



Decisions

Alliance Middle School Course Selection Guide

2023-2024

COURSE REGISTRATION GUIDE

This booklet has been prepared by the Alliance Middle School Guidance Department to assist both students and parents in course selection for the 2023-2024 school year.

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CORE CONTENT COURSES

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: We currently offer both honors and regular English/Language Arts class sections that are academically rigorous and encompass the new common core standards.

6th Grade English/Language Arts (Language & Literature):

This class will focus on reading instruction that is critical for student success, both now and in the future. It is designed to increase communication skills and reading skills while meeting common core content standards and preparing students for the all online assessments. In conjunction with the reading instruction, the curriculum provides systematic, hands-on strategies for every step of the writing process. Grammar skills will be introduced, modeled, and practiced. Class reading materials will include novels, textbook anthology, and informational text passages. Students will be required to read independently and showcase their knowledge through presentations.

7th Grade English/Language Arts (Language & Literature):

This class is intended to teach and review reading, writing, spelling and grammar skills. In this course students will apply reading strategies to make sense of written language in order to gain information, as well as remain engaged with text through language-rich experiences representing a variety of genres, authors, cultures and eras. In addition, students will use the writing process and writing applications to compose narratives, essays, letters, poetry and research papers. Finally, students will also be expected to become effective communicators by speaking, listening and viewing.

8th Grade English/Language Arts (Language & Literature):

Language Arts includes reading, writing, speaking, listening, visually representing, and research. These skills will be utilized in many ways this year while studying works of fiction, poetry, and other compositions. Students will be using their writing skills in many different forms including persuasive essays, poetry, and informal types of writing. In this final year of middle school, students will be preparing for their transition to high school by researching real-world issues and careers.

MATH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: We currently offer both honors and regular Math class sections that are academically rigorous and encompass the new common core standards.

6th Grade Common Core Math:

Students are expected to be able to compute basic mathematical operations (add, subtract, multiply, and divide) without calculators. This class focuses on operations with rational numbers, proportions, ratios, expressions, equations, inequalities, area and volume of polygons, summarizing data, and working with the coordinate plane. Students are also expected to persevere when problem solving, reason abstractly, construct arguments, critique other's reasoning, model mathematics, use appropriate tools and strategies, attend to precision, make use of structure and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

7th Grade Common Core Math:

Instructional time will focus on; developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships, understanding operations with rational numbers, working with expressions and linear equations, solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, working with two and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, volume, and drawing inferences about populations based on samples. Students are also expected to persevere when problem solving, reason abstractly, construct arguments, critique other's reasoning, model mathematics, use appropriate tools and strategies, attend to precision, make use of structure and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

8th Grade Common Core Math:

Instructional time will focus on: developing an understanding of and applying the use of real numbers, exponents and scientific notation, proportional and nonproportional relationships, writing linear equations, and functions. We will also learn to solve linear equations and linear systems, as well as work with transformations and similarity. Finally, we will be working with angle relationships, the Pythagorean Theorem, volume and statistics.

Algebra 1

Algebra I is an accelerated class designed for those students who have demonstrated superior math knowledge on standardized tests and in the math classroom. Students must have good study skills and be willing to spend the extra time to prepare for this demanding high school credit course. Algebra emphasizes problem solving, everyday applications, and the use of technology and reading, while developing and maintaining basic skills. Mathematical topics are integrated throughout. Expressions, equations, and functions are described graphically, symbolically, and in tables. Concepts and skills are taught with a variety of approaches. Algebra I prepares students for the next course in the sequence. **Students will need to earn a 3 on the EOC to meet graduation requirements. Students will have the option to retake Algebra I. If this option is chosen the retake grade and credit will be replaced on their transcript, even if the grade is lower.**

