

**MARYVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
DESCRIPTION OF CLASSES
EIGHTH GRADE**

TEACHER ADVISORY (TA) – The Teacher Advisory Program will be held at the beginning of the school day. It will attempt to meet the needs of the middle school student. It will provide an opportunity for each student to be known well by at least one member of our faculty and by a group of peers. This program further provides an opportunity for group discussions on many topics pertinent to this period in the young person's life.

BASIC SKILL SUBJECTS

LANGUAGE ARTS – Included in this composition and grammar course is practice with a variety of written expression, including descriptive, narrative, expository, creative, poetry and argumentative writing. Practice is also given to the creation and use of graphic organizers, as well as the writing process in general. Emphasis is placed on support and detail in writing and the thesis statement, as well as proper citation usage. There is an introduction to research skills and incorporating research into writing. Vocabulary, study skills, spelling, mechanics, and usage problems are addressed throughout the course. Oral communication is also addressed in the form of presentations and audience participation and response. Students will be exposed to technology as a means to enhance written communication.

SCIENCE – This course will review and build on scientific skills as presented in previous grades. In cooperative groups and individually, students will use the scientific method to complete hands-on activities to reinforce the learning of scientific knowledge in the following units: Lab Safety and Procedures, Matter, Living Organisms and Their Interaction, Rocks & Minerals, Geologic History of the Earth, Plate Tectonics, and Water. Assessment will include the completion of labs, activities, a science notebook, projects, and tests.

AMERICAN HISTORY – This course covers American History from 1492 to 1877. All major social, economic, political, geographical, and military aspects are considered. Special emphasis is given to units on exploration, colonial America, the American Revolution, creating a new nation, the Constitution, operations of our federal government, westward expansion, and the Civil War.

READING – Developmental reading in the eighth grade will continue the practice and further development of skills learned in kindergarten through seventh grade. Study skills and their applications to content subjects, an exploration of various types of literature forms and life skills reading will also be included. Emphasis will be placed as well upon creating a strong interest in lifelong independent reading.

MATHEMATICS – Eighth grade mathematics will include units in numbers and operations, algebraic relationships, geometric and spatial relationships, measurement, and data and probability. This course will focus on communicating, reasoning, problem solving, and making real-life connections. This course will prepare students for math in the real world and in the workplace, as well as prepare students for further mathematics courses at the high school level. Daily practice and iReady will be used to practice, enrich and reinforce concepts and skills taught in class.

ALGEBRA I – Upon successful completion of this course a student will gain an understanding of operations with real numbers, linear equations and inequalities, relations & functions, pairs of linear equations & inequalities, polynomials, algebraic functions, and exponents & radicals. The geometry portion of this course provides students with experiences that deepen the understanding of two- and three- dimensional objects and their properties. Deductive and inductive reasoning, as well as investigative strategies in drawing conclusions will be stressed. Properties and relationships of geometric objects include the study of: (1) points, lines, angles and planes; (2) polygons, with a special focus on quadrilaterals, triangles, right triangles; (3) circles; and (4) polyhedral and other solids. Pearson and Khan Academy will be used to practice, enrich, and reinforce concepts

and skills taught in class. **Prerequisite: Grade of “A” in 7th grade mathematics (at least 3 quarters), a desire to learn mathematics and iReady diagnostic score of above grade level.**

EXPLORATORY CLASSES

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (2 quarters; required) - Physical education is designed to: 1) help the student develop an understanding of the need for physical fitness and exercise; 2) help the student improve fine and gross-motor coordination and eye-hand coordination through basic skills of catching, throwing, kicking, and hitting; 3) help the student develop social skills by stressing good sportsmanship; 4) develop an understanding of how to play different games by teaching the rules and procedures; and 5) help improve physical fitness through personal exercise activities.

STAT (STUDENT/TEACHER ACADEMIC TIME 1 year; required) – The objectives of this class are to make the student an independent and responsible learner and to give the student a scheduled supervised quiet time to do homework or independent reading. The students are graded in STAT class for reading silently for the allotted time, for being “on task” during study time, and for mastering the study skills mentioned above. At the discretion of the STAT teacher, time may be used for teacher directed review and study.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (1 quarter; required) – Students will explore their career and educational goals, career fields, and personal finance and budgeting, while utilizing various modes of technology. Online student collaboration will enhance communication and presentation development skills. In this course, students will undergo a “Reality Check” through the process of developing a balanced budget and analyzing graphs based on their career and educational goals. A career report will be presented, using multimedia modes such as podcasting, video and presentation software. A job shadow experience is embedded into this course.

