

EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

JH SCIENCE

This class is intended to introduce you to the study of chemistry by looking at the chemistry of everyday things. We will do activities and experiments that demonstrate the chemistry of everyday things such as food, beverages, soap and detergents, water, etc. We will discuss basic principles of chemistry as we do the various activities.

Materials needed: Notebook and a pen

JH BAND

Junior High Band is designed to allow each student to develop his/her potential on a band instrument. Junior High Band is a continuation of pedagogical practices from beginning band designed for the student to develop a lifelong love of music and playing in band for fun. Junior High Band rehearses daily during the school day and performs several concerts a year for the community and student body. The band may also perform at required festivals and clinics throughout the year. Band members may also audition for local honor bands, play for solo and ensemble festivals, and participate in co-curricular ensembles. Individual lessons are required during the semester through the music department lesson program. Band is a yearlong course. Students will need Tradition of Excellence: Book 2, which can be purchased through the school.

JH CHOIR

Junior High Choir is open to all students in grades 7 and 8. Students will learn about healthy vocal technique to aid in lifelong singing and about singing in a group. Focused time will be devoted to the study of musical theory and sight singing. Students are required to participate in four concerts throughout the school year. Opportunities will be given for participation in small groups and other festival events.

JH FACS

This course will give students a small portion of the different areas covered in Family and Consumer Science. We will include units on food and nutrition, child development, personal relations, time management, and consumerism. Hands-on projects will give you an opportunity to explore and experience essential life skills.

JH LANGUAGE ARTS**

The overall objective for this class is to improve a student's reading ability.. Students will improve their skills and strategies in reading books, newspapers, magazines, and stories. Vocabulary work will also be done. Since this class is designed for those students who may have difficulty passing the Minnesota Basic Skills Test in Reading, students will take several practice tests. ** Students scoring below proficiency in standardized Reading tests will be required to take this course.

JH MATH LAB 8th Grade*

This class will focus heavily on basic skills. Number sense, fractions, decimals, percent, and other useful skills will be taught. A basic calculator will be used part of the time. This class will help

reinforce topics that are necessary for future success in mathematics classes. There will be some homework required in this class, but the majority of the work will be completed in class. *Students scoring below proficiency on standardized Math tests will be required to take this course. Calculators will be used some days. A Graphing Calculator is recommended for Algebra I, and that same calculator can be used in this class. A notebook and pencil are needed as well.

JH SHOP

This class will introduce junior high students to shop facilities in Ag education. Students will study a variety of topics such as: safety, tool ID, proper tool usage, wood structure, plan-reading, and hands on techniques. This class will go into extensive safety and usage of woodworking tools. These tools will be demonstrated by the students to the rest of the class. Students will complete a project in the wood shop using the tools and knowledge they have gained. This class will use hands on experience for a majority of the time.

Materials needed: Notebook and a pen

JH LIFE SKILLS

This class will concentrate on information covered in Family and Consumer Science. We will include units in Management, Goals and Decision Making, Resources for Managing, and Consumer Behavior including comparison-shopping, advertising and checking accounts. We will also include mini units on Clothing-selecting clothing, care and repair, Housing-housing needs, design principles, furnishing your home, Personal Development-basic human needs, Child Development-ages & stages of children, safety, Family Living-types of families, and Foods-nutrition, the new & improved pyramid, and Cooking Basics.

JH OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Outdoor Education will provide activities designed to introduce various outdoor skills that will enhance both mental and physical well-being. Emphasis is on skill development, safety practices, responsibility, teamwork and self-awareness through experiential learning. Skills include, but are not limited to, hiking, compass training, cooperative games, ropes initiatives, orienteering, camping, cross-country skiing, and a variety of outdoor experiences.

***During the winter months, students will be required to have outdoor clothing and boots for class.**

Materials Needed: Book Cover, Notebook, Folder, Pencil.

JH TECH EXPLORATION

Materials Needed: Wired headphones or earbuds compatible with a computer or laptop

This course focuses on teaching 21st century skills and digital literacy. Students will use varied software and web tools. Topics may include:

Basics
Collaboration
Be Legal & Fair
Digital Images
Dig the Data
Career Prep
Buyer Beware

Visual Learning
Digital Footprint
Troubleshooting
Powerful Presentations
Social Networking
Creative Communications
GLobal Collaboration

My Digital Life
Cyber Safety
Search Strategies
Interactives
Design Thinking
Digital Storytelling
Computational Thinking

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EIGHTH GRADE REQUIRED COURSES

ENGLISH 8

Students in English 8 will dig deeper into the various modes of writing: narrative, informational, research and argumentation. Students will encounter a wide variety of texts, both self-selected and whole class, including literature, drama and informational texts. In this class, students will review basic grammar concepts, such as the parts of speech, as well as new academic vocabulary. There will also be speaking and listening components through class discussions and presentations.

Materials needed: notebook and folder or binder with loose-leaf paper, pencil.

ALGEBRA I

Algebra is a first-year course in algebra. The first-year course integrates geometry, statistics, and probability into algebra. Reading and problem solving are emphasized. With algebra, you can describe patterns of all kinds, work with formulas, discuss unknowns in problems and graph ideas. Algebra can be considered to be the language of mathematics. Preparation for the MCA Test will be a high priority. A graphing calculator is highly recommended for this class. (TI-83 or TI-84). The calculator will be used throughout their junior high and senior high mathematics courses. Notebook and pencil is needed.

