

Monroe Junior High School

Course Descriptions

SIGNING UP FOR CLASSES

1. Review the COURSE DESCRIPTIONS with an adult at home.
2. Take your COURSE SELECTION SHEET to any core teacher for a discussion for any honors course you wish to take.
3. Review your COURSE SELECTION SHEET at home and have your legal guardian sign it.
4. Turn in your course selection sheet to your (Social Studies 6 by 3/9/20) (Social Studies 7 3/10/20) teacher.
5. Electronically enter your course selection in (Social Studies 6 on 3/10/20) (Social Studies 7 on 3/11/20) class.

★ Note about courses offered for High School credit:

- Three courses offer high school credit: Accelerated Algebra I, Spanish I, Visual Art
- Your high school transcript will show that you received 1 credit for Algebra I and Spanish I, ½ credit for Visual Art
- Your high school transcript will show your end of year grade for these courses. However, your grade will not be calculated in your high school GPA.

Required Courses

◆ 7th Grade

➤ Social Studies

■ Social Studies 7

The overall goal of this course is to help students answer the following essential questions: 1. What does it mean to be civilized? 2. Can abuse of power be avoided? 3. How do maps and globes reflect history, politics, and economics? 4. Has trade been good for society? 5. What is the most significant impact of ancient culture on the modern world? We will answer these questions through our study of Ancient World History through the Age of Exploration.

➤ **Math**

■ **Math 7**

7th grade Math is a transition year for the students. The 5 Common Core areas, Ratios and Proportional Reasoning, The Number System, Expressions/Equations, Geometry, and Statistics/Probability are the focus. The students will transition from an arithmetic model to more abstract mathematics. The students will be expected to keep an organized notebook and should plan on having 25-30 minutes of homework/day.

■ **Honors Math 7**

Students will complete independent and group projects; 2 per quarter, and give an explanation of the project through presentations of their choice. Learning is discovery based. There will be online homework and quizzes with 30-60 minutes of homework each night. Students must be able to create their own notes and comprehend the textbook information. Students must maintain at least a B in the course. ****Placement in this course will be based on grades, teacher recommendation, and qualifying standardized test scores.***

➤ **Language Arts**

■ **Language Arts 7**

We read various forms of literature, including novels, non-fiction articles, informative passages, short stories, and poems. Additionally, students will learn about and complete numerous writing assignments; paragraphs, essays, poems, and creative projects will be required this year. Assignments and projects will be created by combining areas of study, literary terms, technology, research, and writing skills and strategies. Independent reading will be expected continuously, with pertinent writing assignments being given on a regular basis.

■ **Honors Language Arts 7**

Students must have the ability to completely and independently read a book at their personal independent reading level within 3 weeks. Students must have a willingness to spend 2-4 hours per week (or more) on homework outside of class as needed and to access technology outside of school as needed - this can include making arrangements to stay after school to use technology as needed. Students must be able to self-monitor progress and/or willingness to use self-monitoring supports as teacher sees fit.

Students must have a willingness to contribute to group/partner projects in an equitable manner. A quarterly average grade below a C during may result in student being removed from the Advanced Language Arts class. ****Placement in this course will be based on grades, teacher recommendation, and qualifying standardized test scores.***

➤ **Science**

■ **Science 7**

Students will learn general science in both Physical and Life science

categories. They will learn about topics including weather, ecosystems, space, energy and the periodic table. Students will be expected to read text in and out of class, write and execute labs as well as complete homework outside of class. Homework will be 1-2 assignments per week.

❖ **8th Grade**

➤ **Social Studies**

■ **Social Studies 8**

The overall goal of this course is to study early American History from the explorers of the late 1400's to the late 1800's and the Civil War. While studying these we focus on the following questions: 1) Can the government enforce freedom and liberty? 2) Which has a greater impact on history: individual political choices or individual economic choices? 3) What makes a government effective? 4) In what way did westward expansion most effect American history? 5) Which causes more conflict: ideologies or technologies?

➤ **Math**

■ **Math 8**

Math 8 focuses on pre-algebra topics. The 5 Common Core areas, The Number System, Expressions and Equations, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability are the focus. The student will be expected to keep an organized notebook and should plan on having 25-30 minutes of homework/day.

■ **Accelerated Algebra I**

The skills developed in this class are needed for physics, chemistry, and geometry. It is the first step in mathematics beyond arithmetic and furnishes the language and mechanics for all higher mathematics. This course covers basic topics including linear equations and systems of equations, integer exponents, polynomial products, factoring quadratic

equations, together with the analysis and solution of word problems. Students will complete independent and group projects; 2 per quarter, and give an explanation of the project through presentations of their choice. Learning is discovery based. There will be online homework and quizzes with 30-60 minutes of homework each night. Students must be able to create their own notes and comprehend the textbook information. Students must maintain at least a B in the course. **This course is for 1 high school credit. *Placement in this course will be based on grades, teacher recommendation, and qualifying AIR and IOWA Algebra readiness test scores.**

➤ **Language Arts**

■ **Language Arts 8**

We read various forms of literature, including novels, non-fiction articles, informative passages, short stories, and poems. Additionally, students will complete numerous writing assignments; paragraphs, essays, and creative projects will be required. Assignments and projects will be created using the Common Core curriculum and Text Exemplars as a guide. Independent reading will be expected, with pertinent writing assignments being given on a regular basis.

