



**KOHLER MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSEBOOK  
2022-2023**

## INTRODUCTION

This handbook should provide parents and students with important information about sixth, seventh and eighth grade courses. Students in elementary school have many educational decisions made for them; in middle school students are given more responsibility for themselves and for their work. Since students of this age vary greatly in achievement, interests, abilities and maturity, it is important that there is communication and cooperation between the school and parents. Working together with optimism, patience and reason, our students will develop the necessary skills to be successful.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES\*\***

<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>
English 6	English 7	English 8
Mathematics 6	Mathematics 7	Math 8/Algebra 8
Social Studies 6	Social Studies 7	Social Studies 8
Science 6	Life Science 7	Earth Science 8
Physical Education 6	Physical Education 7	Physical Education 8
Art 6	Art 7	Art 8
Advisory	Advisory	Advisory
World Language 6	World Language 7	World Language 8
	Technology Education 7	Technology Education 8
Health 6		
Band 6	Middle School Band	Middle School Band
General Music 6	Middle School Choir	Middle School Choir
Health 6	General Music	General Music

\*\*All of the above courses are required with the exception of music courses beginning in grade 7. Students must choose at least one music course in grade 7 and in grade 8.

# **Middle School Advisory**

The middle school advisory program is designed to focus on many topics that will help your student become a well-rounded individual. It is also a flexible program that can be changed to meet the specific needs of individual groups of students. Each year, advisory focuses on several broad topics that will help your student be successful in middle school and in the future as well as several grade specific topics. Many advisory topics also fit the school-wide character development themes of: community, relationships, decisions, safety, and celebrations.

We also use this time for intervention and enrichment. The middle school intervention program is designed to focus on enrichment and interventions that will help your student. It is a flexible program that can be changed to meet the specific needs of individual groups of students. Each quarter, intervention allows staff to work with students on specific skills that will help your student be successful in middle school and beyond.

## **PROMOTION, PLACEMENT, and RETENTION**

The Board of Education recognizes that personal, social, physical and educational growth of children will vary and that they should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their needs at various stages of their growth. It shall be the policy of the Board that each student be moved forward in a continuous pattern of achievement and growth that is in harmony with his/her own personal development. Refer to School Board policy 5410.



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Middle School students are required to have courses in English. English six, seven and eight meet every day for the entire school year.

**English 6** is a class that studies literature, daily language, composition, and speech so that a smooth transition can be made when the student reaches the secondary level. Comprehension skills are reinforced with the study of short stories, drama, nonfiction selections, and poems. Emphasis is placed on parts of speech, parts of a sentence, standard usage, and writing mechanics. Students write to express themselves creatively, to inform, and to persuade.

**English 7** is a class that studies grammar, composition, literature, and speech so that a smooth transition can be made when the student reaches the secondary level. Particular attention is paid to parts of speech, parts of a sentence, using phrases and clauses, standard usage, and mechanics. Writing well-developed paragraphs is emphasized, and students complete many formal writings. Critical thinking skills are strengthened through the study of nonfiction, short stories, poetry, drama, and novels. Vocabulary development focuses on improving reading comprehension and enhances the oral and written use of language.

**English 8** furthers the study of English Language Arts through authentic discussion, composition, and reading. As opposed to a one-class-fits-all approach, English 8 Survey focuses on choice readings and skill differentiation which provides chances for all students to be engaged in learning while showing individual growth. Expert writing models will be analyzed from the artist's point of view in order to improve students' use of literary techniques in their own writing. Close reading and book clubs will help students authentically reflect and evaluate various class readings. Throughout the course, students will read a large range of literature with various levels of text complexity including: argumentative, informative, and narrative texts; poetry; and novels such as: Lord of the Flies, Animal Farm, and The Diary of Anne Frank.



## **MATHEMATICS**

Students in grades six, seven and eight are required to take mathematics daily.

**Mathematics 6** will consist of units in various areas of Mathematics. The textbook that will be utilized for this course will be the Big Ideas Math text. Units of Study will include, but not limited to:

1. Numerical Expressions and Factors
2. Fraction and Decimal Arithmetic
3. Algebraic Expressions and Properties
4. Areas of Polygons
5. Ratios and Rates with Applications
6. Equations and Inequalities
7. Surface Area and Volume
8. Statistical Measures
9. Data Displays
10. Integers and the Coordinate Plane

It would be very helpful, for organizational purposes, if students have a GREEN, spiral bound notebook with at least 3 subjects for Math during the year. Also, any brand of calculator with fraction keys is helpful (Texas Instruments has been a good option in the past).

