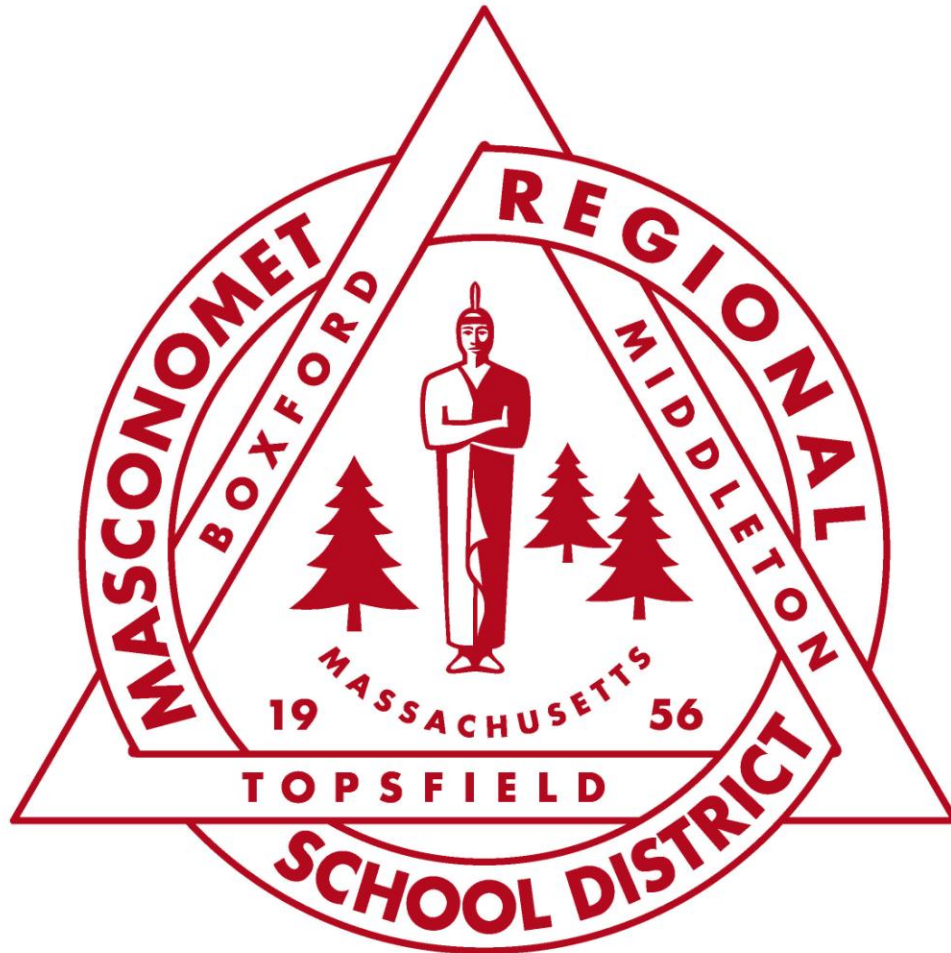


***MASCONOMET REGIONAL
MIDDLE SCHOOL***



**PROGRAM OF STUDIES
2017-2018**

This Program of Studies is designed to inform students and parents of the courses offered in the Middle School and to help you select those courses, where appropriate, that fit your needs and interests. Please carefully review all of the courses listed on the following pages.

Your teacher or guidance counselor will discuss the Program of Studies and the course selection procedure with you.

All students are required to enroll in certain courses or programs as noted. In a few cases, you may select from more than one course to satisfy the requirements.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The course descriptions provided below will help you plan your Middle School program. Each course is designed to meet the needs of our Middle School students.

ENGLISH

English - Grade 7

Full Year-6 periods per cycle

Seventh Grade English is a course emphasizing reading and literature, written composition, grammar and usage, spelling and vocabulary, and speaking and critical thinking skills. **The curriculum focuses on the essential question: “How can one person make a difference?”** With an emphasis on reading comprehension, students study selections from a variety of literary types: fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. Students write academic, creative, authentic, and personal/reflective compositions with a focus on purpose, audience, topic, and style. In grammar, emphasis is placed on sentence structure, correct usage, and mechanics. In addition, library orientation classes are provided through English classes.

English - Grade 8

Full Year-6 periods per cycle

The goal of the eighth grade English program is to enhance the growth of communication skills in an environment that encourages students to read, write, listen, and speak. **The essential question around which the curriculum is built is: “What is power?”** Structured literature lessons encourage students to expand their reading experiences by exposing them to a wide variety of genres. Teachers work with students to help them understand that reading and writing are connected. To this end, a wide range of activities and techniques are designed to provide enrichment and reinforce language skills in the classroom.