SCIENCE 8 (Physical Science)

This course is designed to give students an introduction to the two major branches of Physical Science, Chemistry and Physics. The purpose of this course includes developing the student's interest in science, giving the student a fundamental understanding of scientific concepts, and preparing the student for further study. The topics covered in this course include motion and energy, waves, electricity and magnetism, matter, atomic structure, the periodic table, chemical bonding, organic chemistry, chemical reactions, acids and bases, and the nucleus.

Materials Needed: Pencils, Erasers, Black Pens, Colored Pencils, Colored Pencil Sharpener, Loose Leaf Note Paper (Wide or College Lined), 3-ring Binder

SOCIAL 8 (Civics)

Civics is a basic course in citizenship. Material covered includes units on Citizenship and Government (What is Government?, the Constitution, Rights/Duties of American Citizens); the National Government (Congress, Presidency, Judicial Branch); State and Local Governments (Courts, State Agencies); Government and the Economy (Business, Labor, Consumer Decisions); and Foreign Policy (America's Role, United Nations, Global Problems).

Materials Needed: Book Cover, Notebook, Folder, Pencil, Basic Calculator is helpful.

HEALTH 8

Eighth grade health is designed to educate students in the importance of living a healthy lifestyle. Making proper decisions which enable students to live this healthy lifestyle is stressed. Some of the topics covered include personality and emotions; growth and development (physically, socially and emotionally); diet and nutrition; exercise and fitness; consequences of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use; and medicines and how they affect the body.

Materials Needed: Book Cover, Notebook, Folder, Pencil,

TECHNOLOGY 8

Technology 8 is designed to allow students to use digital cameras, scanners, Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, Keynote, desktop publishing and eZedia.

Materials Needed: Wired headphones or earbuds compatible with a computer or laptop

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION 8

This is a quarter course intended to inform all students with the principal ideas about the different agricultural industries. Agricultural industries including all aspects of the food and fiber system. Students will concentrate on understanding the definition of agriculture and its industries, its economic impacts and worldwide impact, plant science, animal science, woodworking and an awareness of local industry. Classroom information will be reinforced with a hands on approach for a better understanding.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8

Physical Education is an activity-oriented program which consists of basic skills, self-testing activities, and team-oriented sports. Classes help provide a regular amount of physical activity which is vital for maintenance of good health. Learning the rules of games and sports is important. Sportsmanship and cooperation between classmates is also expected. Physical Education classes provide the student with the opportunity to discover sports and recreational activities that will be linked to lifetime fitness.

Materials Needed: Extra change of gym shoes, t-shirt, shorts, (shorts are to reach the bottom of the thigh) sweatpants, socks, underwear, towel, soap/shampoo. (This can all stay in their gym locker) Notebook, Folder, Pen or Pencil. Calculator, Weather depending, sweatshirt or long sleeve t-shirt or jacket may be needed, fee for bowling alley.

HEALTH 8

Eighth grade health is designed to educate students in the importance of living a healthy lifestyle. Making proper decisions which enable students to live a healthy lifestyle is stressed. Some of the topics covered include making decisions and setting goals; consumer health care; exercise and fitness; communicable and noncommunicable diseases, consequences of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use; proper use of medicine; and promoting public health. Eighth grade Health goes into greater detail in these areas than does seventh grade Health.

Note to parents:

If you have questions about registration, call Mrs. Beech at 836-6184, ext. 4100 or email at mary_beech@mcc.mntm.org. Please be sure your son or daughter turns in the registration form to their AP teacher by February 7.

Murray County Central

Eighth Grade Registration

Dear Student and Parent(s):

During the eighth grade you will have little choice about the subjects you must take. Required and elective courses for eighth grade are shown on the registration form below.

Name _____ Grade 8

REQUIRED COURSES:

English 8, Algebra I, Science 8, Social 8, Technology 8, Agriculture 8, Phy. Ed. 8, and Health 8
_____ Geometry (only for those who have completed Algebra I)

ELECTIVE COURSES:

Band? yes _____ no _____

Choir? yes _____ no _____

If you choose both band and choir, you do not have to choose from the other elective classes.

If you take only band or only choir (one music), you will have to choose

one elective 1st semester AND one elective 2nd semester

If you take neither band nor choir (no music) you will have to choose

two electives 1st semester AND two electives 2nd semester.

1st Semester

_____ JH FACS _____ JH Science _____ JH Outdoor Education

_____ JH Math Lab 8th Grade*

2nd Semester

_____ JH Life Skills _____ JH Shop _____ JH Tech Exploration

_____ JH Language Arts Lab 8th Grade**

NOTE: a student can only take each of the above electives once during grades 7 and 8!

You can take band and/or choir in both 7th and 8th grades.

*Students scoring below proficiency on standardized Math tests will be required to take this course.

**Students scoring below proficiency on standardized Reading tests will be required to take this course.

(The school will attempt to honor your wishes in selecting these electives. Please bear in mind that schedule conflicts may warrant a change in your classes.)

Student Signature

Return to your AP Teacher by February 7!

Parent Signature