

**Course Description
Handbook
2018-2019**

**STAR
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

***Partnering together to create
lifelong learners who positively
impact our culture***

**Star Middle School
2211 N Pollard Lane
Star, ID 83669**

West Ada School District

Preparing today's students for tomorrow's challenges.

Middle School Philosophy

West Ada School District subscribes to a philosophy that the unique needs of students in grades 6 through 8 can best be met in a middle school setting that provides a student-centered program and recognizes that the students of this age are undergoing greater physiological, psychological, and social re-orientation than at any other period in their lives.

The overall purpose of the middle school is to meet the educational, developmental, and social needs that emerge during this transitional period. The middle school program will provide a supportive and flexible environment so students will have opportunities to develop skills and explore a variety of learning experiences while making the transition from elementary to high school.

In keeping with this philosophy, the middle school will establish and provide:

- A core curriculum of language arts, math, science, and social studies.
- Exploratory programs and activities in all areas of the curriculum to help students discover and extend interests and abilities.
- An extensive advisory and counseling program.
- A supportive environment for the physical and social development of every student.
- A gradual transition in programs from the self-contained classroom of the fifth grade to the departmentalized structure of high school.
- An intramural and activity-oriented program to accommodate the needs of the early adolescent.
- A positive climate that fosters self-esteem, self-discipline, and student responsibility.
- Knowledgeable educators who are committed to the middle school design.
- An ongoing program of training and professional skills based on the characteristics and needs of the adolescent.
- Close contact and communication between parents and school.
- A challenging curriculum and pace of learning to meet individual levels and understanding.
- Opportunities for intervention and acceleration when needs are identified.

We believe these goals will be reached when the student, parents/guardians, and the teacher assume responsibility. The student will attend school regularly, maintain a positive attitude, and make an effort to achieve these goals. Parents/guardians will be supportive of the school system and encourage the student in learning. The teacher will strive for an optimal, professional approach to meet the individual needs of each student. When these responsibilities are met, maximum learning will be achieved.

Introduction

The following Course Description Book includes the entire curriculum offered at your middle school.

Even though you are currently looking at only one grade level's courses, we have included information on all three-grade levels. This is to provide you with opportunities for long-range electives planning.

In keeping with the philosophy of transitioning students from the elementary setting to the secondary setting, student choices increase each year:

- 6th grade students are limited to a decision between general music, band, and orchestra.
- 7th grade students may choose either two semester electives or one year-long elective.
- 8th grade students may choose four semesters of elective classes for the year. Some of the courses are year-long courses, while others are semester courses.

If you would like further information about the middle school curriculum or specific courses, please call the counseling office at your child's middle school.

**All courses are graded courses
unless otherwise noted.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL CREDITS

Each 7th and 8th grade student must attain a minimum of eighty percent (80%) of the total credits attempted in order to be eligible for promotion to the next grade level. Each 7th and 8th grade student must earn at least eight (8) out of a possible ten (10) credits.

To be eligible for promotion to the next grade level, each 7th and 8th grade student must earn at least one credit from each of the year-long classes.

| <i>8th Grade Classes</i> | <i>Credits</i> | | <i>7th Grade Classes</i> | <i>Credits</i> |
|--|-----------------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| English 8 | 2 | | Writing Composition | 2 |
| Math | 2 | | Math | 2 |
| Physical Science | 2 | | Life Science | 2 |
| Physical Education | 2 | | Literature & Strategies | 2 |
| World Geography | 1 | | World Civilization | 2 |
| Health | 1 | | | |
| | | | | |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>10</i> | | <i>Total</i> | <i>10</i> |

All the 7th and 8th grade core classes have been assigned credit. Policy 603.3, Middle School Credits, may be accessed online at www.westada.org. A copy may also be obtained from your middle school.

Middle School Schools of Choice and Alternative Schools

Schools of Choice

Schools of Choice, or a school within a school, are designed around a unique instructional approach, area of emphasis, or student population. For example, the West Ada School District offers art-based, STEM (science, technology, engineering, math), literacy and world language elementary school choices. Middle schools continue elementary school of choice programs based on the feeder system.

Schools of Choice List

Arts

Christine Donnell School of the Arts
Lowell Scott Middle School "Primera" Program
Eagle Middle School

STEM

Galileo STEM Academy School
Heritage Middle School
Meridian Middle School

Grades K-6 School

Christine Donnell School of the Arts

Grades K-8 School

Galileo STEM Academy School

Grades 6-12 School

Idaho Fine Arts Academy

Alternative Schools

Our alternative middle schools offer 7th and 8th grade students an environment that is smaller, provides one-on-one attention and more hands-on activities.