Geometry

Geometry is an accelerated class designed for those students who have demonstrated superior math knowledge on standardized tests and in the math classroom. Students must have good study skills and be willing to spend the extra time to prepare for this demanding high school credit course. Geometry emphasizes problem solving, everyday applications, and the use of technology and reading, while developing and maintaining basic skills. Geometry emphasizes problem solving, everyday applications, and the use of technology and reading, while developing and maintaining basic skills. Geometry integrates, coordinates and transforms through, and gives strong attention to measurement formulas and three-dimensional formulas. Work with proof writing follows a carefully sequenced development of the logical and conceptual precursors to proof. Students who have studied Geometry are ready for any second-year algebra text. **Students will have the option to retake Geometry. If this option is chosen the retake grade and credit will be replaced on their transcript, even if the grade is lower.**

SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

6th Grade Science (Science & Design):

Students will use science application and inquiry skills to learn the following content this year.

Cells: This unit focuses on the study of the basics of Modern Cell Theory. All organisms are composed of cells, which are the fundamental unit of life. Cells carry on the many processes that sustain life. All cells come from preexisting cells.

Matter: This unit focuses on the study of foundational concepts of the nature of matter

Rocks, Minerals & Soil: This unit focuses on properties, characteristics, formations and uses of rocks, minerals and soil, which make up the lithosphere. Classifying and identifying different types of rocks, minerals and soil can help us decode the past environment in which they formed.

7th Grade Science (Science & Design):

Students participate in laboratory-based inquiry instruction that focuses on energy as a general concept. Students learn about waves, sound, light, heat, electricity, energy cycles within earth systems, and energy cycles within ecosystems to relate energy transfer to the natural world. Students are expected to collect and analyze data, problem-solve, and participate in the scientific-process using methodology appropriate to the level of inquiry.

8th Grade Science (Science & Design):

The focus is on Earth Science as well as Genetics and Physics. We will explore such things as Newton's Laws, plate tectonics, heredity, and geologic time. We will develop our scientific skills, as we gather and interpret information, design and conduct our own experiments, and use critical thinking to draw

conclusions. Reading within the content area and vocabulary will be a vital part of our learning this year, along with discovering how the scientific method is useful for all scientific fields in everyday life.

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

6th Grade Social Studies (Individuals & Societies):

This course covers the world's earliest civilizations, starting with the development of city-states in ancient Sumer. We study the geography of each region as we travel through ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Canaan, India, and China. We also discover how each people group left a legacy through the achievements of their time and how those legacies continue to affect our lives today.

7th Grade Social Studies (Individuals & Societies):

Students will study World History from the end of the Golden Age of Greece through the beginning of the Age of Discovery. We cover topics such as the Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire, the birth of Christianity and Islam as world religions, the middle ages in Europe, Asia and Africa, the Renaissance and the Reformation.

8th Grade Social Studies (Individuals & Societies):

United States History for 8th grade students covers events and issues from the Age of Exploration through Reconstruction, emphasizing the 18th and 19th centuries. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Exploration | 5. Western Movement |
| 2. Colonization | 6. Nation Building |
| 3. Revolutionary War | 7. The Civil War |
| 4. Constitutional Issues | 8. Reconstruction |

Although the emphasis of this course is on the 18th and 19th centuries, additional content may be covered as time permits.

Multiple Disabilities Classroom:

Students grades 6th through 8th will participate in a specifically designed curriculum for students with disabilities to access the general curriculum. The curriculum provides students with standards based thematic units lessons that are data based to plan differentiated instruction for

individual learning. The curriculum is aligned with Ohio's Extended Learning Standards for student growth to reach each student's highest potential.

UNIFIED ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

ART (Visual Art):

Art 6th - Introduction to Art I: (Semester)

This 6th grade course is a basic introduction to the visual arts. Students will explore various mediums and will be introduced to the principles of design and the following basic elements of art: Color, line, value, shape, form, space and texture.

Art 7th - Art Development (2D/3D Focus): (Semester)

This 7th grade course allows students to further their exploration and develop their skill with various types of mediums. As the elements and principles of art and design are explored more in-depth, students will be challenged to use their creativity and problem solving skills. This course has a 2-dimensional focus.