Literacy Workshop - Grade 8

Full Year-3 periods per cycle

Literacy Workshop is an elective available to students demonstrating proficiency or higher on the seventh-grade ELA state assessment. This class will extend student reading, writing, and critical thinking skills that supplement the English curriculum through authentic projects that rely on creativity and collaboration in three units: Journalism, Children’s Books, and Drama. Students will expand their knowledge of writing through the study of Journalism by planning, interviewing, and writing news stories. Students will go through the process of planning, drafting, illustrating, and publishing original and creative Children’s Books. In the Drama unit, students will read and become familiar with the styles of different traditional literature such as fables, myths, and legends, and then adapt a traditional story by writing, producing, and acting in their own versions.

Targeted Literacy - Grade 8

Full Year—3 periods per cycle

Targeted Literacy is a mandatory course for students who have not yet demonstrated proficiency on the seventh-grade ELA state assessment. The teacher will target each student’s area of need using individualized and full-class instruction, with a focus on close reading techniques and analytical writing skills. Once a student has demonstrated proficiency in these areas, he or she can move out of this class and into one of the other grade 8 electives.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies Department is committed to exposing students to the local, national and global world around them and to promote active citizenship by meeting the Massachusetts History and Social Science Frameworks. The Grade Seven and Eight curriculum places a focus on global awareness and life-long learning.

Grade 7 – Global Cultures

Full Year-6 periods per cycle

The Middle School World History program begins with Grade 7 Global Cultures and will focus on world historical events and issues. The purpose of the Global Cultures program is to acquaint students with different cultures and to investigate issues, accomplishments, and challenges these cultures face as they move through the twenty-first century. Units will include physical geography and cultures from Africa, Asia, South America, Australia, the Middle East, and Europe. Historical events and the political, social and economic developments of these cultures will be studied and explored in preparation for the Grade Eight curriculum.

Grade 8 - World History 800-1815

Full Year-6 periods per cycle

As directed by the Massachusetts History and Social Science Framework, the eighth grade Social Studies program involves studying the development of world civilizations after the fall of the Roman Empire through the fall of Napoleon and the birth of democracy. Students study the history of the major empires and political entities of this period as well as the citizen's role within these empires. Students examine the important political, economic and religious developments of this period, including the role of major religions, the conflicts between people and ideologies in different parts of the world, and the beginnings of European influence on the Western Hemisphere. Students will also be introduced to the concept of active citizenship and its development throughout this time period. The individual's role in government is emphasized in both the historical and modern day contexts.

MATHEMATICS

Every student needs to have a scientific calculator for use in class and at home. It is recommended that the calculator be solar-powered and equipped with a hard plastic cover. Texas Instrument Models TI-30, TI-30SLR, TI-30SLR+ are not satisfactory because of design limitations with some functions.

To assist students to prepare for their middle school math course, review materials will be available for students online during the summer. Additional information about accessing these resources will be provided in June.

Trimester grades in accelerated pre-algebra and/or algebra 1 honors are not weighted when determining honor roll eligibility.

Math - Grade 7

Grade 7 Pre-Algebra

Full Year-6 periods per cycle

This course offers a standards-based, integrated curriculum that incorporates topics described in the learning standards for students in grade 7 found in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks in Mathematics (©2011). The central content of this course focuses on: Ratios and Proportional Reasoning; The Number System; Expressions and Equations and Statistics and Probability. Students will analyze proportional relationships and apply them to problem solving situations. They will apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to operations with rational numbers. Students will use the properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions and solve problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations. Students will extend their understanding of statistical measures using random sampling to draw inferences about a population and draw informal comparative inferences about two populations. They will investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models.

Accelerated Pre-Algebra

Full Year-6 periods per cycle

Accelerated Pre-Algebra is the first of two middle school math courses during which students will complete the seventh and eighth grade curricula as described in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks in Mathematics (©2011) as well as the algebra 1 curriculum described in the same document. To accomplish this, **in addition to** the content listed above for Grade 7 Pre-Algebra students in accelerated pre-algebra will also study the following content standards included in the eighth grade curriculum: know that there are numbers that are not rational and approximate them as rational numbers; work with radicals and integer exponents; understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines and linear equations, and analyze and solve linear equations and systems of two linear equations in two variables. ***Since three years of content will be covered in two academic years, the pace of this course will be significantly faster and the workload expectations are greater than for Grade 7 Pre-Algebra.***

Students who want to be considered for the accelerated program must complete a two part assessment process. This will take place outside of the normal school day and be administered at Masconomet Regional Middle School. Details about this program – including dates and times for testing – are included with the materials accompanying this document.