The need for these alternative schools comes from a variety of sources. For some children, adapting to a larger school environment in 6th grade is simply overwhelming. Others may have certain personal issues that make school a greater challenge, thus needing more one-on-one attention from a teacher. Others may simply need more individualized instruction to spark their interest in learning. Therefore, the student body is comprised of the entire range of students from those who have previously struggled to those who are identified as gifted academically.

The program at these schools is designed to help students meet grade level expectations and then excel in their academic pursuits. Students generally go on to attend one of the district's traditional high schools, although a smaller percentage continues in an academy program in high school.

These schools serve approximately 150 students. Transportation is provided via shuttle buses from their traditional middle schools.

Alternative Schools List

Crossroads Middle School

Pathways Middle School

Gifted and Talented Program Middle School

Eligibility Requirements for Core Programs:

Both **formal and informal measures** are used to assess eligibility for the West Ada School District Middle School Gifted and Talented (GT) Core Programs.

Formal Measures: Students must have qualifying scores in at least two of the following areas: academic achievement, cognitive function, and/or intellectual function (IQ). Please contact your school's GT facilitator for further information on qualification.

Informal Measures: Students must qualify in the Extreme Need Range on the GT Core Matrix in one of four areas. The areas are creativity, motivation, leadership, and learning as rated by parents, or teachers, or others.

Students who have previously participated in the **GT Core** program at the elementary level can register for the middle school program when registering for middle school. A box is provided on the registration form indicating requested placement.

Students who have previously participated in the **GT Workshop program** (visual arts, creativity, theater, leadership, etc) at the elementary level are ***not*** eligible for placement in GT at the middle school level based on their workshop eligibility. They must go through Core eligibility to qualify for the Core program at the middle school.

Self-Contained Programs (Lowell Scott Middle, Heritage Middle, and Lake Hazel Middle):

West Ada School District offers self-contained cohorts for students who qualify for placement in the Core program. The self-contained program is offered at Lowell Scott Middle School, Lake Hazel and Heritage Middle School and consists of gifted and talented courses in English/Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science. The self-contained program requires an application which can be found on the district website.

Middle School Pull-out Program Description (Lewis & Clark Middle, Sawtooth Middle, Meridian Middle, Eagle Middle, and Victory Middle):

6th Grade – GT Core program will replace the reading/writing block in the sixth grade schedule. The reading and writing curriculum is compacted and additional curriculum topics are added to the year-long program.

7th Grade – GT Core program will replace the reading/writing block in the seventh grade schedule. The reading and writing curriculum is compacted and additional curriculum topics are added to the year-long program.

8th Grade – GT Core program at eighth grade is divided into two parts. One half is GT English, which fulfills the 8th grade ELA requirement. The other part fulfills the regular geography requirement through an enriched geography curriculum, and has GT enrichment built in.

Gifted and Talented Middle School Course Offerings***

Students must meet GT qualifications in order to register for these courses.

(All courses are year-long unless otherwise noted.)

| |
|---|
| 6 th Grade |
| |
| GT Literature & Strategies 6 ** |
| GT English Writing & Composition 6 ** |
| GT Science 6 |
| GT World Civilizations 6 |
| |
| 7 th Grade |
| |
| GT Literature & Strategies 7 ** |
| GT English Writing & Composition 7 ** |
| GT Life Science 7 |
| GT World Civilizations 7 |
| |
| 8 th Grade |
| |
| GT English 8 |
| GT Physical Science 8 |
| GT World Geography 8 (1 semester) |
| GT Enrichment 8 (1 semester) |
| |
| ** Scheduled together (blocked) |
| ***Some courses may not be available at all schools |

Middle School Definitions for Honors

General Information for Honors

Self-motivated and independent learners who are excited about challenging tasks and ideas in a subject area will succeed in these classes. Students should be prepared to spend five or more hours per week on outside-of-class assignments per course. Students may find earning an "A" to be more difficult than in other courses. Students interested in taking advantage of this opportunity should make the most of their educational experience by attending school regularly, participating in class, and following through on homework assignments. No curriculum adjustments will be made to slow the instructional pace or limit the level of instruction of the course. If necessary, a student who is not successfully performing in a course will be moved to a regular course of similar subject matter.

These courses follow the district curriculum but proceed at an accelerated instructional pace and include more instructional depth. Students who are successful in honors courses usually perform academically in the top 10% nationally in their chosen subject area. These courses are graded on a four-point grading scale.