**Mathematics 7** will consist of units in various areas of Mathematics. The textbook that will be utilized for this course will be the Big Ideas Math textbook series. There will be supplemental information included in the course, but that will be the main text. Units of study will include, but not be limited to:

- 1) Surface Area and Volume
- 2) Integers and Order Operations
- 3) Rational Number Arithmetic
- 4) Expressions and Equation Solving and Application
- 5) Writing and Solving Inequalities

- 6) Ration and Proportional thinking and Application
- 7) Percent Problems and Applications
- 8) Angle Construction and Relationships
- 9) Circle Area and Perimeter with Applications
- 10) Statistics Review
- 11) Probability
- 12) Sampling Populations

It would be very helpful, for organizational purposes, if students have a RED, spiral bound notebook with at least 3 subjects for Math during the year

**Mathematics 8** is a yearlong course intended for 8th grade students. Topics in Mathematics 8 will include, but not limited to:

- Solving Linear Equations
- Transformations
- Angles and Triangles
- Graphing and Writing Linear Equations
- Solving Systems of Equations
- Functions
- Real Numbers and Pythagorean Theorem
- Volume and Similar Solids
- Data Analysis and Displays
- Exponents and Scientific Notation

Students should have a notebook and folder for this course. Along with a graphing calculator, Texas instruments TI-83 or TI -84 are recommended. This calculator will be used throughout high school and will work for most college courses as well.

**Algebra 8** is a yearlong course intended for 8th grade students. Topics in Algebra I will include, but not limited to the following:

- Solving Linear Equations and Inequalities
- Graphing Linear Functions
- Writing Linear Functions
- Solving Systems of Equations
- Exponents and Exponential Functions
- Polynomials and Factoring
- Quadratic Functions and Equations
- Radical Expressions and Equations

- Rational Expressions and Functions
- Data Analysis and Probability

\*Each Semester will be shown as a letter grade on the high school transcript unless requested for removal. It does not have a GPA or credit impact; simply to reflect it has been completed.

Students should have a notebook and folder for this course. Along with a graphing calculator, Texas instruments TI-83 or TI -84 are recommended. This calculator will be used throughout high school and will work for most college courses as well.

## MUSIC

Students in grade six are required to take general music and can elect to take beginning band. Students in grades seven and eight must choose at least one of the music courses: Band, Chorus and/or General Music. Choir, General Music and Band are every other day - full-year courses.

**6th Grade General Music** In this course, students will learn music theory, analyze music, compose, use appropriate vocal technique, learn performance skills and explore music of various cultures and traditions. All 6th grade students will perform with at the choir concerts throughout the year. Attendance at these concerts is MANDATORY.

**6th Grade Beginning Band** Registration and orientation begins in the spring of the student's fifth grade year, followed by a two-week summer instructional program in August. At the beginning of the school year, students begin classroom instruction as a full band 2.5 days per week. Small group sectional instruction is given weekly. The Sixth Grade Band performs at the Parents Concert, Mid-Winter and Spring Band Concerts.

**7th & 8th Grade Chorus** This ensemble performs music of all styles in three and four part voicings. Basic theory and fundamentals of music will also be covered. Vocal techniques including appropriate breathing, posture and vowel pronunciation will be taught. The group performs several times during the year and, as public performance is part of the learning experience, attendance will be MANDATORY. Participation in the Solo and Ensemble Festival is highly encouraged. FEES: Solo & Ensemble entry fees, music binder

**7th & 8th Grade Concert Band** The Middle School Concert Band provides students in grades seven and eight the opportunity to play an instrument in a large ensemble. Along with preparations for concert performances, the Concert Band stresses basic fundamentals of intermediate level music and allows time for proficiency on each student's individual instrument. Participation in the Solo and Ensemble Festival is required.

FEES: Solo & Ensemble entry fees, misc. instrument equipment (reeds, oils, etc).