Geometry Lab

One Trimester – 6 periods per cycle

This course will provide students with an opportunity to investigate the concepts and skills related to Geometry as delineated in the revised Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks in Mathematics (© 2011). Students will analyze the relationship between the number of sides and the sums of interior and exterior angles in polygons. They will learn to classify figures in terms of congruency and similarity and apply these relationships to problem solving situations. They will use ratio/proportion to solve problems about similar figures as well as indirect measurement. Students will learn about parallel lines, the Pythagorean Theorem, and transformations in both unmarked planes and the coordinate plane. By the end of the course, students will be able to identify and classify two- and three-dimensional figures by physical appearance and distinguishing attributes. Students will be able to select and apply the appropriate formula to find perimeter/circumference, area, surface area and volume. Students are responsible for this content on both the grade 7 and grade 8 MCAS tests.

Math - Grade 8

Student's math selection for Grade 8 must be approved by his/her seventh grade math teacher. When a student enters Grade 8 without attending seventh grade at Masconomet, the Department Chair will recommend appropriate placement. This recommendation will be based on consideration of records from the feeder school and, when appropriate, performance on a placement test and/or brief interview.

Grade 8 – Introduction to Algebra

Full Year – 6 periods per cycle

This course offers a standards-based, integrated curriculum that incorporates topics described in the learning standards for students in grade 8 found in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks in Mathematics (©2011). The central content of this course focuses on: The Number System; Expressions and Equations; Functions and Statistics and Probability. Students will formulate expressions and equations and reason about their meaning. This will include using linear equations to model bivariate data and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations. Students will investigate the concept of functions and use functions to describe quantitative relationships. Students will be able to use multiple representations of quantitative relationships including equations, tables of values, graphs and verbal descriptions to solve problems. Students use linear equations, systems of linear equations and functions to express relationships between two quantities and to interpret their components in the context of the problem. Because this course is not equivalent to a full year of algebra 1, the end of year grade in this course does not appear on the student's high school transcript.

Algebra I (H)

Full Year-6 periods per cycle

Algebra I Honors is an in-depth study of Algebra to prepare students to study advanced mathematics courses in the high school leading up to advanced placement calculus. The aim is to better prepare students to move toward more independence in learning. As an algorithm is introduced, the process is stressed more than its memorization. Often more than one solution is shown, and students are encouraged to discover different strategies and methods to solve problems. The use of cooperative groups to solve challenging varieties of word problems is stressed throughout the year.

The content is structured around families of functions, focusing on linear and quadratic functions. Students learn to represent a family of functions in multiple ways – as verbal descriptions, equations, tables, and graphs. They also learn to model real-world situations using functions in order to solve problems. Equations and inequalities, graphing, informal geometry, formulas and functions, systems of equations, exponents and radicals, quadratics, proportion and rational equations are the main concepts. ***The pace of this course will be significantly faster and the workload expectations are greater than for Introduction to Algebra. This course is a full year of algebra 1, the end of year grade in this course will appear on the student's high school transcript.***

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING

The Science, Technology and Engineering (STE) Department promotes students' curiosity about the natural world and promotes critical thinking skills as students learn through

inquiry-based projects and lab activities. STE courses are aligned to the current Massachusetts STE Middle School Frameworks, with emphasis on science process skills as well as science content. All STE curricula incorporate study skills, reading for information, and scientific writing protocols. Additionally, the middle school science fair provides opportunities for students to explore a topic of interest in greater depth.

Science - Grade 7

Full Year-6 periods per cycle

The Grade 7 program focuses on life science. Units of study include: classification; structure and function of cells; systems in living things; reproduction and heredity; evolution and biodiversity; living things and their environment; energy in living things; and changes in ecosystems over time. Coursework will emphasize and help develop the 8 Science and Engineering Practices which were developed based on what professional scientists and engineers do. These practices will help students understand how scientific knowledge develops, and provide a broader range for investigating, modeling and understanding the world. Students in Grade 7 will engage in a long term project of student choice that will culminate in an exhibition of student work.