Self-Assessment Letter for Honors Courses

Notice to Parents/Students:

If your student has achieved high test scores and grades, he/she may benefit from taking an Honors course. We encourage you to consider applying for the coming school year during the registration process in February/March. Students cannot be placed without applying by the proper deadlines. While current scores indicate this may be an appropriate option for your student, placement is determined only after applications are received.

An Honors course may be more interesting and challenging for your student. Students interested in taking advantage of this opportunity should make the most of their educational experience by attending school regularly, participating in class, and following through on homework assignments.

Use this self-assessment to evaluate your readiness for an Honors course. Circle where you are on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being highest.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. I am intellectually curious. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. I enjoy reading. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. I enjoy writing various types of papers. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. I am willing to do an average of an hour of homework each night per Honors course. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. I am willing to read over the summer. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. If I feel that if I am learning, a grade lower than an "A" is acceptable. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7. I find many classes move too slowly for me. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8. I like to be challenged. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. I do my work on time. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10. I have the maturity to be responsible for my learning. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 11. I have the ability to manage my time well. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12. I am punctual and rarely miss class. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

*If you have two or more areas that you have rated less than four, you may want to rethink registering for an Honors course.



West Ada

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Rigor Commitment Form for Language Arts and Science Honors Courses

For _____
(Print Student's Name)

Dear Parent of Middle School Honors Student:

Honors courses are taught at an accelerated pace and at an advanced level of instruction. The text, writing, and format of the courses are all at a higher level and require an increased time commitment to homework and study.

No curriculum modifications will be made to slow the pace or limit the level of instruction in the course. Exemplary attendance is critical in these courses because class work cannot be duplicated outside of the classroom.

Having read the above requirements and expectations, I agree to the accelerated pace and rigorous curriculum of the honors course listed below. I agree to do the extra outside class work and/or extra projects as assigned. I have passed the prerequisite course required, and I will not ask for curriculum modifications.

Please list all Honors classes for which you are registering:

Honors Course #1 _____

Honors Course #2 _____

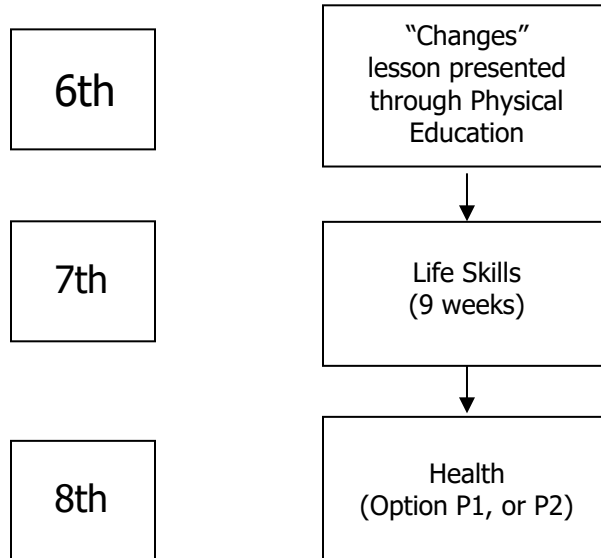
Honors Course #3 _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

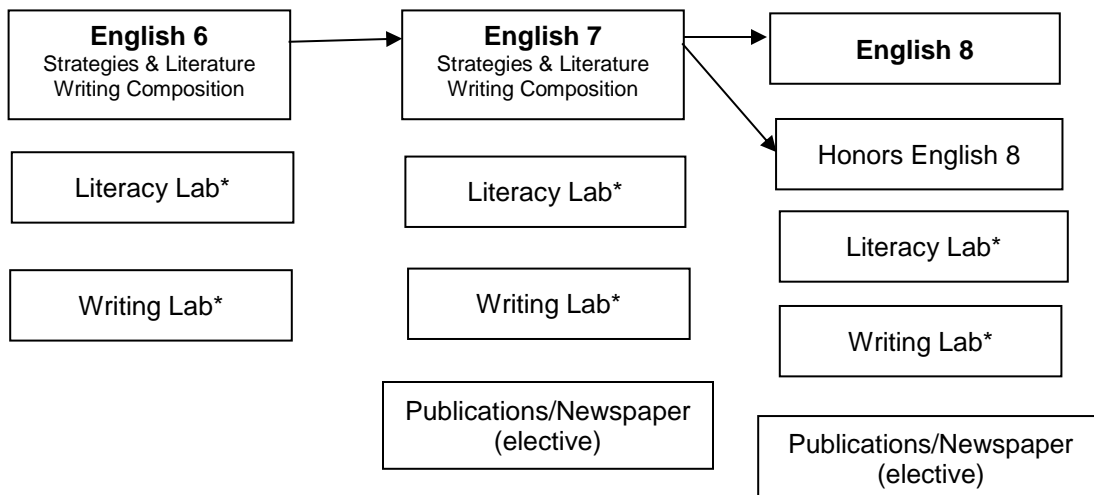
Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