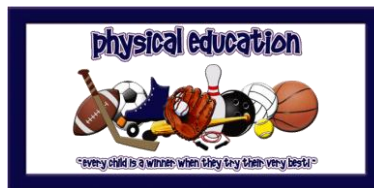
**7th & 8th Grade General Music** The purpose of this course will be to provide an opportunity for students to enjoy and appreciate the art, music and dance of other cultures, as well as ours. This is a hands-on class, as opposed to a performance-oriented course. The 2017-18 class will study Keyboards; 2018-2019 will study Guitars.

## **Health**

**Grade 6 Health** This course will introduce students to a holistic approach for developing and maintaining a healthy lifestyle through knowledge, attitudes, and skills acquisition. Grade 6 Health will provide students with the opportunities to develop and enhance their knowledge and skills in the areas of Nutrition, Safety, Physical Activity, Social Health, ATOD (Alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs), and Human Growth and Development. This class includes a variety of skills based assignments and projects to demonstrate learning based on the National Health Education Standards; while allowing for differentiation and flexibility to individualize learning for diverse learners. Healthy students are better learners and early habits allow for a lifetime of benefits.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

The sixth, seventh and eighth grade physical education program is designed to give the students exposure to a wide variety of skills. All students participate in the fitnessgram, evidence based fitness test. Classes in physical education six meet every other day for the entire school year, and grades seven and eight meet everyday for a trimester. Some of the units taught include badminton, pickleball, basketball, volleyball, lacrosse, soccer, tennis, recreational games, kickball, flag football, ultimate frisbee, dance, basic weight training, floor hockey, target sports, and fitness.





## **SCIENCE**

Middle school science classes are an important part of the science sequence that continues in high school with Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These required middle school courses meet every day for the entire school year.

**General Science 6** is designed to help students develop useable knowledge to explain real world phenomena in physical science. They will develop and use models, plan and conduct investigations, analyze and interpret data, use mathematical and computational thinking, and construct explanations. Students will use these practices to demonstrate an understanding of the core ideas in the following topics: Structure and Properties of Matter; Chemical Reactions; Forces and Interactions; Energy; and Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation.

**Life Science 7** is the study of the structure and behavior of living things. This course is designed to prepare students for the challenging new science courses they will encounter as they continue their studies. It serves as an introduction to scientific methods, the nature of science, cells, heredity, evolution, the classifications of life, characteristics of life forms, the various processes that support life, structure and function of human body systems, and ecology. Laboratory experiences and activities will involve the students in experimentation, microscopic exploration, learning from and developing models and much more.

**Earth Science 8** is the study of Earth and space. In this course the emphasis on scientific inquiry is continued and expanded. Students are introduced to questions and problems that challenge earth scientists. Students are made aware of the extent to which answers to earth science problems may be tentative and incomplete. Students examine hypotheses formulated by scientist and consider some of the evidence on which these hypotheses rest. Laboratories and activities provide students with first-hand experiences covering course topics including space systems, history of Earth, Earth's interior systems, Earth's surface systems, weather and climate, and human impacts.



## **SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Middle School students are required to have courses in Social Sciences. Social Science six, seven and eight meet every day for the entire school year.

**Grade 6** The course of study is world history and culture. Areas of concentration are primarily the Eastern Hemisphere from Ancient times to the end of World War I. Ancient civilizations of the Early Americas in Central and South America are examined as well. Students will explore and understand the history and ancient cultures and religions of the Middle East, Rome and Greece. European history and culture of the Middle Ages, European Exploration and Discovery and the Industrial Revolution are also covered, as well as World War I. Geography of the various regions is integrated into each area of discussion. Current events are discussed and a National History Day Project is also integrated into the classroom.

### **Curriculum at a glance**

- Geography
- The Early Americas: Central and South America
  - Maya
  - Aztec
  - Inca
- Ancient Civilizations
  - Greece
  - Rome
- Religions
  - Judaism
  - Islam
  - Christianity
- Europe
  - The Middle Ages
  - The Renaissance
  - Age of Discovery and Exploration
  - Industrial Revolution, Nationalism and Imperialism
  - World War I
- Current Events
- Economics
- National History Day Project

**Grade 7** course of study is United States History and civics. Areas of concentration are primarily the history of the United. Students will examine and begin to analyze the origins of government from Colonies to Constitution and citizenship in the United States. They will examine the function of government, and foreign policy. They will explore the growth of the United States as a country and as a global power The course also emphasizes decision making and positive participation on the democratic process, focusing on social injustice. Students examine current events and participate in a National History Day project.

