Springport Middle School
Course Descriptions

MATH COURSES:

6th Grade Math
The sixth grade Math class is the last element of the Everyday Math program, which our students have been exposed to since early elementary grades. The Everyday Math program is fully aligned with national Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and requires students to: Make sense of problems and preserve in solving them, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others, model with mathematics, use appropriate tools, attend to precision, look for and make use of structure, look for and express repeated reasoning
Grade Level content expectations in numbers and operations, Algebra, Measurement, Geometry, data and probability are covered.

7th Grade Math
This core class covers four main units: Numbers and Operations, Geometry, Algebra, and Data/Probability. Students will be using the Holt McDougall textbook. Students must be able to compute with fractions, decimals, and negative numbers in each unit. Many concepts are extensions from topics taught in sixth grade. We will be relating curriculum concepts to real-life situations through projects and computer research.

8th Grade Math
Four main units of study are covered. Numbers and Operations covers basic operations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of rational numbers. This also includes exponents and roots. Geometry covers area and volume. Algebra required students to solve 2-3 step linear equations as well as understand linear graphs. Data and Probability presents many types of graphs.

Algebra
This is an accelerated course. Students who show advanced knowledge in math are invited to participate. Students who achieve a C or better in each semester are awarded .5 high school credits for each semester. Students learn about functions focusing on linear, quadratic, and absolute equations. Systems of equations and simplifying expressions are also covered.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS COURSES

6th Grade English Language Arts
This course covers the 6th grade English/Language Arts curriculum as set forth in the State of Michigan content standards. The focus of the class is on reading and writing: covering the genres of action/adventure, fantasy, folktale, and informational text. Writing includes narrative, informational, and peer response to student writing.
**7th Grade English Language Arts**
All units are based on the following genres: Myth, Poetry, Memoirs, Persuasive Essay, Legend, Biography, Drama, Personal Correspondence, Research Report, Autobiography, Brochure.
Included in each marking period are tests, class work and a project. AR is an all year assignment and is student led.

**8th Grade English Language Arts**
This course covers the 8th grade English/Language Arts curriculum as set forth in the State of Michigan content standards. The focus of the class is on reading (covering the narrative genre’s of Realistic Fiction, Science Fiction, and Historical Fiction and the informational genre’s of comparative essays, newspaper writing, technical writing and persuasive essays) and writing (covering comparative, persuasive, and ACT-like writing).

**SCIENCE COURSES**

**Sixth Grade Science**
Students explore ecosystems with relation to the energy flow in a balanced ecosystem and the roles organisms play to maintain the balance. They investigate patterns of relationships, predict changes in populations, and examine populations, communities and ecosystems to apply their knowledge to the Great Lakes region. They deepen their understanding of energy in its multiple forms through investigations into kinetic and potential energy. The Planet Rock Unit explores the rock cycle, weathering, and glacier movement and leads to a study of soil and a comparison of soil samples. The Earth: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow sixth focuses on the Earth’s history and future through the study of plate tectonics and major geological events.

**7th Grade Science**
Students will investigate energy, weather, chemistry, and cells. They will explore energy in the form of light energy and solar energy as well as investigate energy transfer through waves and the interaction with matter. In chemistry, students will study more in-depth on the topics of physical properties (boiling point, density, and color) and chemical properties (pH, reactivity, and flammability) and will also be introduced to the Periodic Table of Elements. Seventh grade students will also study weather and climate and human impact on the environment. And finally, they will study cells and take a microscopic look at how organisms function, grow, and reproduce.

**Grade 8**
This course covers the 9th grade Earth Science curriculum as set forth in the State of Michigan content standards. The focus of the class is on learning about our Earth as it pertains to Geologic Time, Space, and Environment.

**SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES:**

**6th grade Social Studies**
Western Hemisphere and geography with an emphasis on Latin America. There is a strong focus on the Five Themes of Geography including physical and human geography, cultures, economics, and natural resources. Latin Americas physical geography, history, culture, Mexico, Central America, Caribbean Islands, and South America are studied.
7th Grade Social Studies
Students learn about the Eastern Hemisphere while reviewing geography skills as well as a focus on Europe and Russia as well as Africa and Asia.

8th Grade United States History
This course covers the 8th grade Social Studies curriculum covers Michigan content standards. The focus of this class is on early American history from the Revolutionary War through the 1890's.

ELECTIVE COURSES:

6th Grade Beginning Band
This course is designed to give students basic technical knowledge of their instrument and music as a whole. Students will read music, read about music, write music, write about music, and PERFORM music (both prepared and improvised) on given instruments.

7th Grade Symphonic Band
This course is designed to give students performance intensive musical training using a varied repertoire through the vehicle of written music for the wind band. Students will read music, read about music, write music, write about music, and PERFORM music (both prepared and improvised) on given instruments.