This letter should be returned to the middle school counselor

HEALTH SEQUENCE

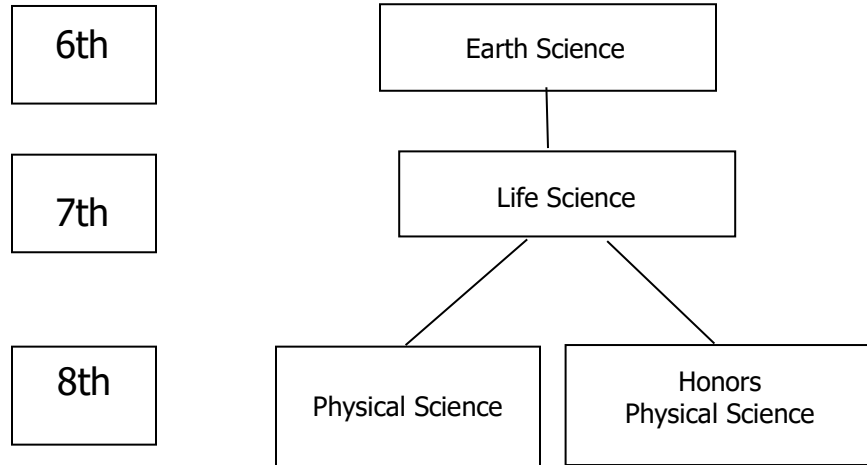


LANGUAGE ARTS SEQUENCE

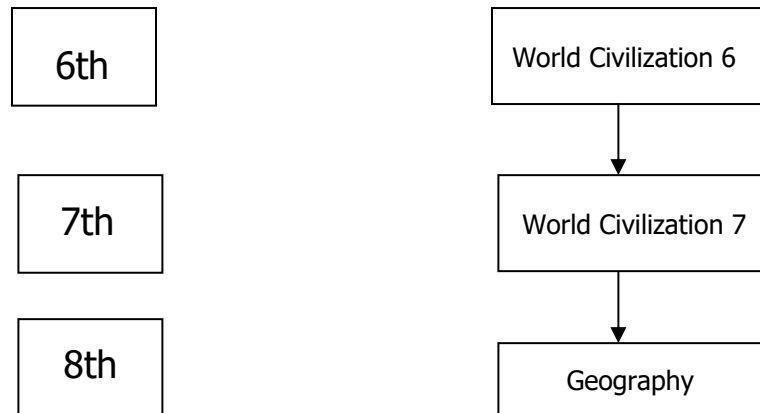


*Literacy/Writing Lab – Quarter or semester long class to be taken in addition to the regular language arts class(es). Students are placed in Literacy/Writing Labs based on the recommendation from a building’s RTI team.

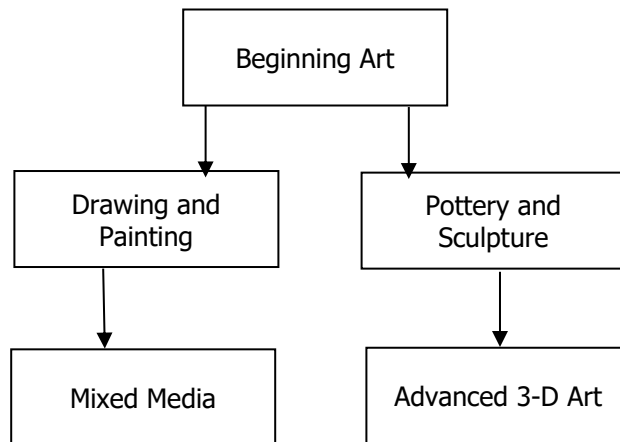
SCIENCE SEQUENCE



SOCIAL STUDIES SEQUENCE



MIDDLE SCHOOL ART SEQUENCE



Note: Not all courses may be available at all schools.

Opt-Out Procedures Secondary Health Courses

Goal: to increase parent communication and parent awareness of the opt-out process in secondary P1 health classes.

