



GREENWOOD  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
2019-2020  
COURSE  
HANDBOOK

## INTRODUCTION TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS

This guide is designed to be an introduction to the middle school course offerings. The middle school offers some exciting, yet challenging times for our students. Within the guide you will find descriptions of the courses, sample schedules and some tips on helping your son/daughter succeed in their middle school experience. Our goal is to prepare them academically, physically and emotionally to succeed at the high school level.

Our staff is excited about working with your child and views education as a partnership between school and family. We encourage you to communicate with us, as we believe that working together is essential to the success of our students.

## THE MIDDLE SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS

MARA BODENDORFER, Special Education Teacher  
OLIVIA BRETTING, Language Arts and Social Studies  
RENEE FAIT, Foreign Language  
JENNY HAFERMANN, Language Arts, Math and  
Social Studies  
LOGHAN HALLETT, Agriculture  
BRAD HELSTEN, Mathematics  
KRISTIN JAENKE, Family and Consumer  
Science and Careers

MARGO JOHNSON, Special Education  
MARIXA LA MONT, Instrumental Music/Choir  
MEGAN MELCHER, Science  
CAREY PETRI, Physical Education  
DAVID POST, Science  
MATTHEW RAATZ, Business Education  
ALEX SAAGER, Art  
NOAH WERNER, Technical Education  
PENNY WEHRS, Health and Physical Education

## TIPS FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN GOING TO MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST TIME

For children going into middle school, there are many anxieties, apprehensions and fears to deal with and overcome. Middle schools are larger than elementary schools, the school work is harder to do, and there are more classes and more teachers – all with different expectations and personalities. If you have a child who is entering middle school for the first time, know that it is normal for your child to express concern and maybe even exhibit some acting out behavior over school issues.

Here are some tips that you can do to help your child through this transition:

- Don't be too anxious about your child going to middle school. They will take clues from you and if you are consistently talking to other parents about how worried you are, they will hear you. Your child is capable of handling middle school. You know this! Empower them by letting them know that you know this.
- Teach them about daily organizational habits like checking an assignment sheet before leaving their locker everyday or

packing up their book bag the night before and being sure they have everything they need for the next day.

- Put up their daily schedule on the refrigerator. This is a wonderful spot for them to check whether they have gym or band on that particular day.
- Encourage them to get involved in school activities. Be there when they need a ride or have a game.
- Go to any meetings or parent/teacher conferences that the school offers.
- Openly communicate to your child that you are available to help them. While you may feel that your child knows this already, now is a good time to remind them.
- Do not be afraid to communicate with your child's administrators and teachers. They are there to help.

# 2019-2020 MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE HANDBOOK

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## 7TH GRADE

### **REQUIRED COURSES (YEAR):**

- LANGUAGE ARTS 7
- MATH 7
- SCIENCE 7
- WORLD GEOGRAPHY 7
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7 (M/TH/F)
- HEALTH 7 (T/TH)

### **REQUIRED EXPLORATORY COURSES – (6 WEEKS):**

- AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE 7
- ART 7
- BEGINNING WORD PROCESSING 7
- EXPLORATORY SPANISH 7
- EXPLORING FCE / LIFE SKILLS 1 - 7
- TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 7

### **ELECTIVES:**

- MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND (M/W/F)
- MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS (T/TH)
- STUDY HALL OPPOSITE ELECTIVES IF ONE OR THE OTHER IS SELECTED.
- STUDY HALL (M-F) IF ELECTIVE IS NOT CHOSEN

## 8TH GRADE

### **REQUIRED COURSES (YEAR):**

- LANGUAGE ARTS 8
- MATH 8
- SCIENCE 8
- U.S. HISTORY
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8 (M/T/F, W/TH/F)
- CAREER EDUCATION 8 (M/T, T/TH)

### **REQUIRED EXPLORATORY COURSES – (6 WEEKS):**

- AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE 8
- ART 8
- BUSINESS EXPLORATORY 8
- EXPLORATORY SPANISH 8
- EXPLORING FCE/LIFE SKILLS 1 - 8
- TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 8