**Curriculum at a glance**

- Geography of the United States (political and physical)
- United States from Colonies to Constitution
  - The Revolutionary War
  - Origins of US Government
  - The US Constitution and Amendments
  - Branches of Government
  - The Political and Election Process
  - The United States and the World - Foreign Policy
- United States Expansion
  - Louisiana Purchase
  - Lewis and Clark
  - War of 1812
  - The Native American Experience
  - The Oregon Trail
  - The California Gold Rush
- America as a World Power
  - Imperialism
  - Spanish American War
  - Industrial Revolution
- The Great Depression
- World War II
- The Cold War
- Social Injustice (various topics throughout history)
- Current Events
- National History Day Project

**Grade 8** course of study is an analysis of human understanding in studying and analyzing various regions and cultures around the world. Major areas of concentration include geography, economics, culture, religion, immigration and government. Regions of focus are, India, East & Southeast Asia, regions of Africa and Southwest Asia. Current events of the areas of study are integrated into the class. A National History Day Project is also integrated into the classroom.

**Curriculum at a glance**

- Geography
- Religions of the World
  - Islam
  - Buddhism
  - Hinduism
  - Christianity
  - Judaism
- India
  - Geography
  - Culture
  - Modern Day Issues
- East and Southeast Asia
  - Geography
  - Culture
  - Modern Day Issues
- Southwest Asia - The Middle East
  - History
  - Geography
  - Culture
  - Modern Day Issues
- Africa (selected regions)
- Current Events
- National History Project and Competition



## **TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**

Technology Education is required of seventh and eighth grade students for one semester each year. A technical study overview includes drawing, hand tools and machine processes.

**Technology Education 7** Free-hand and CAD drawing is introduced, emphasizing proportion and visualization. An introduction to planning precedes activities that focus on hand tool technology emphasizing process, skill and, above all, safety. Students complete a sequence of free-hand drawings, CAD drawings and projects incorporating the use of hand tools and a few power tools.

FEES: Project fees \$10

**Technology Education 8** Mechanical drawing and CAD is reviewed. Technical processes are explored emphasizing familiarity, characteristics, process and, above all, safety. Students will employ a design process to create a working model of a project which may vary from year to year.

FEES: Project fees \$10-\$15 (approx.)



## WORLD LANGUAGE

Spanish 6, is required and is a semester course. 7 and 8 are required semester courses.

**Spanish 6** This exploratory course is designed to create an awareness of the merits of foreign language study and to equip the students with habits and skills that will aid them as they continue their studies in later years. The sixth grade exploratory class spends time studying and comparing cultures of the Spanish speaking world. The four skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing are incorporated daily, as much as possible, to simulate the environment of first language learning.

Spanish 6 workbooks will be purchased at registration.

**Spanish 7** This exploratory course is designed to continue to create awareness of the merits of foreign language study and to equip the students with habits and skills that will aid them as they continue their studies in later years. The seventh grade exploratory class spends time studying and comparing cultures of the Spanish speaking world. The four skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing are incorporated daily, as much as possible, to simulate the environment of first language learning. Students gain an understanding of how the language is structured and how they can use this knowledge to express their own needs and talk about the world around them.

**Spanish 8** This introductory course will continue with the communication skills through speaking, listening, reading, and writing in the target language. Students gain an understanding of how the language is structured and how they can use this knowledge to express their own needs and talk about the world around them. By developing their skill of observation, students will also continue to acquire a basic understanding and appreciation of the diversity of cultures in the Spanish speaking world.



## ART

Visual Arts 6, 7 and 8 are required courses.

**Art 6** The standards for grade six continue to emphasize exploration, analysis, and investigation of the creative process. Students develop technical skills that empower them to communicate ideas visually and focus on realistic representations of their environment. They also continue to develop inquiry skills and increase vocabulary as they explore the meaning of works of art through analysis of subject matter, themes and symbols.

**Art 7** Seventh grade art class is a continuation of Visual Arts 6 art; however, it goes into more depth and detail. Some of the activities will include drawing, composition and design in three-dimensional projects. An overall view of art history will be part of the class.

**Art 8** Eighth grade art helps the student to refine his/her technical skills and confidence through the processes of creating original 2D and 3D works of art. Lessons may include painting, ceramics, drawing, printmaking, fiber arts, sculpture, mixed media and art history.