Art 8th - Advanced Art: (Semester)

In this 8th grade course students will implement previous course content into highly skilled, focused practice. This class is for the art lover who wants to sharpen their skills, improve their craftsmanship, and work in a challenging and creative atmosphere. Students will implement important 2D design components while working within a graphic design-based curriculum. Programs such as Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator will allow students to create and design various things such as logos and posters, as well as practice photo manipulation and digital effects.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE SPANISH (Language Acquisition):

SPANISH I

Elective

1 year (36 weeks)

Credit: 1

5 periods per week

Grade: 8

Reading Level: Average to above

Predictors for Success in Spanish I: A "B" average or higher in English

Description: The purpose of the course is fourfold: to promote skills in speaking, reading, understanding, and writing Spanish. Recommended for college-bound students. Not required for graduation.

HEALTH/WELLNESS:

8th Grade: (Semester)

This semester course is designed to make students aware of the impacts and influences that can affect their overall health, as well as how the decisions they make both personally and socially can impact their health. Topics include self-esteem, fitness and nutrition, substance abuse and prevention, conflict resolution, violence prevention, social skills awareness, and sex education.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE:

8th Grade: (Semester)

Transitions and Careers: Students develop personal aspects of a healthy, responsible citizen and family member who are responsible for their career, academic and personal growth. They will plan for development of core employability skills needed by all students to be successful in school and by all workers to be successful in the workplace. Students will develop, design, implement, and periodically review a career blueprint in the context of other life choices and changing employment trends and societal needs and economic conditions.

MUSIC:

General Music, 6th-8th Grade (Semester)

This class uses and studies historical and world music. For each unit studied, students learn movement typical of the time period or style of the music studied. Students make group choices to create and code choreography and rehearse the movement they select using learning targets. Units include: March, Early Rock, Disco, Latin, Swing, and many more.

Band, 6th Grade (Performing Art): (YEAR LONG)

Sixth grade is our beginning year of band. Students learn information and skills that set the stage for future success as a musician, including names of instrument parts, instrument care, instrument and hand position, sound production using proper embouchure (mouth formation) and breath support (blowing properly into the instrument), music reading, and individual and ensemble performance. Sixth grade band students perform in winter and spring concerts.

Band, 7th and 8th Grade (Performing Art): (YEAR LONG)

In both seventh and eighth grade band students expand the range of notes that they play, and read music using a bigger variety of key signatures, time signatures, and rhythmic patterns. Students work to refine all aspects of their playing. In addition to performing in winter and spring concerts, students have the opportunity to participate in Solo and Ensemble and an every-other-year music performance trip to Kennywood amusement park.

Choir, 6th Grade (Performing Art): (YEAR LONG)

Choir is a year long class where students will begin the year with crazy camp songs. We focus on basic music reading skills and begin singing harmony in both partner songs and two-part songs. We will sing in various musical styles in preparation for two concerts (December and May). Singing is FUN!

Choir, 7th Grade (Performing Art): (YEAR LONG)

Choir is a year long class where students will begin the year with body rhythm activities which are accompanied by upbeat music. We continue to build our music reading skills through solfege and play sight-reading games in class. Students wanting to perform more can participate in the optional Solo and Ensemble Contest in April. The 7th grade choir sings three-part music in various styles and meters in preparation for two concerts (December and May).

Choir, 8th Grade (Performing Art): (YEAR LONG)

Music is a mind builder and a stress reliever, as well as an enjoyable experience. the 8th grade choir practices solfege and reads more difficult music in three and four parts. A portion of our rehearsals are dedicated to a cappella practice to build ear training. Music is in both simple and complex/multi-metered pieces. Students will sing at least one song in a foreign language. Students wanting to perform more can participate in the optional Solo and Ensemble Contest in April. Various forms and styles of music will be sung in preparation for two concerts (December and May).