### **ELECTIVES:**

- MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND (M/W/F)
- MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS (T/TH)
- STUDY HALL OPPOSITE ELECTIVES IF ONE OR THE OTHER IS SELECTED.
- STUDY HALL (M-F) IF ELECTIVE IS NOT CHOSEN

## AGRIBUSINESS

### AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE 7

**GRADE 7 – REQUIRED - CLASS MEETS EVERY DAY FOR 6 WEEKS.**

This course offers an introduction to agricultural science. Topics include FFA history and basics, animals and their products, plant needs and growth, food production and processing, and tree identification. Students will engage in a variety of activities including creating food products and participating in outdoor lessons. All agriculture students will complete a Supervised Agricultural Experience project through their agriculture class.

### AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE 8

**GRADE 8 – REQUIRED - CLASS MEETS EVERY DAY FOR 6 WEEKS.**

This course will allow students to explore various areas of Agriculture. Topics focus on career exploration, FFA, small animals including rabbits, reptiles, and amphibians, Parliamentary Procedure and how to run a meeting, and biotechnology. Students will engage in hand-on experiences with animals, and will conduct high-level experiments with a variety of biotechnological equipment. They will explore current events in agricultural science and will demonstrate proper techniques of efficient meetings. All agriculture students will complete a Supervised Agricultural Experience project through their Agriculture class.

## ART

### ART 7 & 8

**GRADE 7 – REQUIRED - CLASS MEETS EVERY DAY FOR 6 WEEKS.**

Between 7th and 8th grade art, students will work with a range of mediums that include but are not limited to: drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, calligraphy, and printmaking. Students will learn basic skills in each technique that will improve their artistic ability and prepare them for high school art.

## BUSINESS EDUCATION

### BEGINNING WORD PROCESSING 7

**GRADE 7 – REQUIRED - CLASS MEETS EVERY DAY FOR 6 WEEKS.**

Block letter formats, reports, and tables, will be introduced along with beginning desktop publishing documents. Other topics may include equipment operation; file management, proofreading and composition skills. Students will also review correct posture, correct finger techniques, and proper eye contact.

### BUSINESS EXPLORATORY 8

**GRADE 8 – REQUIRED - CLASS MEETS EVERY DAY FOR 6 WEEKS.**

This required eighth grade course is designed as an introduction to the design and marketing concepts used in the business arena. We will use background knowledge obtained in 4th - 7th grade of proper keyboarding skills ("to touch typing") is revisited. Students will apply their computer skills by designing a marketing campaign. The use of the Office Suite will again be highlighted in designing such projects as an informational newsletter and brochure, an advertisement such as a poster or flyer, and an announcement such as a ticket for their marketing campaign or an invitation to the event. The projects will be used in a culminating activity of designing a video pod cast commercial for the event. With this project we will be shooting from multiple angles and explore the use of picture in picture to enhance their projects.

## FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

### EXPLORING FCE - LIFE SKILLS 1

**GRADE 7 & 8- REQUIRED - CLASS MEETS EVERY DAY FOR 6 WEEKS**

This course is divided into several units. Our first unit will cover clothing care, laundry, ironing and mending. Second, we will learn how to operate a sewing machine and students will each sew a project. In the next unit we will cover nutrition, food labels, eating disorders, recipes and measuring. The final unit of Child Development includes looking at the responsibilities of parents and caregivers, identifying community resources that benefit children, list toys, books, games, and software of interest to children of different ages, cover the safe and proper use of toys and compare different way of managing children in different situations. Students will have the opportunity to work in the kitchens and prepare several foods. Grades are determined by completion of daily assignments, quizzes and class participation. Students will need a folder, notebook and writing tool.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

### EXPLORATORY SPANISH 7 & 8

**GRADE 7 & 8 – REQUIRED - CLASS MEETS EVERY DAY FOR 6 WEEKS**

Exploratory Spanish is a six week course designed so that the student will study vocabulary, gain a basic understanding of the grammatical structure of the language, and be able to answer basic questions. In addition, students will develop a stronger cultural awareness, which is an essential aspect of learning a language. Classroom activities will include paired and group activities, translations, games, videos, songs, presentations, projects, daily warm-ups, worksheets and tests.