Science - Grade 8

Full Year-6 periods per cycle

The Grade 8 program focuses on Earth, Space and Physical Science. Units of study include: Mapping the Earth; Earth's history and structure; Earth in the solar system; properties of matter; elements, compounds and mixtures; motion of objects; forms of energy; and heat transfer. Coursework will emphasize and help develop the 8 Science and Engineering Practices which were developed based on what professional scientists and engineers do. These practices will help students understand how scientific knowledge develops, and provide a broader range for investigating, modeling and understanding the world. Students in Grade 8 will have the opportunity to engage in a long term project of student choice that will culminate in an exhibition of student work. Students will take the Middle School STE Exam in the spring.

STEM - Grade 8

Trimester-6 periods per cycle

STEM is an interdisciplinary trimester course, which promotes deeper understanding of concepts in science, technology, engineering and mathematics through applications that integrate these related disciplines. The course emphasizes learning standards from the Grade 6-8 Technology/Engineering Framework and the Grade 7 and 8 Mathematics Frameworks.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The Foreign Language Department is committed to meeting the Massachusetts and National standards of communication, culture, connections, comparisons and communities. Studying a foreign language, like other subject areas, prepares students for lifelong learning. The goal of all foreign language classes at Masconomet is to achieve 90% target language use per ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) recommendation.

Students entering grade 7 should select their first and second choice for language. We will make every effort to honor first choice selections. It is **not** possible to switch languages between grades 7 and 8. Your child may switch when entering high school

depending on which language he/she chooses and when he/she wants to switch. At the high school level, Spanish is offered at level I CP, CP-2; Chinese I is offered only as an honors level and French I CP/H is offered when there is sufficient enrollment.

Grade 7 – French or Spanish

Full Year-6 periods per cycle

In this course students will begin to learn the fundamentals of the target language. They will acquire a practical vocabulary and the basic structure needed to ask/answer questions, express opinions/wants/needs and narrate in present tense. Students will gain proficiency in the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. During the seventh grade there is special emphasis placed on listening and speaking. Students will explore the culture of countries where the target language is spoken and will do cultural projects, as well. The curriculum covered is the first half of the first year of a high school curriculum. Students are expected to complete daily homework assignments conscientiously, to study every evening and to participate actively in class in the target language.

Grade 7- Chinese

Full Year-6 periods per cycle

Students will begin to learn the fundamentals of the Chinese language and character writing. The skills of listening and speaking will be emphasized with stress on the 4 tones of Mandarin used to clarify the meanings of words. Students will explore the ancient culture of China and will do cultural projects. Learning Chinese is considered to be challenging because of the 3,000 common characters there are in the language. Therefore, students selecting this course must be dedicated to studying and transcribing characters everyday and be committed to continue their study of the language well into high school. By ACTFL language difficulty rankings, Chinese is considered a level IV. Only one section of Grade 7 Chinese will be offered for the 2016-2017 school year.

Grade 8- Chinese

Full Year-6 periods per cycle

Students will gain proficiency in the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. During the seventh grade there is special emphasis placed on listening and speaking. Students will continue to learn the fundamentals of the Chinese language and character writing. By the end of the 8th grade, students will have completed the equivalent of a high school level I program. Students will learn 250 characters. Along with the fundamentals of Chinese, students will become more acquainted with the culture and customs of the Chinese. Daily studying and transcribing of characters is necessary to be successful in this course.

Grade 8 – French or Spanish

Full Year-6 periods per cycle

This course is a continuation of the seventh grade program. Therefore, students may not begin a new language in Grade 8. Students must continue with the language studied in Grade 7. Students will increase their vocabulary and knowledge of structure while further exploring the culture of countries where the target language is spoken. Students will continue to develop proficiency in the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. As they continue to develop their listening and speaking skills, students will begin to read and to write in the target language. By the end of the 8th grade, students will have completed the equivalent of a high school level I program. French or Spanish is the language of instruction and students are expected to speak it daily. Students are required to complete daily homework assignments and special projects, to study every evening and

to participate actively in class in the target language. Grade 8 teachers will recommend students for the appropriate high school level, honors or college preparatory, based on their success in learning the target language in Grade 8 and their work ethic.

ART

Grade 7

One Trimester-6 periods per cycle

Grade 7 Art is a comprehensive art program. It is designed to allow for discovery by presenting creative challenges involving both technical skill and reflective experience. Units covered include Drawing, Color, 2-D Design, 3-D Design and/or Printmaking. Art appreciation is woven into the fabric of each unit. Students will be asked to observe, think creatively, and make critical decisions while developing stronger problem solving skills. Students may spend some of their art time each trimester working on interdisciplinary units with their academic subjects.