Orchestra, 6th Grade (Performing Art): (YEAR LONG)

Sixth grade is our beginning year of orchestra. Students learn information and skills that set the stage for future success as a string player, including names of instrument/bow parts, instrument/bow care, instrument position and bow hold, sound production using pizzicato (plucking the string) and arco (playing with the bow), music reading, and individual and ensemble performance. Sixth grade orchestra students perform in winter and spring concerts.

Orchestra, 7th and 8th Grades (Performing Art): (YEAR LONG)

In both seventh and eighth grade orchestra students expand the range of notes that they play, learn new finger patterns, and read music using a bigger variety of key signatures, time signatures, and rhythmic patterns. Students work to refine all aspects of their playing. In addition to performing in winter and spring concerts, students have the opportunity to participate in Solo and Ensemble and an every-other-year music performance trip to Kennywood amusement park.

Show Choir, 7th Grade (Participants must be in 7th grade choir) (Performing Art):
(YEAR LONG)

This class is an introduction to singing and dancing. All Show Choir participants must be in 7th grade choir. Singing and music reading skills are learned in choir while Show Choir focuses on dance and learning the elements used in a Show Choir performance. Students will participate in one mandatory performance.

Show Choir, 8th Grade (Participants must be in 8th grade choir) (Performing Art):
(YEAR LONG)

This class is a continuation of Show Choir (7th grade). All Show Choir participants must be in 8th grade Choir. Singing and music reading skills are learned in choir while Show Choir focuses on dance, learning the elements used in a Show Choir performance. Students are prepared for the high school Jetsetters optional audition in May. Students will participate in one mandatory performance.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION, 6th-8th Grade: (Semester)

The physical education program provides opportunities for students to exhibit and develop neuromuscular coordination, cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance, agility, balance and flexibility in a variety of activities and sports. Students will also learn rules, apply strategies, and enhance personal qualities of self control, self confidence, good sportsmanship and respect for others. Students will also participate in a physical fitness class that will encompass aspects of strength training, cardiovascular training, flexibility, and many health and wellness topics. Students will learn how to create fitness programs, calculate target heart rate, and body mass index.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (PLTW) / TECHNOLOGY

STEM 8 - 8th grade: (Semester)

Students will do a variety of projects focused on robotics and data within society. After discovering the design process and some background information on engineers, students will dive into gears, machines, coding and data representations.

STEM 7 - 7th grade: (Semester)

Students will be learning the components of a computer, how to code basic statements, and to develop items using code. The class will focus on discoveries of computer science. Students will gain skills in website development and creation of sprite scenes and games within the game lab.

STEM 6 - 6th grade: (Semester)

Students in the first semester will be creating, building and 3D modeling a variety of projects. The class will focus on working through the design process, learning sketching techniques and the basics of 3D modeling. Students in the second semester will play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. The class will measure and interpret vital signs, dissect a sheep brain, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction.

TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION (grades 6-8): (Semester)

This technology and computer course is designed to enhance computer and technology skills at the middle school level. Students will explore coding, Google Suite, internet safety and security, and create projects relevant to technology and computer topics. These topics will engage learners by relating to real world issues and problem solving in the field of technology.

INTERVENTION:

Read 180: (YEAR LONG/ Everyday)

The READ 180 program is a Scholastic reading intervention program. The program uses differentiated and direct instruction, adaptive and instructional software, high-interest literature, and focuses on comprehension, reading, writing, and vocabulary skills. It is an intensive reading that has been proven effective for those students needing additional reading support.

Extra Curricular Activities

Academic Challenge:

Academic Challenge is a team event in which students compete against other schools throughout Stark County on trivia and academic related questions. This quiz bowl team spends November-January preparing for matches. If you enjoy trivia, this would be the perfect club for you!