## LANGUAGE ARTS

### LANGUAGE ARTS 7

**GRADE 7 – REQUIRED - YEAR LONG CLASS MEETS EVERY DAY**

Language Arts 7 provides students with in-depth instruction in writing, reading, language skills, and grammar. Various resources are used for daily classroom instruction. Novel units, writing units, and literature skill units make up the core of the classwork. This course exposes students to various types of writing and different genres of text. Students work independently, in small groups, and as a whole group on various classroom assignments. Grades are determined by written essays, language based projects, and quiz/test scores. All work should be completed neatly and accurately to earn the best possible grade. Points will be deducted for any late work. All classroom instruction is based on the Common Core State Standards.

### LANGUAGE ARTS 8

**GRADE 8 – REQUIRED - YEAR LONG CLASS MEETS EVERY DAY**

Language Arts 8 provides students with in-depth instruction in writing, reading, language skills, and grammar. Various resources are used for daily classroom instruction. Novel units, writing units, and literature skill units make up the core of the classwork. This course also stresses the four main types of writing: expository, narrative, persuasive, and descriptive. Additional emphasis is placed on vocabulary. Students work independently, in small groups, and as a whole group on various classroom assignments. Grades are determined by written essays, language based projects, and quiz/test scores. All work should be completed neatly and accurately to earn the best possible grade. Points will be deducted for any late work. All classroom instruction is based on the Common Core State Standards.

## MATHEMATICS

### MATHEMATICS 7

**GRADE 7 – REQUIRED - YEAR LONG CLASS MEETS EVERY DAY**

**TOPICS INCLUDE:** Integers, rational numbers, algebraic expressions and equations, inequalities, ratios and proportions, percents, constructions and scale drawings, circles and area, surface area and volume, probability and statistics.

### MATHEMATICS 8

**GRADE 8 – REQUIRED - YEAR LONG CLASS MEETS EVERY DAY**

**TOPICS INCLUDE:** Equations, transformations, angles and triangles, graphing and writing linear equations, system of linear equations, functions, real numbers and the Pythagorean Theorem, volume and similar solids, data analysis and displays, exponents and scientific notation.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### R.I.C.E. (REMEDIATE, INTERVENE, CORRECT, ENRICH)

**GRADE 7 & 8 – YEAR LONG CLASS MEETS EVERY DAY**

This period is designated to help the School District of Greenwood meet the needs of our students. Each student is scheduled into the daily RICE period, how that time is used will vary from student to student. Many students may use it as a study hall. Some students may be assigned into a structured study hall. Some students may use this time to meet with his/her teachers to receive extra help or to seek enrichment. Some students may be requested or assigned to specific teachers to complete missing work, re-take tests or receive additional instruction.

## MUSIC

### MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

**GRADE 7 & 8 – ELECTIVE - YEAR LONG CLASS MEETS 3 DAYS PER WEEK (M/W/F)**

**PREREQUISITE:** Beginning band training. If a student has no prior training, that student may take lessons until a beginning level proficiency has been reached and will then be admitted to the Middle School Band. Among the objectives of Middle School Band are: to become well rounded regarding knowledge, understanding, performance, and creation of music up to one's maximum potential; to gain an appreciation of the arts and music; to gain an understanding and appreciation of music's relationship to other academic disciplines and people; and to love music, learning, and life. Students are encouraged, but not required, to participate in Solo and Ensemble, and 8th graders may participate in Pep Band if they are interested and can play the music at an appropriate level (determined by the director). Students will also be required to perform for various events throughout the year including evening concerts and band festival.

