

Warren Woods Middle School

2023-2024 Course Guide

EIGHTH GRADE

Core Academic Classes

LANGUAGE ARTS (FULL YEAR) Mandatory

This curriculum uses the various aspects of language. Reading, speaking, listening, grammar, usage, and mechanics are taught through different writing techniques. Spelling and vocabulary development are integrated to provide clarity of ideas. Literature is included as a model for writing styles, as well as reading enrichment.

SOCIAL STUDIES (FULL YEAR) Mandatory

This course teaches students about the birth and growth of our nation and the significant events that shaped our history from the Revolution Era through the year 1898. The study of American history is completed in tenth grade.

MATHEMATICS II (FULL YEAR) Mandatory

Topics covered in this course include linear and quadratic equations, inequalities, polynomial operations, data analysis, and systems of equations, factoring, rational expressions, and problem solving.

ALGEBRA I (FULL YEAR) BY RECOMMENDATION

This is an advanced math course that is offered for high school credit. Students must be recommended for this course by their 7th grade math teacher as well as pass an entrance exam and/or meet a set minimum score on their Spring NWEA. The students will study first-degree equations, verbal problems, polynomial operations, factoring, fractional expressions, and quadratics.

SCIENCE (FULL YEAR) Mandatory

Students will engage in investigation about the history of the Earth, Earth's Systems and how they interact. The class will learn about weather patterns and catastrophic events. During the second half of the year, students will examine solar system motion and explain patterns among planets, moon, sun, and other celestial bodies.

ADVISORY (FULL YEAR) Mandatory

Using Character Strong, a research based social and emotional learning curriculum focused on foster the Whole Child, this course provides students with vertically-aligned lessons that teach SEL and character, side-by-side. The goal of Advisory is to establish a strong foundation of social & emotional skills among students by teaching healthy habit development, social awareness strategies, empathy building techniques, and more.

Year-Long Elective Classes

SYMPHONIC BAND (FULL YEAR)

Eighth grade students continue to work on expanding their musical ability and knowledge. Performance opportunities are the same mentioned for the Cadet Band. The Concert Band has traditionally gone on an overnight trip to destinations such as Lansing or Mackinac Island.

SPANISH II (FULL YEAR)

This course is for students who took Spanish I in the seventh grade and have passed the proficiency exam. Students will continue their study of the Spanish language and culture. Students will have the opportunity to take a proficiency exam and earn a second world language credit. Students must have the teacher's approval and signature to sign up for this course.

Quarter Elective Class Options

ALL AROUND ART (10 WEEKS)

Students will study the elements of art and principles of design, which are the building blocks the all art is made of. Students will learn about the lives, inspirations and artistic qualities of famous artists throughout history. This course allows students to develop their creative ideas and interests with more involved and complex projects that involve a variety of materials.

AMERICAN POP CULTURE (10 WEEKS)

Students will be able to explain different aspects of American pop culture and compare them to different generations in American history. We will consider how these things have changed over the course of time and how they connect to the history of our country.

FILM CRITIC (10 WEEKS)

Focusing on various '80s and '90s films, students write well-thought-out opinion-based movie reviews using their class notes and movie analysis materials. Genres are as follows, but not limited to, Disney animated, sports, romantic comedy, adventure, fantasy, and comedy.

MATH LAB (10 WEEKS)

Math Lab is available for all 8th graders to provide extra exposure to math concepts outside the traditional Math 8/Algebra I classroom. Students will continue to build upon their current math skills and practice applying those skills in real world situations.

NEWS MEDIA (10 WEEKS)

Students participate in all steps involved in publishing a school yearbook and newspaper. Students learn the basic elements of yearbook creation including: writing articles, layout, design, copyrighting, editing and photography. The publication is created using computer software and is published for student distribution. This course will also focus on informational writing for journalism purposes. Students will learn the processes needed in planning and presenting informative news stories

PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE MEMORIES (10 WEEKS)

Students will dive into memory, how we remember, why we forget and reflect on their own memories. Class projects include scrapbooks, collages, time capsules, reflecting on their own experiences as inspiration for their projects.

PERSONAL FITNESS/TEAM SPORTS AND GAMES (10 WEEKS)

This class will focus on the development of individual physical fitness through the use of the fitness center and a variety of indoor and outdoor team sport activities. A battery of tests, recommended by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Fitness for Youth, are administered.

ROBOTICS (10 WEEKS)

In this "Hands On" class, students will be using the Lego Mindstorms EV3 Kit. This introductory course will have student build robot models and program the robots. Several different robots will be constructed throughout the course along with different programming challenges.

SOCIAL JUSTICE (10 WEEKS)

In Social Justice we explore three specific topics that have shaped our world and that are currently changing the landscape of our world. Topics include: racism, gender, LGBTQ+ issues, immigration, homelessness, gun rights and gun violence, social class, and the role of media on society. We dive into each of the topics to understand their historical relevance as well as their impact on current events. In this class you will get a better understanding of the world around you and a better understanding of the world you will one day inherit

YOU BE THE JUDGE (10 WEEKS)

Students will participate in meaningful civic learning, from how the court system works to voting rights, as well as what character traits and judgement abilities are needed for a person to be a meaningful part of civic society.

All of the courses listed may not be offered depending on student interest and staff availability.

For information regarding online learning opportunities please refer to the Warren Woods Public Schools website.