration, collaborative learning, and direct instruction. Course objectives are aligned with the state standards.

8th Math: Mr. Richards

Eighth grade Mathematics is taught using an online program through McGraw-Hill called Reveal. This is a course designed to build upon basic math skills and the necessary number and algebraic skills needed to be successful in Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, etc. During the year, the following topics will be covered: real numbers, solving equations, linear relationships and slope, functions, systems of linear equations, triangles and the pythagorean theorem, transformations, congruence and similarity of triangles, volume, and scatter plots with tables. Also, time permitting, there will be project based learning activities. Course objectives are aligned with the state standards.

Math

Pre-Algebra: Ms. Hylton

Pre Algebra is taught using an online curriculum textbook called Reveal by McGraw Hill. This is a course designed to bridge the gap between basic math skills and the necessary number and algebraic skills needed to be successful in Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II etc. During the year, topics in number theory, ratio, proportion, estimation, exponents, formulas, inequalities, and first-degree equations will be introduced/expanded upon, and assessed via hands-on activities, manipulatives, technology integration, group learning, and direct instruction. Course objectives are aligned with the state standards.

Algebra: Mr. Richards/Mrs. Kear

The Algebra I course begins with connections back to that earlier work, efficiently reviewing algebraic concepts that students have already studied while at the same time moving students forward into the new ideas described in the high school standards. Students contrast exponential and linear functions as they explore exponential models using the familiar tools of tables, graphs, and symbols. Finally, they apply these same tools to a study of quadratic functions. Throughout, the connection between functions and equations is made explicit to give students more ways to model and make sense of problems.

Geometry: Mrs. Kear

This course will help students understand the basic structure of geometry, develop powers of spatial visualization while building his/her knowledge of the relationship among geometric elements; grow in understanding of the deductive method and in appreciation of the need for precision of language; use and strengthen his/her algebraic skills; gain some knowledge of the methods of coordinate geometry and of the way in which algebra and geometry complement.

Science

6th Science: Mr. Campbell

6th Grade Science will have hands-on activities, class discussion,

individual and group projects and activities, and provide students opportunities to investigate science topics of relevance to their own lives and build understanding of essential learning in science. We will cover a wide variety of topics including diversity of life, cells and heredity, ecology and the environment, motion and forces, Earth and the universe and transformation of matter.

7th Science: Mr. Campbell/Mrs. Robinson

This course builds on scientific inquiry and typically includes subject matter from several strands of science. The course may organize material around thematic units involving earth sciences, physical sciences, and life sciences. Labs will provide deeper understanding of the topic and provide opportunities to demonstrate mastery.

8th Science: Mrs. Robinson

This course revolves around a variety of sciences. Topics may include earth sciences, life sciences, physical sciences, and/or environmental sciences. Thematic units may also be utilized. Hands-on engineering projects and labs will provide opportunities for application of learned skills and increase understanding of the scientific process within all topics.

Social Studies

6th Social Studies: Mr. Wright

6th Grade Social Studies will identify cultural and historical characteristics of ancient civilizations and their impacts on future civilizations. The topics we will cover will include Medieval and Modern Europe, the Middle East and major religions of the world, Ancient Egypt, China, the Americas and a variety of governments used around the world. We will also identify and map geographical locations of major cities, nations, and features of the world.

7th Geography and Kansas History: Mr. Wright/Mr. Jones

In this class we will study the Geography of the World as well as the rich culture of Kansas. The geography course in the seventh grade should familiarize students with their world using the Essential Elements and Geography Themes. Students should develop skills and knowledge about location, place, human/environmental interaction, movement, and regions. The course should compare and contrast these themes across all continents. Special attention should be given to the most essential skills and knowledge of the discipline. Instruction should feature examples from a variety of geographic regions. The course should be rigorous and relevant with instruction that integrates thinking skills, historical processes, and content so that students are able to apply their learning to their own lives. Students are able to apply their geographic knowledge to their community, state, nation, world and themselves. Instruction should also include the integration of concepts and principles from economics, civics, history and humanities.