■ **Honors Language Arts 8**

Students must have the ability to completely and independently read a book at their personal independent reading level within 3 weeks. Students must have a willingness to spend 2-4 hours per week (or more) on homework outside of class as needed and to access technology outside of school as needed - this can include making arrangements to stay after school to use technology as needed. Students must be able to self-monitor progress and/or willingness to use self-monitoring supports as teacher sees fit. Students must have a willingness to contribute to group/partner projects in an equitable manner. A quarterly average grade below a C during may result in student being removed from the Advanced Language Arts class. ***Placement in this course will be based on grades, teacher recommendation, and qualifying standardized test scores.**

➤ **Science**

■ **Science 8**

Students will learn general science standards including Earth Science, Physical Science and Life science categories. Earth Science topics focus on composition of the Earth, plate tectonics, constructive and destructive processes and geologic time. Physical Science topics focus on motion and types of potential energy. Life science focuses on reproduction and genetics. Students will be expected to read text in and out of class, write and execute labs as well as complete homework outside of class. Homework will be 1-2 assignments per week.

Elective Courses

➤ **Band 7**

Students in 7th Grade Band will continue to learn the basic fundamentals of their instrument and musical notation. Students will become more independent with their playing abilities and will develop more refined techniques as they are presented with more challenging material.

➤ **Band 8**

Students in 8th Grade Band will be introduced to more advanced musical techniques on their instrument and a wide variety of musical notation. Students will be introduced to more refined pieces of music, in addition to a wide range of musical genres and styles.

➤ **Piano (7th, 8th)**

This course is for beginners (those who have never played piano before). Students will work as a class for the first nine weeks. Then students will begin to work independently and progressing at their own pace.

➤ **Beginning Choir**

This course is designed to enhance the musical, creative and expressive qualities of all students. Musical opportunities are provided for everyone to learn the basic skills of singing, playing and reading music, exposure to a variety of song repertoire, broadening listening skills and experiencing the interrelated nature of music with other cultures and content areas.

Performs 3 concerts a year. Music ranges everywhere from classical to pop. **Open to all first year choir students.**

➤ **Advanced Choir**

This class is designed for students to apply musical skills as they continue to create and experience music as a musical ensemble. Students will continue developing mastery of solfege, major and minor scales, and 4 part harmonies. Students will convey musical interpretation with the use of dynamics and phrasing, while incorporating facial expression and movement for refined presentation. Performs 3 concerts a year. Music ranges everywhere from classical to pop. **Open to all second year choir students.**

➤ **Spanish I (8th)**

The emphasis is on Spanish as a spoken language. The students develop skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing Spanish. The student is also given an opportunity to acquire some knowledge and understanding of the cultures and civilizations of the Spanish-speaking world. **This course is for 1 high school credit. **Placement in this course will be based on student interest, grades, and teacher recommendation.***

➤ **Art 7 (7th)**

In this Art class we are going to learn about different styles, types and techniques of arts and crafts found around the world. We will learn about different countries, their cultures and then create artwork that can be found in each area. The students will be responsible for bringing a pencil. They will also be responsible for turning in their work on time and always doing their personal best. We will be using paints, markers, colored pencils, chalk, embroidery thread and needles, and many other types of supplies.

➤ **Visual Art (8th)**

This course provides students with drawing and design experience. The course will teach students the elements and principles of art through a variety of projects. The course will cover 2-dimensional art such as drawing and painting, and 3-dimensional art. Work in aesthetics, art history, and art criticism is included; but studio experience is stressed. Evaluation includes art work, written material, quizzes, tests, exams and sketchbooks (homework). **This course is for ½ high school credit and is ½ credit of the Fine Art requirement for graduation.**

➤ **Physical Education (7th)**

In this course, students will develop an understanding on the impact an active lifestyle can have on health and wellness. Students will learn about fitness concepts and apply them in class. They will develop basic skills, game strategies and greater understanding of health concepts through active hands on learning.

➤ **Physical Education (8th)**

In this course, students will further develop an understanding on the impact an active lifestyle can have on lifetime health and wellness. Students will be further exposed to individual, team and lifetime activities that can be achieved through physical activity. They will further develop skills, and game strategies. They will also be introduced to new lifetime fitness activities.

➤ **Health**

In this course, students will explore various health topics over the course of the quarter. Topics include social, mental, emotional and physical health, health practices and wellness, drug prevention, body systems and development, prevention and control of diseases, nutrition and fitness. Students will focus on the continued skill development of their attitudes and behaviors and have opportunities for analyzing, modeling, and applying skills that will assist in becoming health literate. Students will have instructional opportunities to investigate how health behaviors impact health, well-being, and disease prevention and to accept personal responsibility for health-related decisions.

❖ **Project Lead The Way**

➤ **Design & Modeling (7th, 8th)**

Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They work in teams to design a playground and furniture, capturing research and ideas in their engineering notebooks. Using Autodesk® design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions.

➤ **Automation & Robotics (7th, 8th)**

Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

➤ **App Creators (7th, 8th)**

This unit will expose students to computer science as a means of computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development, and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society.

➤ **Computer Science for Innovators and Makers (7th, 8th)**

Throughout the unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development, allowing students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects.