

MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL Course Descriptions 2013-2014

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Incoming 6th, 7th, and 8th graders register in May for the following year. Please carefully read the course descriptions noting the important information about course prerequisites. Talk with your teachers, parents and counselor about which classes you should consider taking next year. Choose classes that support your career goals, enhance your interests or teach you a new skill.

Classes will be offered based on staff availability and the number of students who request courses. Signing up for a course is not a guarantee of enrollment.

IMPORTANT POLICIES

Yearlong Scheduling: Madison Middle School students register for the following year's classes in the spring, if possible at the time of the student-led conferences. Both semesters' courses are selected at this time. **Students will remain with the same teacher for the full year in yearlong courses. Students should choose courses carefully as schedule changes are extremely limited.**

Schedule Changes (ten day rule): Schedule changes must be completed before the end of the 10th school day of the current quarter or semester.

Honors or SPECTRUM Language Arts Class: In order to take this class, students must have passed the district's exams for eligibility. Madison does **not** have an APP program.

Course Fees: We believe students should be able to take courses of their choice regardless of their ability to pay required course fees. Students should see their counselor if they need fee assistance.

Athletic Eligibility: To participate on a school sports team, students must have earned a grade point of 2.0 or higher in five subjects during the previous semester of school. Continuing eligibility will require a student athlete to earn no less than a 2.0 grade point average in five subject areas (2.5 credits) as reported on their current report card.

Madison Middle School Classes

SUBJECT AREAS	REQUIREMENTS	COURSE-LENGTH
Language Arts	3 years	Full year
Mathematics	3 years	Full year
Science	3 years	Full year
Social Studies	3 years	Full year
Reading	.5 year in 6 th grade	Semester
Physical Education	1.5 years	Semester
Unified Arts	.33 in 6 th , .5 in 7 th or 8 th	Trimester or semester
Career/Technical Ed	.5 to 1 year	Semester
Music	3 years (if selected)	Full year
World Language**	2 years in 7 th & 8th	Full year in 7 th and 8th

- **Two years of middle school language study counts as one high school credit; however, it is advisable to take another 2-3 years of language study at the high school level (these should be two consecutive years of the same language).

LANGUAGE ARTS

LA6:

themes of identity and self-discovery. The focus of composition is developing clear and purposeful writing.

LA6H: HONORS

Prerequisites: Students have passed the Reading and Writing MSP and have an A or B in the previous class.

Homework: Students should expect a minimum of half an hour of homework each night.

LA7: LA7H:

LA8: LA8H:

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MATHEMATICS

End of Course Exam in both Algebra and Geometry for class of 2015+

MATH 6

MATH 7

PRE-ALGEBRA (Math 8):

Yearlong: .5 credit per semester

Prerequisites: Students will be selected for this course based on test scores and grades. Upon successful completion of this course, students will move into the math sequence starting with Algebra 1.

The Pre-Algebra math course prepares for success in Algebra 1. Emphasis is placed on number sense; arithmetic with positive and negative integers, fractions and decimals; area and perimeter of geometric figures; graphing; and equation solving. The course includes both text-based problem solving and an online skill-building program to target instruction to areas where each student needs practice. The goal is for students to move on to Algebra having had a successful year in high school math, with the necessary knowledge, skill and study habits.

ALGEBRA I:

The Algebra 1 math course teaches students to develop math skills and confidence, use tools (graphing calculators, geometer sketchpad, and Fathom 2), and mathematical power to make important decisions in real world situations. The course focuses on conceptual understanding of data gathering and analysis, linear equations to model real world situations, systems of equations, and quadratic equations.

GEOMETRY (8th grade only)

Prerequisites: Pass Algebra 1 with A or B and pass the Algebra 1 end of course examination.

The Geometry math course teaches students to identify and recognize shapes based on properties, establish relationships among properties within figures and within hierarchies of figures, use formal and informal inductive and deductive proofs to explain the truth of geometric theorems and to justify certain conclusions. The course focuses on space geometry, inductive and deductive reasoning, mathematical modeling, duplication of segments and angles, discovering and proving polygon properties, arcs and angles, compositions of transformations, and platonic solids. Students are held to a high standard of rigor, there is more emphasis on axiomatic proofs and topics are explored in greater depth.

SCIENCE

Requirements:

3 full years of Science.

SCIENCE 6

Average homework load: 20 min/night

SCIENCE 7

SCIENCE 8

Average homework load: 30 min/night

SOCIAL STUDIES

(Completion of Washington State History or equivalent in 8th grade)

EASTERN HEMISPHERE

6th grade – yearlong

US HISTORY

7th grade – yearlong:

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY (one semester) [high school graduation requirement]

WORLD GEOGRAPHY (one semester)

WORLD LANGUAGES

Four-year colleges ask students to have 2-3 years of World Language.

World Languages (6th grade)

The intent of this class is for the student to be exposed to two languages-Spanish and French. Students have six weeks of each language in a semester. Emphasis is on communication. Music, art and cooking are integrated into the curriculum for cultural enrichment. This class helps the student assess her/his interest in further study of another language.