After-School Show Choir:

This extra curricular class is offered to students who are in choir, but cannot participate in Show Choir because they are in Band and/or Orchestra. The After-school Show Choir will meet twice a week for 50 minutes with the Fall session beginning in October and the Spring session beginning in February. Students will learn all of the basic dance elements of Show Choir. If the student attends regular after-school classes, they may participate with the Show Choir in their semester performance.

Math Team:

Math team is available to any middle school student that would qualify for the math team. Students would need to show a strong aptitude in math, willing to study on their own, and be willing to work in a team environment with classmates. After school practices are conducted at the supervisors discretion leading to the one (1) day county-wide math competition.

National Junior Honor Society:

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) elevates a school's commitment to the values of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship and helps middle-level students develop the knowledge and skills to become well-rounded student leaders in their school, community, and beyond.

- a. Candidates eligible for selection must be in the second semester of seventh grade.
- b. To be eligible for selection to membership in this chapter, the candidate must have been enrolled for a period equivalent to one semester at Alliance Middle School.
- c. Candidates eligible for election to the chapter shall have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- d. Upon meeting the grade level, enrollment, and GPA standards, candidates shall then be considered based on their service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

Navigators:

Synergy Alliance Navigators is an afterschool program that offers a variety of academic assistance as well as enrichment activities. After receiving a snack, students are able to receive homework help, develop reading and math skills through hands-on activities and enjoy music, art, sports and a variety of youth development activities. Navigators is open to all students and transportation is available home after the program. Our hours are from 2:15 - 4:45 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Friday Navigators participate in activities at the YMCA. Different classes are offered each session including Unicycling and Juggling, Builder's Club, Wii Fun, Robotics, Girl's Together, Guitar Lessons, EXCEL, Chess Club, Study Table, Dodgeball, Drama Club, Let's Draw as well as many more exciting classes. We even have classes for parents! Join us for after school learning and fun!

Power of the Pen:

Power of the Pen is an Interscholastic Tournament for young writers that identifies, challenges, and rewards excellence in written expression. 7th and 8th graders meet weekly until the tournament in January to write for forty minutes on a specific prompt or title. Students are assessed using a rubric and scores are recorded. Six students each from grades seven and eight participate in the District Competition held at the University of Mount Union. If students qualify to go on, the Regional Competition is in March at Malone University and the State Competition is in May at the College of Wooster.

Spelling Bee:

The Scripps National Spelling Bee is an educational promotion sponsored by the E.W. Scripps Company in conjunction with The Repository. Its purpose is to help students improve their spelling and increase their vocabulary. All students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade are eligible to try out for their grade level Bee. Grade level winners will then go on to compete at the local level in February held at Alliance Middle School. The winner from the local level will compete in The Repository's Regional Final Spelling Bee held in March.

Student Senate:

Student Senate is a student-based civic organization designed to help promote school spirit and leadership among students. Students participating in all levels of the Senate will maintain a high standard of personal conduct. Senate members will demonstrate leadership qualities by serving as good examples of behavior through their words and actions.

All Senate members will be expected to participate in approved activities, which will serve to enhance the quality of both the physical and behavior environment of the school.

The purpose of student senate is:

1. To develop positive attitudes and to practice good citizenship.
2. To promote harmonious relations throughout the entire school.
3. To improve student/faculty relationships.
4. To improve school morale and general welfare.
5. To provide a forum for student expression.
6. To plan special events or projects.

Benefits of being involved in Student Senate include: opportunity to improve reading and writing skills, gain experience in public speaking, and learn how to make a positive impact on school and community environment. In addition, Student Senate serves as a chance to meet new friends and work with a wide variety of people.

Yearbook:

Students will use advanced photography and photoshop skills to create the AMS yearbook.

Athletics

Fall Sports: (7th & 8th Grade)

Cheerleading
Cross Country
Golf
Football
Volleyball

Winter Sports: (7th & 8th Grade)

Cheerleading
Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Wrestling

Spring Sports: (7th & 8th Grade)

Track