Background Information: Due to lack of enrollment, in April of 2008 the school board agreed to remove the P0 option from our middle school and high school Health course offerings. In lieu of the PO course, parents should enroll their students in the P1 course. Parents and students enrolled in the P1 courses now have the option to opt out of two portions of the middle and high school health curriculums. These areas of study are Human Sexuality and HIV/AIDS-STD/STI. Because this course content is a part of state standards, the district has developed opt-out assignments for each of these units of study for students to complete at home with parent supervision. Corresponding rubrics have also been created for teachers to use when assessing the assignments. All students will still be accountable for information learned in all health units on the End of Course Exam. All opt-forms, assignments and rubrics can be found on the district website using the following pathway:

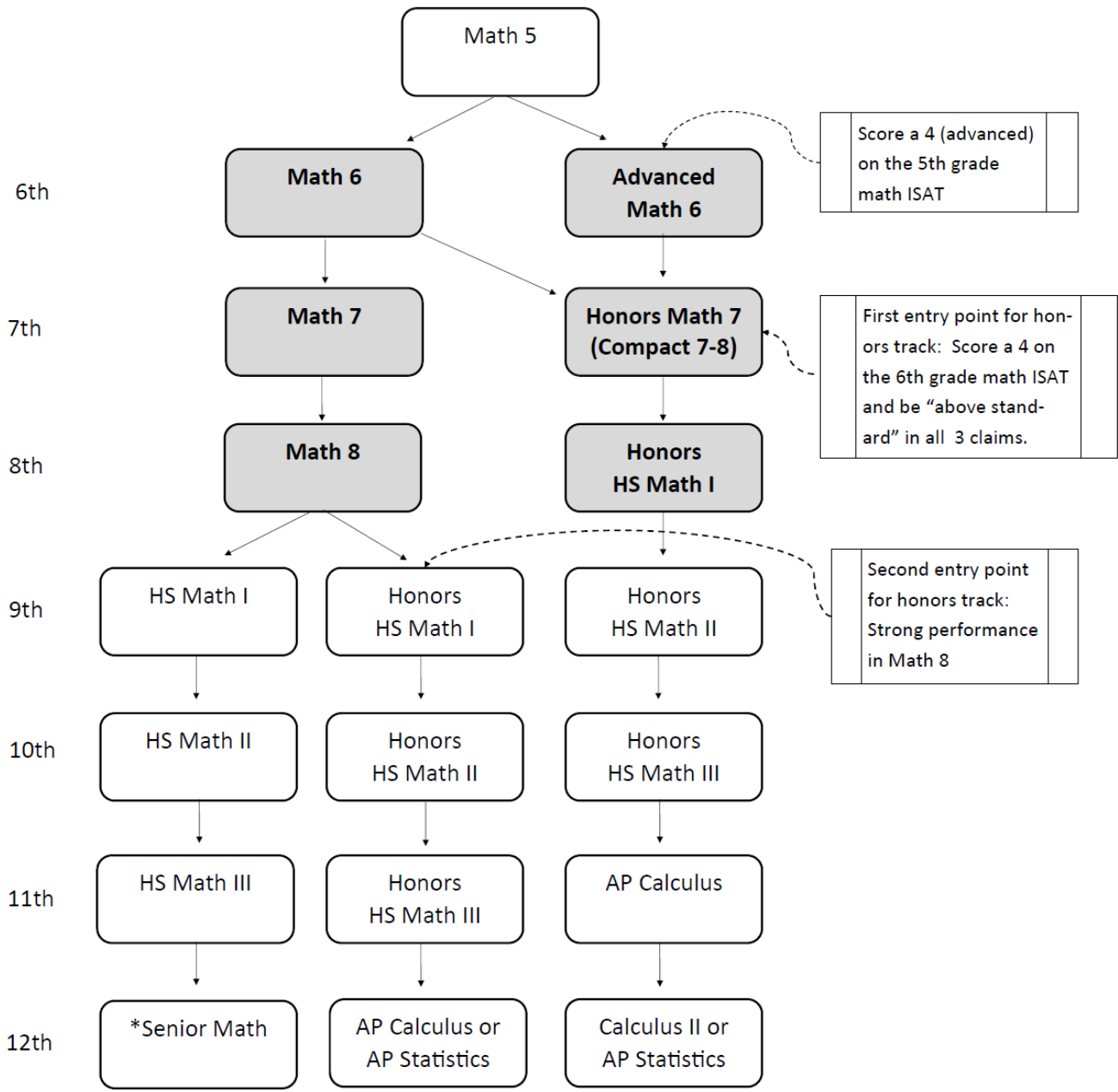
- High School: www.westada.org, Academics-Curriculum-High School-Health (there you will see the curriculum and a variety of opt-out forms)
- Middle School: www.westada.org, Academics-Curriculum-Middle School – 8th Grade -Health (there you will see the curriculum and a variety of opt-out forms)

Additionally, all materials that are used in the classroom when teaching these units must be available for parent preview at the beginning of each semester. Each school will be responsible for communicating the parent preview times and locations. The one exception to the parent preview is the High School STD/STI presentation. This preview will take place each semester at the District Office. Information regarding this preview time will be communicated via the classroom health teacher.