Grade 8

One Trimester-6 periods per cycle

Grade 8 Art is a continuation of the comprehensive art program introduced in Grade 7. Units covered include Drawing, 3-D Design and/or Printmaking, Color Relationships, and Design. At least one project will utilize an Adobe Photoshop component. By the end of two middle school trimesters of art, the students will have experienced the important Elements of Art and Principles of Design necessary to complete their own work. They will have also begun to analyze and talk about the work of others. Students will be asked to observe, think creatively, and make critical decisions while developing stronger problem solving skills in this hands-on course.

MUSIC

Music Performance Groups

Any student electing to participate in a performing group is expected to remain with the group all year.

Chorus - Grade 7

Full Year-3 periods per cycle

This course is designed to provide students with the experience of performance through singing. Students are introduced to the fundamentals of choral singing through a curriculum of tonal and rhythmic solfege as well as some movement activities. The majority of the music sung would be unison with some easier two-part music introduced later. The chorus rehearses throughout the school year and performs in selected assemblies and concerts. Performance attendance is mandatory. This class is one of three music electives at the seventh grade level.

Chorus – Grade 8

Full Year-3 periods per cycle

This course is designed to provide all students with the experience of performance through singing. The fundamentals of choral singing, introduced in seventh grade chorus, are reinforced through a curriculum of tonal and rhythmic solfege as well as some movement activities. Students will also have exposure to various performing arts such as acting, mime and dance and field trips to major performing venues featuring musical theater will be offered. Attention will be given to the development of adolescent voices. The music will consist of two and three part choral literature. The group rehearses throughout the school year and performs in selected assemblies and concerts. Performance attendance is

mandatory. This class is one of three music electives at the eighth grade level. Enrollment preference will be given to students who were members of chorus during their seventh grade year.

Band - Grade 7

Full Year-3 periods per cycle

The Seventh Grade Band program is comprised of students who have been members of their elementary school band programs and wish to continue in a school based band program. All students who wish to participate in the program must have a minimum of 2 years of experience playing a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument as well as be able to read standard music notation. It should be noted that seventh grade band is considered an intermediate level ensemble, not a beginning level ensemble. Therefore, it is not an appropriate class for students with minimal or no experience playing a band instrument or experience reading standard musical notation. Also, the Grade 7 Concert Band uses traditional band instrumentation, therefore pianos, guitars and drum sets are **NOT** used in the ensemble. The Grade 7 Band emphasizes correct tonal production, proper articulation, breathing, accurate performance of rhythmic patterns and melodic phrases in a variety of musical styles. The Grade 7 Band rehearses three periods per cycle during the school day. Enrollment in the after-school private lesson program is strongly recommended for all students enrolled in the band. Such participation is not required but it has been proven that students who do participate achieve greater success than those who elect not to participate. Attendance for the Grade 7 Band is mandatory at all scheduled performances, including the Holiday Concert in December and the Spring Concert in May. Enrollment in the Seventh Grade Band is a one year commitment.

Band - Grade 8

Full Year-3 periods per cycle

The Grade 8 Band is comprised of students who participated in the Grade 7 Band program or are able to demonstrate to the Middle School Band Conductor that they possess the skills required for success in the Grade 8 Band. This program reinforces those basics concepts introduced in the Grade 7 Band including correct embouchure, tone, articulation, breathing, ensemble playing, and musical nomenclature. The Grade 8 Band is considered an intermediate/plus level ensemble, not a beginning level ensemble. Therefore, it is not an appropriate class for students with minimal or no experience playing a band instrument or experience reading standard musical notation. Also, it should be noted that the Grade 8 Band uses traditional band instrumentation, therefore pianos, guitars and drum sets are **NOT** used in the group. A variety of musical styles are performed. The Grade 8 Band rehearses during the school day throughout the entire school year and performs in school assemblies and formal concerts. Attendance at all scheduled Grade 8 Band performances is mandatory and will include the Holiday Concert in December, the Spring Concert in May, the Memorial Day Assembly, and the Eighth Grade "Moving On" Ceremony. Enrollment in the Grade 8 Band is a one year commitment. All students who are interested in Grade 8 Band are required to be able to read standard music notation. It is strongly recommended that students enrolled in Grade 8 Band also enroll in the after-school private lesson program. Private lessons are not required but it has been proven that students who do study privately achieve greater success than those who do not.

21st Century Music (level 1) - Grade 7

Full Year-3 periods per cycle

This music elective is a non-performance based class. The course is divided into three separate and distinct segments which are aligned with the Middle School's trimester scheduling scheme. During the first trimester, students will learn how to read and write basic musical notation. No prior experience with music reading is necessary for this class.