8th graders are required to play for Graduation and march in the Memorial Day Parade and Dairy Days Parade. Other requirements of the band members include weekly individual and/or small group lessons and weekly practice time.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS

**GRADE 7 & 8 – ELECTIVE - YEAR LONG CLASS MEETS 2 DAYS PER WEEK (T/TH)**

Anyone may join middle school choir, even if they have had no previous experience. Each student has an individual voice placement to determine the part they will be singing. Individual and/or group voice lessons are required, and should be scheduled when convenient for student and teacher. Students are encouraged, but not required, to participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival. The middle school chorus sings for several evening concerts. The grade the students earn includes participation.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

### PHY ED 7-8

**GRADE 7-8 – REQUIRED - YEAR LONG CLASS CLASS MEETS 3 DAYS A WEEK OPPOSITE OF HEALTH/CAREERS**

Students are expected, by state standards, to take part in a co-educational program with the purpose to promote physical fitness and team play, continue skill development, and instill sportsmanship. Units of physical education that will be emphasized are flag football, volleyball, speed ball, tumbling, gymnastics, basketball, floor hockey, inline skating, cross country skiing, weight lifting, softball, dance, physical fitness tests, assorted team games.

Grades will consist of daily participation scores, skill tests, and improvement shown in the mastery of phy. ed. skills (written test on most units). The following rules shall apply to class:

1. All students must have some type of uniform (white T-shirt and shorts), gym shoes, and socks. Gym shoes that mar the gym floor are not allowed.
2. Only a doctor's excuse will be acceptable for missing phy. ed. class when the student is in school.
3. There are not enough lockers to store uniforms in. Therefore, ALL students will have to have a gym bag to carry their clothes to and from their locker.
4. There is to be NO boisterous conduct in the locker room.
5. The gym uniform is expected to be clean each week.
6. Showers are required after each phy. ed. class. Towels are provided.
7. If you are concerned about the loss of some valuables, turn them in to the phy. ed. teacher when you are in phy. ed. class.
8. Should any student find that they are unable to complete a physical education class due to a long-term illness or condition, he/she must produce a medical excuse. When this occurs, the student should make up all days missed by arranging with the instructor an independent program that is designed to meet their individual needs. If possible a student may have to retake the class.
9. The administration will have input into number 8.

### HEALTH 7

**GRADE 7 – REQUIRED - YEAR LONG CLASS CLASS MEETS 2 DAYS A WEEK OPPOSITE OF PHY ED**

Health 7 is an introductory class which includes units covering the following areas of health: health & wellness, risk behaviors, decision-making, good character, resistance skills, communication skills, conflict resolution, drug use, misuse and abuse (alcohol, tobacco and other drugs), and body systems/puberty. Grades are determined by completion of daily assignments, test scores, and daily participation. Students will need a folder, notebook, pens/pencils and assignment book.

## SCIENCE

### SCIENCE 7

**GRADE 7 – REQUIRED - YEAR LONG CLASS MEETS EVERY DAY**

7th grade Science is a life-general science course which includes units in the basic molecules of life, field botany and ecology, plant and animal biology, cell biology, microbiology, genetics, matter and mass, electricity, electromagnetic waves and atomic structure. The class is organized around laboratory work and students are required to complete reports for laboratory exercises. A student's grade is determined by tests, quizzes, participation in laboratory, reports and worksheets. Students should have a separate notebook and folder designated for science class. Past assignments and tests will be kept in the folder as a record of completion. A grade sheet will be kept as a record of assignment completions.

### SCIENCE 8

**GRADE 8 – REQUIRED - YEAR LONG CLASS MEETS EVERY DAY**

Science 8 is an earth science course, including units in the following topics: physical earth/landforms, plate tectonics, atmosphere/meteorology, climatology, geology, geologic time, astronomy, hydrodynamics and oceanography. The class is organized around laboratory exercises. Students will complete written laboratory reports. Grades are determined by test results, quizzes, worksheets, laboratory reports, and home work from the textbook. It is required that students keep a separate notebook and folder for past assignments. A grade sheet will be kept as a record of assignment completions.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### WORLD GEOGRAPHY 7

**(WESTERN HEMISPHERE & EUROPE)**

**GRADE 7 – REQUIRED - YEAR LONG CLASS MEETS EVERY DAY**

Students will explore the physical and cultural features of the Western Hemisphere (North & South America) and Europe. Atlases, maps, charts, and various other resources will be paired with the course textbook to compare climates, landforms, bodies of water, natural resources, and the unique cultures of these specific regions. Tools and previously learned knowledge from math, science, English, art, and reading will be used to help the students think like a geographer. Students will work independently and cooperatively to analyze issues affecting our world. Assessments of learning are based on quizzes, research activities, learning based projects, and tests. All work should be completed neatly and accurately to earn the best possible grade.