SPANISH 1, 2 (TWO FULL YEARS)

FRENCH 1, 2 (TWO FULL YEARS)

- Level 1 focuses on written and oral communication in the present tense. The first year covers greetings and simple conversations, the use of correct grammar, spelling, punctuation and syntax in basic writing assignments, and simple reading of forms, maps, advertisements and letters. Basic cultural information is also part of the course.
- Level 2 adds the past tense to the skills mastered in level one, with additional vocabulary and more details of grammar and syntax in spoken language, reading and written work. There is a continued focus on cultural information.

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PHYSICAL EDUCATION

District/State Requirements:

1.5 credits (3 semesters), Students must take a Competency Based Assessment

PERSONAL FITNESS

one semester:

This is the Physical Education Class for 6th - 8th grade students required by the Seattle School District. Students will have general PE team sport units of soccer, softball, football, basketball, hockey, volleyball and fitness testing. Students will also study the following topics that reflect the Five for Life Health and Fitness Concepts: Introduction to Fitness; the importance of muscular strength, muscular endurance, cardio respiratory endurance and flexibility in maintaining a healthy life and how body composition impacts life. The will learn that to stay fit they must stay active and eat a healthy diet. The eighth grade year culminates with a State of Washington Classroom Based Assessment Test, based on the Five for Life Health and Fitness Concepts.

FINE ARTS

Art 6 (trimester)

This course will introduce students to drawing, painting, and mixed media artwork. Subjects will include culture, still life, animals, current events, and self-reflection. This class serves as an introduction to the arts to build appreciation, understanding, and skills needed for everyday life. This course is also designed to support the goals of reading, writing, math, and science using a variety of teaching strategies.

Art 7 (semester)

Art 8 (semester)

Students will learn the basics of 2-D design for visual art, and will be challenged to create artwork which is both technically strong and has expressive meaning for them personally. Students will be introduced to the elements and principles of art, to a wide variety of art materials and processes, and to the process involved in creating original art with meaning. Students are required to interview professional artists, and visit art galleries to broaden their experience. Students will participate in one judged art show and will create a digital portfolio of their artwork.

Music:

BAND:

DRAFT 4 8 13

All grades – yearlong

Prerequisites: Basic proficiency on band instrument or teacher permission

The Band functions as both the Concert Band and is open to all students who play a band instrument. We perform in a variety of settings including parades, concerts and athletic events. Students will improve their skills in articulation, rhythm, tone production, intonation, instrument facility and overall musicality. Participation in occasional rehearsals and performances outside of class time is mandatory for all students. This course can be taken for more than one semester for additional credit. There are two band classes: Junior Band and Senior Band.

STRINGS CLASS:

BRASS CLASS:

ORCHESTRA:

All grade -- yearlong

Prerequisites: Basic proficiency on string instrument or teacher permission

The Orchestra is a dynamic ensemble that performs at a variety of concerts and events throughout the school year. Students gain a solid foundation in string technique, music theory and history as we explore a wide variety of classical and contemporary literature. Participation in occasional rehearsals and performances outside of class time is mandatory for all students. This course can be taken for more than one year.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE:

All grades- one semester/yearlong: . Prerequisites:

Teacher permission

0 Period Only!

Students learn and perform music from a wide variety of traditional and contemporary jazz literature. Focus of this ensemble is interpretation, articulation, improvisation and style. This ensemble performs at a variety of local and regional events. Participation in occasional rehearsals and performances outside of class time is mandatory for all students. This class is open to all students with at least basic proficiency playing saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, bass, guitar, and drums. Please note that this class is a zero period course and meets before school every day.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

UNIFIED ARTS

- I. Sixth Grade/ART TECHNOLOGY/one trimester.** Sixth graders will have this class for one trimester (about twelve weeks). In this time, learning will be focused on technology basics with computers and digital cameras. Productivity software to be covered will include Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel). Students will also be introduced to Adobe's Photoshop Elements program, which has outstanding digital painting and photography tools. Finally, students will develop skills for doing critical research on the web, learning to use the Internet as a source of information, not just entertainment. This will include developing a capacity to differentiate accurate and valid web sites from bogus or inaccurate ones.
- II. Seventh Grade/VIDEO PRODUCTION/one semester.** Seventh graders will be developing their communication skills through the medium of video production. We will be developing skills with video cameras and video editing software. The theme for the semester will be "Storytelling," and video will allow us to tell a variety of "stories:" public service announcements, music videos, and personal and fictional stories. We will also do a unit on stop-motion animation to tell children's stories. Software will include iPhoto and especially iMovie.
- III. Eighth Grade/DIGITALPHOTOGRAPHY/one semester.** Students will be learning advanced digital photography and digital art skills. Students may use digital cameras from home, or one of the cameras here at school, to explore the artistic side of photography: composition, color, contrast, subject matter, line, texture, theme, and more. We will dig into Adobe's Photoshop Elements to edit and transform our photos. Students will also develop a digital portfolio of their best work in PowerPoint.