8th Grade Wind Ensemble
This course is designed to give students performance intensive musical training using a varied repertoire through the vehicle of written music for the wind band. Students will read music, read about music, write music, write about music, and PERFORM music (both prepared and improvised) on given instruments.

Middle School Choir
Class will be available to 7th and 8th Grade students who are eligible to take enrichment classes 7th hour. Enrollment will open each nine weeks. Students will study vocal and sight-reading techniques, learn varied choral and vocal repertoire, and participate in various concerts and festival events, along with other musical opportunities. Some time outside of regular school hours may be required. Attendance at concerts required.
Prerequisite: Exemption from 7th hour remediation classes

Health
This course is designed to assist students in obtaining accurate information, developing lifelong positive attitudes and behaviors, and making wise decisions related to their personal health. Study will include personal and community health; mental, emotional, and social health; injury prevention and safety; nutrition and physical activity; alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; growth, development, and sexual health. Central themes are the acceptance of personal responsibility for lifelong health, respect for and promotion of the health of others, an understanding of the process of growth and development, and informed use of health-related information, products, and services.
Physical Education
Throughout our middle school physical education classes we stress safety, respectfulness, and responsibility. Some of the core units taught include soccer, football, golf, basketball, volleyball, badminton, ultimate Frisbee, baseball, kickball, and an introduction to strength training which includes a 40 foot horizontal rock wall. In addition to these units we also incorporate tag games, new age dodge ball (which eliminates both the threatening nature and sitting of traditional dodge ball), and fitness stations. Our students also participate in a brain/body program named Bal-A-Vis-X. Many of our activities include upbeat, positive music to inspire and motivate our students. At the end of the semester all students participate in the Presidential Physical Fitness program which tests and recognizes achievement in the three main physical fitness areas: Strength, endurance, and flexibility.

Exercise and Dance
In this class students will be planning and participating in various games and dance activities. We will be setting personal fitness goals and working on those goals twice weekly. This will include a weekly visit to the weight room at the high school where students will receive guided assistance from Mr. Schwartzkopf. Other activities include team sports such as: hockey, volleyball, basketball, soccer, kickball, softball and relay races. Other fitness opportunities include exercise videos such as taebo and P90X.

Spanish I
Students who achieve a C or better in each semester are awarded .5 high school credits for each semester. Spanish I develops a vocabulary adequate for everyday situations, a fundamental knowledge of Spanish grammar and accurate pronunciation. Students practice reading, writing, listening and speaking Spanish within the context of basic situations. An understanding and appreciation of Spanish speaking people, cultures and lands is promoted.

Intro to Spanish
Intro to Spanish is offered to give students a foundation before they enter Spanish I. It uses speaking, listening, reading and writing skills to gain an appreciation of Spanish speaking people and culture.

Nutrition through Technology
This course emphasizes the use of technology within topics of nutrition including Media Smart Youth, Food and Culture, Nutrition Pathfinders, Exercise, MyPlate, and Nutrient News.

Current Events
Students discuss local, state, national and world news from sources that include USA today, Detroit News, Detroit Free Press, Jackson Citizen Patriot and Google News. We also participate in a stock market game. Students receive $1 million pretend money to invest as they learn about the stock market and investment strategies. They compete against over 650,000 groups.

8th Geometry
This one marking period class is offered to Algebra students as a support for skills needed to be successful when taking geometry in 9th grade. Students learn about angle relationships such as congruent angles formed from parallel lines and a transversal as well as angles formed by polygons. The Pythagorean Theorem is used to find missing lengths in right triangles. Two-dimensional, congruent figures are transformed by translating, rotating, and reflecting on a coordinate plane. Similar figures are then dilated. The volume of three-dimensional shapes is calculated.
Math Academic Center (MAC)
MAC class is offered for those students who struggle in math. Concepts from math class as well as basic skills are reviewed. Students will be given the opportunity to explore math concepts further by use of manipulatives, technology, and relevant games.

Reading Café
This course covers the four primary focuses of reading: Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency, Extended vocabulary. Students who struggle in reading will work toward building the skills necessary for improved reading.

Skill Building
This course focuses on building skills in all areas of a student’s education: math concepts, reading, writing, organization, study skills, test taking skills, and time management. Students are placed in this class to increase both content knowledge as well as to prepare for the rigors and demands of high school course work.

Goals Achievement Program (GAP)
GAP is a class designed for students with IEPs. Individual students’ IEP goals are worked on and monitored. Students also work on study skills and keeping themselves organized during the school day. Classroom content from the rest of the school day is re-taught in a more relaxed setting with more one-on-one or small group assistance. Students are also given time to work on daily homework, missing assignments, and AR reading.