The Kansas History course begins with a study of archaic native inhabitants of the land that was to become Kansas. The course will cover major events, individuals, groups, innovations, and movements from prehistoric days to the present. The course should seek to build a connection or relationship between the student and the state. The course is rigorous and relevant with instruction that integrates thinking skills, historical processes, and content so that students are able to apply their learning to their own lives. Instruction includes the integration of concepts and principles from history, economics, geography, civics, and the humanities.

Social Studies

8th American History: Mr. Jones

In this class we will study American History from the Constitutional age to International expansion. The eighth grade course of study begins with a review of the major ideas, issues, and events of the founding of the nation and Constitutional Period. Students will then concentrate on the critical events, people, groups, ideas, and issues of the period from 1800 to 1900 - including Westward expansion, sectionalism, the Civil War, Reconstruction, Populism, and Imperialism. The course is rigorous and relevant with instruction that integrates thinking skills, historical processes, and content so that students are able to apply the learning to their own lives. Instruction includes the integration of concepts and principles from history, economics, geography, civics, and the humanities.

Other Required Classes

7th Computer Applications:

Mr. Evans

semester

In Computer Applications courses, students acquire knowledge of and experience in the proper and efficient use of previously written software packages. These courses explore a wide range of applications, including (but not limited to) word-processing, spreadsheet, graphics, and database programs, and they may also cover the use of electronic mail and desktop publishing. This course is required for all 7th grade students.

MS PE: Mr. O’Neil (year)

This course will consist of an overview of many physical education activities. This will include team and individual sports and lifetime activities. Social and physical skills as well as physical fitness will be an emphasis. Written tests, physical fitness tests, current event discussions, and daily observations will help determine competence. Class open to all MS students.

MS Weights: Mr. Berg (year)

Free weight strength training, barbell weight training, speed and agility training, flexibility training and circuit training will be covered in this course. In addition the following health concepts will be covered with this course: principles of fitness, body composition, nutrition, weight management, athletic injury and treatment. During each semester there will be up to 3 tests over muscular max strength in core auxiliary lifts, testing over speed and agility and vertical jump testing. Students will be assessed on current fitness level and improvement in all physical tests, daily behavior, work ethic and responsibility. This course is designed to improve an individual’s overall fitness and give each individual the tools to engage in various types of training to help maintain a physically-active and healthy lifestyle for a lifetime. Students will be expected to demonstrate effective use of personal and social skills to enhance health/fitness behavior. Class is open to 7th and 8th grade students

MS Elective Class Options

MS Chorus (Jr. Eagle Singer): Mr. Baird (year)

This class will explore a variety of musical styles. Out-of-school performances will be required and will include a Fall Concert, a Christmas Concert, a Spring Musical, and the League Festival. Other performances may be added. Some general music activities will be done during class time. Many solo and ensemble opportunities will be available. Class open to all MS students.

MS Band: Mr. Baird (year)

Band allows students to learn how to perform music on wind and percussion instruments. Students will learn basic exercises and rehearse music to perform at the winter and spring school concerts. Students also have the opportunity to take solos to contest and to audition for special honor bands (though these are not required).

Two classes available: 1 class for 6th graders and new students;

1 class for 7th and 8th graders.

MS Exploratory Ag: Mr. Batchelder (semester)

Exploratory Ag is a course designed to introduce topics related to the field of agriculture.

The following topics will be covered: plant and animal systems, agriculture in our society, agriculture safety, careers in agriculture, and leadership and life knowledge.

Class open to both 7th and 8th graders; only 1 section available.

Art I: Mr. Harrison (semester)

This is an introductory art course in which students will learn a variety of 2- and 3-dimensional art methods including, but not limited to, drawing, painting, collage, and ceramics. Students will also learn how to apply the elements and principles of design, as well as explore artists and their effects on society.

Class open to all MS students.

(additional fee due at enrollment)

Art II and Art III: Mr. Harrison (semester)

In this course, students will expand upon the knowledge and skills they learned in Art I, completing more difficult and complex 2- and 3-dimensional projects. In addition to building upon previously learned skills, new art methods/techniques/mediums will also

be introduced. This class will provide a solid foundation to students who are interested in pursuing art in high school.

Class open to all MS students who have completed MS Art 1.

(additional fee due at enrollment)

MS FACS I and II: Ms. Diehl (semester)

Family and Consumer Science classes involve a variety of topics useful for the efficient and productive management of the home. Areas of possible study may include foods/nutrition, clothing/fashion design, child development/care, housing design/decoration, and consumer decisions/financial management.