### US HISTORY - BEGINNINGS TO THE CIVIL WAR (1860'S)

**GRADE 8 – REQUIRED - YEAR LONG CLASS MEETS EVERY DAY**

This course begins with a look at who first populated the Americas and ends by analyzing the causes of our Civil War. Along the way, students will learn about European exploration and settlement of North America, the American fight for independence, our U.S. Constitution, and the early challenges and growth of our nation. Political, economic, and social changes in our country will also be explored. Students will apply their knowledge to various activities using different forms of technology. They will also practice reading and interpretation of history materials. Assessments of learning will be based on completion of assignments, quizzes, research activities and tests.

## TECHNICAL EDUCATION

### TECHNICAL EDUCATION 7

**GRADE 7 – REQUIRED - CLASS MEETS EVERY DAY FOR 6 WEEKS**

In 7th Grade Tech Ed students will engage in hands on learning, team/individual learning, problem solving, and real world applications. Students will explore the world measurement, electronics, robotics, laser engraving, 3D printing, and design and test a CO2 Car. Units will cover 5-8 days involving a variety of projects and instruction methods.

### TECHNICAL EDUCATION 8

**GRADE 8 – REQUIRED - CLASS MEETS EVERY DAY FOR 6 WEEKS**

In 8th Grade Tech Ed students will continue to enhance skills involving hands on learning, team/individual learning, problem solving, and real world applications. Students will explore 3D modeling, 3D printing, laser engraving, electronics, and using the CNC Router. The class will combine all of these skills to produce a small woods project at the end of the class. Units will cover 5-8 days involving a variety of projects and instruction methods.

## **VOCATIONAL EDUCATION**

### **CAREER EDUCATION 8**

**GRADE 8 - REQUIRED - YEAR LONG CLASS MEETS 2 DAYS A WEEK  
OPPOSITE OF PHY ED 8**

The class includes units covering career-related abilities, interests and values, the 16 career clusters, the importance of work, occupation information, job search techniques, job interviewing skills, skills needed for employment, and goal setting. The Career Education 8 course focuses on the 3 phases of career development.

Phase I - Who Am I?

Phase II - Where Am I Going?

Phase III - How Do I Get There?

Students will create a career plan. Students will examine high school courses and credits needed for graduation which will allow them to create a four-year high school plan.

# 2019-2020 MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE HANDBOOK

## MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE INTEREST SHEET

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### 7TH GRADE COURSE SELECTIONS

#### REQUIRED COURSES (YEAR):

LANGUAGE ARTS 7  
MATHEMATICS 7  
SCIENCE 7  
WORLD GEOGRAPHY 7  
PHY ED 7 (M/TH/F)  
HEALTH 7 (T/TH)

#### EXPLORING COURSES (6 WEEKS):

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE 7  
ART 7  
BEGINNING WORD PROCESSING 7  
EXPLORATORY SPANISH 7  
EXPLORING FCE / LIFE SKILLS 1 - 7  
TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 7

#### ELECTIVES (Please Check):

- MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND (M/W/F)  
 MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR (T/TH)

### 8TH GRADE COURSE SELECTIONS

#### REQUIRED COURSES (YEAR):

LANGUAGE ARTS 8  
MATHEMATICS 8  
SCIENCE 8  
US HISTORY  
PHY ED 8 (M/T/F, W/TH/F)  
CAREER EDUCATION 8 (M/T, T/TH)

#### EXPLORING COURSES (6 WEEKS):

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE 8  
ART 8  
BUSINESS EXPLORATORY 8  
EXPLORATORY SPANISH 8  
EXPLORING FCE/LIFE SKILLS 1 - 8  
TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 8

#### ELECTIVES (Please Check):

- MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND (M/W/F)  
 MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR (T/TH)

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

- Exploring courses are 6 weeks long and students will rotate to each class every 6 weeks.
- Students who are not in Band or Choir will have study hall daily.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** *Please sign below and return completed sheet to your homeroom teacher.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
STUDENT SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

**PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR TEACHER OR COUNSELOR WHEN COMPLETE.**