Procedures:

1. Initial information to parents regarding the opt-out option for P1 students through the course description book.
2. Open House and Materials Preview: Make sure opt-out forms are available for parents during both of these events near the beginning of each semester.
3. For schools that offer both P1 and P2 levels, the opt-out option should apply to P1 classes only. Students enrolled in the P2 level course should not need the opportunity for opt-out (unless it is the only level offered at that school).
4. Notification of the opt-out option/procedures should be sent home with students enrolled in **P1** courses at the beginning of the semester **by using this form**.
5. High School Only: In both P1 & P2 classes, notification of the Central District Health STI Parent Preview must be sent home with all students at the beginning of the semester. The District Health Coordinator will be responsible for scheduling this preview and for getting the necessary information to teachers to be sent home.
 - a. Notify parents of preview times at least 2 weeks prior to the district presentation each semester.
 - b. Notify students of the upcoming presentation two weeks prior to viewing the presentation.
 - c. Day of presentation – instructors are to make a blanket statement that students are free to leave prior to or during the presentation if they feel uncomfortable. Teachers are to make prior arrangements for student placement should this occur.

MS & HS Math Sequence



| | |
|------------------------|--|
| *options: | |
| Math modeling | |
| Math in modern society | |
| Pre-Calculus | |
| Statistics | |
| Calculus | |

Course Descriptions

English
World Civilizations
General Science
Math
Exploratory
PE/Music

6th Grade Required Core Classes

Advisory

Course Number(s): 00102G0011
Open to: 6
Length: Year
Content: Advisory is a twenty-minute daily meeting time for students and their teachers. Advisory serves as a home base for students, offering them the opportunity to develop personal, social, academic, and study skills that will help them make a successful transition from an elementary to a middle school setting. ***This is a no-credit course.***

English 6: Literature & Strategies

Course Number(s): 00012G0011
Open to: 6
Length: Year
Content: This course focuses on reading strategies and comprehension skills. Students will read from various genres. **Students must take English 6: Literature and Strategies concurrently with English 6: Writing Composition.**

English 6: Writing Composition

Course Number(s): 00012G0021
Open to: 6
Length: Year
Content: This course focuses on the writing process, modes of writing, writing traits, and language usage. **Students must take English 6: Literature and Strategies concurrently with English 6: Writing Composition.**

Earth Science 6 A & B

Course Number(s): 53001G0031, 53001G0032

Open to: 6

Length: Year

Prerequisite: None

Content: This course follows the new Idaho State Science Standards for Earth Science in middle school. Students will develop an understanding of a wide range of topics in Earth and Space Science that build upon science concepts from elementary school. It will be a balanced approach consisting of three dimensions: supporting content, science practices, and cross-cutting concepts. In particular, students will focus on the Earth as a whole system and the factors that influence it.

Math 6

Course Number(s): 00042G0021

Open to: 6

Length: Year

Content: This is the Idaho State Standards Math class for 6th grade students. Its focus is to build the requisite conceptual understanding of the number system, rate and ratio, expressions and equations, and statistics and probability for students to be successful in Math 7.

World Civilizations 6

Course Number(s): 00064G0011

Open to: 6

Length: Year

Content: Students will develop an understanding of their world by studying the geography, history, culture, government, and economy of various people and nations of the world from the Prehistoric Period through the Middle Ages.

6th Grade Exploratory Classes

Exploratory classes are designed to give students experience in areas that are elective choices in 7th and 8th grades.

Exploratory Art

Course Number(s): 00036G0011
Open to: 6
Length: Quarter
Content: Students are introduced to the basics of the study of art, emphasizing the elements of design. The course includes drawing, painting, sculpture, art history. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Exploratory Digital Tools

Course Number(s): 62005T0012
Open to: 6
Length: Quarter
Content: Students will be able to integrate technological tools utilizing cloud-based applications to communicate and work collaboratively to complete various assignments and projects. Students taking this digital course will develop skills to be able to present information, manage their files, assignments and tasks using different digital tools including Microsoft 365. Students will become digital citizens and learn how to practice safe, ethical, legal, and responsible use of information and technology.