Class open to all MS students.

(additional fee due at enrollment)

MS Tech: Mr. Oshel (semester)

This class is designed as a basic introductory level course covering technology and shop information. Shop safety, along with design and introduction to shop hand tools will be covered in this course.

Class open to both 6th and 7th graders: 1 section for each grade.

(additional fee due at enrollment)

8th Introduction to Industrial Technology: Mr. Oshel (semester)

This class is designed with introductory to intermediate level material to be covered which would include general technology, construction, and shop practices in the world today. General shop safety, hand tool and machine safety, construction, and manufacturing technology are some of the areas covered with this course.

(additional fee due at enrollment)

8th Business Essentials: Mr. Evans (semester)

Business Essentials is a one-semester basic, introductory course in business skills.

Emphasis is placed on the following: economics, business law, customer service, marketing, entrepreneurship, and career preparation.

MS Career and Life Planning: Mr. Evans (semester)

Self-Management courses introduce students to the skills and strategies helpful in becoming more focused, productive individuals. These courses typically emphasize goal-setting; decision-making; managing time, energy, and stress; and identifying alternatives and coping strategies. They may also allow students to explore various career and lifestyle choices.

Class open to both 7th and 8th graders; only 1 section available.

8th Publications: Mr. Evans (year)

Publication Production courses provide to students the knowledge and skills necessary to produce the school newspaper, yearbook, literary magazine, or other printed publication. Students may gain experience in several components (writing, editing, layout, production, and so on) or may focus on a single aspect while producing the publication. Students are selected for this class through an application/interview process. If you are interested, please talk to Mr. Evans for approval.

MS Intro to Theatre/Drama: Mrs. Bentley (semester)

This course focuses on refining student literacy skills as they learn to express emotion and ideas using movement and dialogue and dramatize literary selections in pairs and groups. Students will study plot, setting, and character developments in both improvised and scripted scenes and develop communication, performance skills and the ability to work with others. Performances in front of peers and the Wellsville Retirement Community are expected and required. ***Due to COVID the visits to WRC have been cancelled.

Class open to 6th - 8th grade students.

MS Hunter's Ed/Outdoor Activities Class: Mr. Savage (semester)

The first portion of the class will be completing the Hunter Education curriculum provided by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. This class will allow for an in-depth study of the material, preparing the students for their exam to obtain the Hunter Safety card. The class will also give the students the opportunity to learn and gain experience in other related areas. These additional activities will enhance their knowledge and love for the outdoors. Areas will include Wildlife Conservation, Outdoor Survival, Fishing, and others.

Class open to 6th - 8th grade students.

MS Intro to LPSS: Mr. Wright (semester)

This course provides students with knowledge of occupations available in Law, Public Safety and Security fields and introduces them to the legal system, professional conduct, safety and types of crime.

Class open to 6th - 8th grade students.

MS Fun with Literature : Mr. Soden (semester)

Fun with Literature is a class designed for students who like to read. In a relaxed atmosphere students can enjoy sharing their thoughts and ideas about what they are currently reading. This class is open to any middle school student.

8th Driver's Prep: Mr. Soden (semester)

Driver's Prep is a class for those 8th graders wanting to prepare for the tests required to get a driver's license. This class is not part of Drivers Education, but it can help future drivers learn the basics of safe driving.

Spanish A: Ms. Face (year)

Spanish A is an exploratory language course for students who are interested in learning to understand, speak, read, write and appreciate Spanish and the many cultures

associated with it. Topics covered include: describing oneself and others, school life, common activities, holidays, food, home and family life, numbers, seasons, weather, time, social customs, and sports. The grammatical focus of the course is present tense and simple sentence structures.

Class is open to 7th and 8th graders

STEM: Mr. Richards (year)

This class will incorporate science, technology, engineering and mathematics in an interdisciplinary approach. STEM integrates the 4 subjects into a cohesive learning paradigm based on the real world. The class will concentrate on hands-on activities in which the students will be building, constructing, evaluating projects. Group dynamics and teamwork will be an emphasis as students will work with many different partners. Each lesson/activity will be typically based around finding a solution to a real world problem and emphasizes project based learning.