**Required Courses**

**Math (*Year)***

This year-long course is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. The design of the class is to provide a solid foundation, allowing for additional explanation and practice on key concepts. The following topics will be addressed: the number system, expressions and equations, functions, geometry, statistics, and probability. This class prepares students for Algebra I at the high school. Students a expected to have already mastered Fractions, Whole Numbers, and Decimal Operations in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.  *Very little review time is spent in this area.*

**Algebra I (*Year)***

This year-long course is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. The design of the class is to provide a solid foundation for high school mathematics, allowing students to move directly into geometry upon successful completion. The course is taught at an accelerated pace similar to other high school curriculum classes. Students will have the opportunity to earn high school credit.

**Earth Science (*Year)***

This course is a mixture of hands-on activities, bookwork, and internet exploration. Topics covered include**:** composition and history of earth, earthquakes, volcanoes, weathering and erosion, river systems, weather, and the solar system. Students will have the opportunity to earn high school credit.

**U.S. History *(Year)***

This is a course that focuses on the United States from the first inhabitants through the early 1900’s. Students will engage in a variety of activities including simulations, debates, and individual and group projects, along with several writing activities. Eighth grade students have the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. and surrounding areas on a class trip.

**English (*Year)***

English 8 encompasses the standard areas of reading, writing, vocabulary, and speaking. Novels studied include *The Giver* and *The  Diary of Anne Frank*..  In addition, we complete a literature circle study using *That Was Then, This Is Now*, *Gathering Blue*, *I Have Lived 1000 Years*, and *The Pigman*, as reading choices. Special emphasis is placed on advancing writing skills. This is accomplished through vocabulary enrichment, use of critical-thinking skills in class discussions and response, and doing a variety of literature-related writings and practice writings. Students also complete a memory book showcasing their writings completed throughout the middle-school years.

**Physical Education *(Semester)***

Students are introduced to a variety of team and individual activities, promoting healthy lifestyles and the development of a sound mind, body, and social well-being.  Activity examples include**:**  lacrosse, soccer, tennis, self-defense, swimming, weight training, basketball, volleyball, team building, flag football, and softball. Reproductive Health will be included in Physical Education. During this portion of Physical Education, the students will be engaged in an abstinence-based reproductive health class.  The content will cover male and female reproductive health systems, life process, family life, and sexually-transmitted diseases. Students will also be trained in first aid, adult/child/infant CPR and AED.

**Academic Success *(Year)***

This course designed for all students to acquire better study habits, organizational skills, and exposure to different methods of learning. Students are given time to complete assignments, study for tests, and become more organized. Class is composed of study time, online Math intervention, current events through Channel One or related news program, and teacher created lessons. The goal of this class is for all students to take charge of their learning and preparation for success.

**Exploratory Rotation**

**Applied Math *(7 Weeks)***

The introductory level course introduces students to concepts and practices to successfully manage their personal finances. The course addresses the development of knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors associated with the management of family finances. Throughout this course, students will learn how to: define values, needs and wants; explore the benefits of setting financial goals and making good decisions; create a plan for future career success; learn how to manage a checking account and debit card; read paychecks and tax forms; investigate the benefits of creating a spending plan; explore electronic banking and other depository institution services; apply responsible use of credit cards; and assess the contributing factors families must consider before making spending decisions.

**Applied Science *(7 Weeks)***

In this 7 week unit, students research aspects of a particular topic to present to the class at the end of the unit. Research projects will answer the following questions: How did it come about, how has it changed through time? Where has it migrated from origin to now? What environmental and economic factors have impacted this topic? What problems did you run into while researching this topic? Weekly checkpoints will be given by the instructor to assist this hands-on, student led investigation.

**Health *(7 Weeks)***

During this 7 week hands on course you will be trained and have the opportunity to be certified, for a fee, by an American Red Cross Instructor in Adult, Child, and Infant CPR and First Aid.  Topics will also include using an AED, recognizing and caring for choking, sudden illness, traumatic injuries, and environmental injuries and illnesses.