Exploratory Family & Consumer Science

Course Number(s): 00098T0011
Open to: 6
Length: Quarter
Content: Students work in both foods and sewing in this exploratory. Topics such as recipe selection, kitchen safety, table settings, and basic nutrition are included in foods. Sewing includes basic hand sewing and sewing a project of the student's choice. A unit on babysitting is also included. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Exploratory Keyboarding 6

Course Number(s): 62005T0011
Open to: 6
Length: Quarter
Content: Students taking Keyboarding will develop typing skills using the QWERTY Keyboard and district approved keyboarding software. Students will refine and apply their keyboarding skills using project-based learning with Microsoft Word. This course is a pre-requisite for Computer Explorations I 7/8.

Beginning Art 6 (Schools of Choice Only)

Course Number(s): 00036H0011
Open to: 6
Length: Semester
Content: Students will participate in a variety of experiences using the elements and principles of design. The students will explore the fundamentals of drawing, painting, sculpture, and art history. Beginning Art 6 fulfills the prerequisite requirement for Drawing and Painting 7 or 8 and Pottery and Sculpture 7 or 8.

Drama/Communications 6 (Schools of Choice Only)

Course Number(s): 00012G0031
Open to: 6
Length: Semester
Content: This class is designed for the student who enjoys dramatic presentations. Students will explore drama through performance, communication, criticism, history/culture, and vocational activities. An emphasis is placed on performance and communication. Presentations may include secular and/or sacred pantomime, oral interpretations, Reader's Theater, mini plays, radio theater speeches, and puppetry

Literacy Lab 6 A & B

Course Number(s): 00018B0011, 00018B0012
Open to: 6 (*This course can be repeated*)
Length: Quarter or semester as determined by individual middle schools.
Content: This course is for students whose reading abilities are below grade level proficiency levels. (Enrollment will be based on MAP scores or other universal screener data and/or RTI Team or counselor recommendation.) The goal is to build skills needed to meet reading proficiency requirements. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Writing Lab A & B

Course Number(s): 51010G0111, 51010G0112
Open to: 6, 7, 8 (*This course can be repeated*)
Length: Quarter or semester as determined by individual middle schools
Content: This course will address remediation in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) language and writing to move students toward meeting proficiency in these grade level standards. (Enrollment will be based on MAP scores or other universal screener data and/or RTI Team or counselor recommendation.) This course can be taken more than once. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Math Skills Lab

Course Number(s): 00042B0011
Open to: 6 (*This course can be repeated.*)
Length: Quarter or semester as determined by individual middle schools
Content: Emphasis will be on basic mathematical computation. This class will be taken in addition to their regular math class and in place of exploratory classes. Students will be identified based on teacher recommendation and/or parent request. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Study Lab 6

Course Number(s): 00018B0021

Open to: 6 (Exploratory)

Length: Quarter

Content: This course is for students who are deficient in completing course assignments, as identified by teachers and counselors. After receiving instruction in basic study skills students will apply those skills to their assigned coursework in a monitored environment. Students also will have access to school resources (computers, printers, etc.) and be able to study for tests. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

6th Grade

Physical Education and Music Classes

Students are required to take both physical education and music. The classes are on an every-other-day basis (music one day, physical education the next) throughout the year. Students have their choice between band, music, choir, and orchestra.

Physical Education 6

Course Number(s): 00052G0011
Open to: 6
Length: Year, Alternate Days
Content: Students are introduced to a variety of activities and sports that develop physical motor skills. Emphasis is placed upon acquiring basic skill and fitness levels. Maximum student participation is stressed and physical fitness tests are given. Students will participate each day and will need to wear attire that will allow them to safely and appropriately participate in physical activity while following dress code guidelines. Clothing such as shorts, t-shirts, sweats, and athletic-style footwear allows students to participate to the fullest and safest extent possible. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Beginning Band

Course Number(s): 00032G0041, 00032G0031
Open to: 6
Length: Year, Alternate Days
Content: Band classes are split into groups: brass (trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone) and woodwinds (flutes, clarinet, alto sax) and percussion (drums/keyboard percussion/concert percussion). No previous experience is necessary. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 100 minutes per week at home. Students will study and perform a variety of styles of music including pop, sacred, secular, spirituals and other genres. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

General Music 6

Course Number(s): 00032G0011
Open to: 6
Length: Year, Alternate Days
Content: General music classes will focus on the study of music theory and history through singing, games, listening, and writing activities. Various styles and genres of music will be introduced, including ballet, opera, sacred, secular, pop, spirituals and music from famous composers. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Choir 6

