

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN ENTERING 8th GRADE

Please note that class offerings vary from one year to another and that this information is a rough guide for reference only. The budget dictates how many Exploratory Classes may be available in any given year.

Toward the end of 7th grade (late Spring), you can expect your student to bring home a form that will allow you and your child to indicate preferences for the following school year.

An 8th grader has 7 mandatory periods. An Advisory class (25 minutes) and 6 periods of 50 minutes each. 5 periods are common to all students.

- *Language Arts (LA 8) or Honors Language Arts (LA 8H- known as Spectrum)*
- *Social Studies (SS 8)*
- *Math (8th grade, Algebra 1 or Geometry)*
- *Science 8*
- *Physical Education- PE* (1 semester) For the other semester, students will be placed in a semester-long Exploratory Class (see list below.)*

Students who did not meet the standards on state testing the previous year will be placed in Math Empowerment or Reading Improvement, depending on the area of need.

8th graders can choose a full-year elective:

**MUSIC: Band or Orchestra: Students who are in Band or Orchestra might be eligible for Jazz Band. Jazz Band is an “extra period”, from 7:15 until 7:45 every morning. Jazz Band also practices for 2 hours after school on Early Release Days. If your child plays saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, bass, guitar or drums and is interested in auditioning for Jazz Band, please contact Mr. Bathum: cobathum@seattleschools.org*

**French 2*(Prerequisite: French 1). Two years of French in middle school may count as one year of French in High School, depending on student’s level of knowledge.*

**Spanish 1*(Prerequisite: Spanish 1). Two years of Spanish in middle school may count as one year of Spanish in High School, depending on student’s level of knowledge.*

Semester-Long Exploratory Classes:

**Visual/Fine Arts Intermediate: 7th and 8th grade*

**Computer Technology (Tech Art): Digital Photography or Video Production. 7th and 8th grade. Photography and Video alternate so there is no repeat for students who take this class two years in a row.*

**Technology Education, known as Tech Ed. 7th and 8th grade*

**Financial Literacy: 7th and 8th grade*

**Leadership/ASB: 7th and 8th grade, including ASB officers.*

**Teacher's Assistant: known as TA: 7th and 8th grade. Note: Students may only TA once during their 7th and 8th grade year.*

During 8th grade, students will need to start thinking about high school. A majority of Madison students move on to West Seattle High School.

If you have additional questions regarding your student, please contact the school counselors.