**Emerging Tech *(7 Weeks)***

Emerging Tech 8 is a 7-week rotator class where students will develop their skills of working collaboratively online to complete projects. These projects include writing and publishing a book to Lulu.com. They will author and illustrate books using Google Docs and Photoshop. Students will develop program and design skills using OpenSCAD Programming, EV3 Robotics, Scratch programming and website design using HTML5 & CSS3 programming. Students will then share and save their work to the Cloud.

**Creative Writing *(7 Weeks)***

This class is based upon the 6 Traits of Writing. It focuses on helping reluctant writers find success in writing, while allowing those already accomplished writers to further develop their craft. Many genres are covered, including short narratives, poetry and journal reflection. Students choose their favorite pieces to go through the writing process to generate a final draft. These pieces are included in the 8th grade Memory Book project.

**Electives**

**Band (*Year*)**

Students continue to develop skills learned at the sixth and seventh grade levels, in a large group setting. The students perform at the same concerts as the seventh grade, with the possibility of additional performances and trips. Some exposure to marching occurs in preparation for high school. The literature can be expected to be a bit more challenging.

**Spanish (*Year)***

In this year-long class, students acquire the basic vocabulary necessary to greet others, order food, make purchases, and understand directions in Spanish. They also learn how to describe themselves, their families, their homes and their activities. They learn where in the world Spanish is spoken, how the lives of the people in those countries are similar to and different from their own, and how Spanish can help them right here in the United States.  A wide variety of activities including games, skits, stories, music and movies help the students learn to read, write, understand and speak in Spanish. The computer lab is used to explore authentic Spanish-language materials. Students will have the opportunity to earn high school credit.

**Choir (*Semester* or *Year)***

Students will be developing their musical and singing abilities, both as individuals and as members of an ensemble. They will prepare songs from many fields of music (popular, folk, patriotic, standards, contemporary, etc.). There will be several performances, including a *Holiday Concert*, *Spring Concert*, and *Senior Citizen and/or Elementary School Concerts*, and also the MSVMA District and State Choral Festival.  Participation in Solo & Ensemble is encouraged but not required. **Singers are expected to be present for all concerts and required rehearsals.**

**Improvisation (*Semester)***

This one-semester course introduces students to beginning acting skills**:**  improvisation, characterization, pantomime, and creating a variety of skits. Students will also gain some experience in public speaking. Performing skits, commercials, role playing, interviews, and speeches are all part of this energetic class. Furthermore, students will learn to memorize lines and perform a play for their peers.

**Creative Arts (*Semester)***

This one semester class will introduce students to a variety of ways of expressing themselves creatively. Drawing, writing, painting, coloring, and re-purposing objects into art are a few of the avenues that will be explored. Culinary,song-writing, and dramatic arts will also be included in lessons. Some class projects will require bringing in materials from home.

**Woodshop (*Semester)***

This class is designed to introduce the student to the woodshop environment. Seventy-five percent of the time will be spent working on various woodworking projects using an assortment of hand and power tools. Safety, project selection, design, and construction will all be covered during the class. Two weeks will also be spent using *AutoCAD LT* (computer drawing) to draw a project of the teacher's choosing.

**Computer Science Discoveries Intro *(Semester)***

Computer Science Discoveries 7 (CS Discoveries 7) is an introductory computer science semester long course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. The course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS, and data.

**Computer Science Discoveries Advanced *(Semester)***

Computer Science Discoveries Advanced builds on students previous experiences in Computer Science Discoveries Intro. This course is a semester long course that continues to engage students with a wide range of computer science (CS) topics and revealing CS as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. The course expands student knowledge of programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS, and data. The course inspires students as they build their own websites, apps, games, and physical computing devices.

**Art *(Semester)***

Art is the preferred prerequisite for all other art classes. Students learn the elements and principles of design and apply them to a variety of projects including drawing, painting, ceramics, and sculpture. Art I gives students experience in the use of tools, media, and design elements required for success in the high level art classes.