ADVANCED ART (1 quarter) – This course explores the visual arts to a more advanced level, using a variety of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional art media and techniques. Students will keep a drawing sketchbook, concentrate on developing areas of individual artistic interest and independent projects. Art production is integrated with a study of art history and art criticism.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (PLTW) Automation and Robotics (1 quarter) – Students build and code robots with VEX Robotics equipment to solve problems using the engineering design process. Projects completed include a robot dragster and an interactive display/amusement park ride. **(Student can take PLTW Robotics OR PLTW Augmented Reality)**

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (PLTW) Augmented Reality with CoSpacesEDU (1 quarter) - Students build their own 3D environments, animate them with code, and explore them in Augmented Reality. There is a library of objects to add to their spaces, but they learn to design their own in Tinkercad, as well. **(Student can take PLTW Robotics OR PLTW Augmented Reality)**

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES (FACS) (1 QUARTER)--This course is designed to give students the opportunity to explore the many topics related to Family and Consumer Sciences. Units of study include a focus on family and family history. Students will also study effective communication, food and kitchen sanitation (including culinary labs) and using a sewing machine.

VOCAL MUSIC (1 quarter) –Students in eighth grade will continue to strengthen their knowledge of the basics of vocal music and proper singing techniques. Students will also dive deeper into the more advanced elements of music. We will listen to a variety of music to learn about the elements of music and different cultures. They will sing a variety of music using 2, 3, and some 4-part harmony. Students will participate in a variety of activities, games, and projects to learn more about different musicians and musical ideas. They will continue to

learn more about reading music and sight reading. They will perform in one graded concert which will be at the end of the quarter they have Vocal Music.

MUSIC APPRECIATION (1 quarter)- Music Appreciation is a non-performing class that includes an introduction to musical notation, music history, and a variety of musical styles from past to present day. Students will study a wide range of music and its relationship with cultures and communities in the past and present. We will look at a variety of musical careers and the roles of musicians throughout time. Through different projects and activities, students will be exposed to a wide range of musical topics such as music in film, creating music, famous people in music, and the impacts of music world-wide.

BAND (1 year) – 8th Grade Band is a continuation of 7th Grade Band and has a prerequisite of at least two years of band or director approval. In 8th Grade Band, students will continue to develop fundamentals of exceptional musicianship with the goal of preparing the student for High School Band. Full Band concerts will occur in December and April. During the fall, students will perform at one HS football game. Students will culminate the year with a performance in an adjudicated concert band festival. Students will perform in a chamber ensemble during one unit of the year. 8th grade students also have voluntary performance opportunities to include, but not limited to, All-District Honor Band, All-District Jazz Band, MMS Jazz Band, and Solo and Ensemble Festivals. Band is a co-curricular course, meaning that graded events happen during and after the school day.

Non-Band Student: Electives

MMS YEARBOOK – Students in this course will work with online software to create portions of the MMS Yearbook. Students will explore various aspects of creating a yearbook, including picture taking, page layouts, graphics, and overall yearbook design. **Students must have an A/B average in 7th grade reading and language arts classes, must be self-motivated, responsible, demonstrate a high degree of maturity, and exhibit good judgment.** Due to the unique experience of this class, students will obtain certain freedoms during the class period and must be trusted to use their time wisely while acting as a representative of our class and Maryville Middle School. (2nd quarter only; class size limited to 20 students.)

NEWSPAPER(1 quarter) – Newspaper is a course designed to allow students an opportunity to collaborate, utilize technology, critical thinking, and work on additional soft skills that will be integrated in the development of a newspaper. Every student will learn the basics of journalism, all while sharpening their writing and creative abilities. This newspaper will be published by the students and shared with their fellow peers at Maryville Middle School and the local community that updates them on events within the school and surrounding area.

MILITARY STUDIES (1 quarter) – This course is designed to dive deeper into military operations throughout history. Students will get a more in depth look at wars and other aspects of the military ranging from the WWI to Vietnam War. Students will use critical thinking in creating alternative war strategies that could have been used in past wars.

MOVEMENT IN MUSIC (1 quarter) - Movement in Music is a music class designed to focus on providing students with different abilities a musical experience at their developmental level. It is also an opportunity for students in the seventh or eighth grade to step into a leadership position of being a mentor. We explore movement, rhythms, singing, instruments, games, learning how to read and play music, relaxation with music, and many other activities. As a mentor, you will help guide other students in activities, assisting when needed and will be a positive role model for the other students in the room as we explore different parts of music.

SPECIAL SERVICES

COUNSELING – A counselor provides students the opportunity to experience career planning, knowledge of themselves and others (such as self-concept, peer relations, decision making), educational development (scheduling study skills, etc.) and immediate guidance in special situations. Students have the opportunity to grow through class presentations, discussion in small groups and individual meetings with the counselor.

SPECIAL EDUCATION – Special education teachers provide assistance to students with disabilities including speech who are not succeeding in the regular basic skills classrooms. These students must meet federal and state eligibility requirements prior to receiving services. Depending on individual needs and abilities, a student may be served in a class within a class setting, given resource help in a resource room or taught basic skills classes in a self-contained classroom setting.