Students will learn the basic skills for writing melodies and harmonies. During the second trimester students will learn about the similarities and differences that define all musical styles through learning the basics of guitar chords concluding with the Popular Musical styles of today. The primary objective this unit is for the students to understand and appreciate that the basic musical ideas that were used to create and perform music in the past are the same ideas used by today's musicians. During the third and final trimester of the course the students will learn the basic skills required to notate musical ideas on the computer using the music notation software **Finale and Studio One**.

21st Century Music (level 2) - Grade 8 Full Year-3 periods per cycle

This music elective is a non-performance based class and sequentially follows **21st Century Music (level 1)** that is offered in Grade 7. As with the 21st Century Music (Level 1), this course is divided into three separate and distinct segments which are aligned with the Middle School's Trimester schedule. During the first trimester, students will review elements of musical notation. They will also review the beginning level of the musical notation software Finale and move to more advanced techniques of Finale. During the second trimester, students will be continuing the basic skills introduced to play the guitar. They will learn how to read basic guitar notation and how to perform what is written on the page. They will combine their knowledge of Finale and guitar and notate their own original musical ideas using Finale and now adding in a drum and bass pattern to their composition, as well as utilizing the Google Drive and Docs so the students can also save their works as PDF's. During the third trimester the students will learn how digitally recording their compositions and edit those compositions using the open sources audio editing program **Audacity** and Studio One, as well as apps like GarageBand and Music Maker Jam on our school's electronic devices. The goal of **21st Century Music (level 2)** is for each student to write an original composition, notate that composition with Finale, and then record and produce a CD or MP3 recording of their composition.

NE Junior District Music Festival

Students enrolled in one of the middle school bands or choruses are eligible to audition for the NE Junior District Music Festival. The audition consists of performing scales and a required prepared piece for a judge. Auditions take place in January with the festival taking place on one Wednesday, one Friday, and One Saturday in April. Private lessons are strongly suggested for any student interested in auditioning for the festival because the required audition music is not part of the regular music curriculum at Masconomet.

Private Music Lessons

All members of the Bands and the Choruses are encouraged to take private music lessons to improve their music skills. Lessons may be taken at Masconomet or with other private teachers of their choice. Lessons are available for all the band instruments, voice and piano. Space is limited so early enrollment is recommended.

School-Owned Instruments

A limited number of the larger instruments are available on a lease basis. For information, contact the Music Department at 978- 887-2323 x6129

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Grades 7 and 8

Full Year-3 periods per cycle

The Middle School Physical Education Curriculum provides a background in the basic skills necessary to participate in most physical education activities. The course provides an opportunity to participate in cooperative games, team sports, and develop an awareness of physical fitness. Yoga, self defense, Project Adventure and weight training will be introduced at both grade levels. All students in Grades 7 and 8 participate in Physical Education three times per cycle for a full year.

HEALTH

Grade 7

One Trimester-6 periods per cycle

Health 7 is the first level of our health education program for middle-school aged students. The course focuses on building knowledge and skills related to safety, non-violence and injury prevention. Content areas covered include tobacco use and other substance use prevention, media literacy, bullying prevention and first aid. The *R.A.I.S.E.* curriculum is utilized to promote respect, achievement, inclusion, service and empathy through a community-centered approach that stresses social skills and cooperation using movement. Through cooperative learning, students also have an opportunity to build refusal skills related to tobacco use and other substance use and critical thinking skills related to situations that address accidents and medical emergencies. Health 7 is a required course based on the Safety and Prevention Strand of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Curriculum frameworks.

Health - Grade 8

One Trimester-6 periods per cycle

Health 8 is the second level of our comprehensive health education program for middle-school aged students. This course focuses on promoting wellness in the areas of physical, social, and mental health. Students develop critical thinking skills related to disease prevention, nutrition, drug and alcohol abuse, dating violence prevention, sexuality and the reproductive system. Students will be introduced to *Blackboard*, a learning management system which utilizes web-based resources from reliable health sources. Resources utilized in this course include the DECIDE model of decision making, *Choose to Refuse: Heroin/Oxycontin Education Program*, the *ACT SOS Suicide Prevention Program*, *Study Island*, *TeensHealth.org*, *Supertracker* for dietary analysis and *LovelsRespect.org* for dating violence prevention. Health 8 is a required course based on the standards 1, 3-8 and sections of 10-14 of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Curriculum frameworks.