Course Number(s): 00032G0021

Open to: 6

Length: Year, Alternate Days

Content: This course will focus on the study of music, primarily through singing. Music from many historical eras and cultures will be introduced. Students will participate in evening concerts during the year. Students will perform a variety of styles of music which may include pop, sacred, secular, spirituals, and madrigals. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Orchestra 6

Course Number(s): 00032G0051

Open to: 6

Length: Year, Alternate Days

Content: This class is for students who are beginning to play violin, viola, cello, and string bass. No previous experience is necessary. Students are expected to practice at home. Students will study and perform a variety of styles of music including pop, sacred, secular, spirituals and other genres. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them. Class changes are not allowed after the first two weeks of school. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Advanced Orchestra 6

Course Number(s): 00032H0021

Open to: 6

Length: Year, Alternate Days

Prerequisite: Open to those students with a minimum of one year prior experience in an elementary orchestra program.

Content: Students are expected to practice a minimum of 100 minutes per week at home. Students will study and perform a variety of styles of music including pop, sacred, secular, spirituals, and other genres. This class will meet the requirement for 6th grade music and will alternate with P.E. Students rehearse separately from beginning level orchestra and perform as an autonomous ensemble at orchestra concerts. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

**7TH Grade
Course Descriptions**

English
World Civilizations
Life Science
Math
Exploratory
Electives

**7TH Grade
Required Core Classes**

Advisory 7

Course Number(s): 72102G0011
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Content: Advisory is a twenty-minute daily meeting time for students and teachers. Advisory serves as a home base for students, offering them the opportunity to further develop the personal, social, academic and study skills introduced to them in the 6th grade advisory program.
This is a no-credit course.

English 7: Literature & Strategies

Course Number(s): 51001G0011, 51001G0012
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Credits: 2
Content: This course focuses on reading strategies and comprehension skills. Students will read from various genres. **Students must take English 7: Writing Composition concurrently with English 7: Literature and Strategies.**

English 7: Writing Composition

Course Number(s): 51003G0011, 51003G0012
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Credits: 2
Content: This course focuses on the writing process, modes of writing, writing traits, and language usage. **Students must take English 7: Writing Composition concurrently with English 7: Literature and Strategies.**

Life Science 7

Course Number(s): 53999G0011, 53999G0012
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Credits: 2
Content: This course introduces students to the characteristics of living things. Students study the diversity of life forms from viruses to mammals; learn human body systems, genetics, and ecological relationships. Critical thinking, problem solving, and hands-on inquiry skills are developed through observation, classification, data collection, cooperative learning experiences, and communication through the introduction of technical writing.

Math 7 A & B

Course Number(s): 52002G0071, 52002G0072
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Credits: 2
Content: This is the Idaho State Standards Math class for 7th grade students. Its focus is to build the requisite conceptual understanding of the number system, ratio and proportions, expressions and equations, geometry and statistics and probability for students to be successful in Math 8.

Honors Math 7 A & B

Course Number(s): 52002H0071, 52002H0072
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Credits: 2 Math Credits
Prerequisite: Math 6, ISAT Achievement Level 4 (and all 3 ISAT reporting categories are **above standard**).
Content: This is the highly accelerated Honors track for middle school math. This course includes the Idaho Core content for 7th and 8th grade. Students will connect the concepts of unit rate, ratio, proportions and functions to describe and solve real world problems using linear equations and systems of linear equations. Students will extend their understanding of geometry to solve real world and mathematical problems involving scaling, angular measures, surface area and volume for all two and three dimensional figures. Students will extend their prior knowledge of statistics to sample, describe and compare two populations mathematically and build probability models. Entry into the middle school honors math track will result in the student starting their high school math transcript in their eighth grade year.

World Civilizations 7

Course Number(s): 54052G0011, 54052G0012
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Credits: 2
Content: Students will develop an understanding of their world by studying the changes in geography, history, culture, government, and economic systems of various people and nations of the world from the beginning of the Renaissance through the 20th century.

7TH Grade Exploratory Classes

Exploratory classes are designed to give students experience in areas that are future elective choices. Students spend one quarter, on a rotation basis, in each exploratory.

Exploratory Gateway To Technology Pre-Engineering 7

Course Number(s): 71051T0041
Open to: 7
Length: Quarter
Content: Students will meet the Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) criteria as they fabricate a series of projects. Students will use the Design and Modeling unit from the Pre-Engineering Gateway to Technology curriculum. Students will become familiar with a variety of engineering and related careers through problem-solving projects.

Language & Culture Study – Spanish

Course Number(s): 56101G0011
Open to: 7
Length: Quarter
Content: This course is an introduction to the culture and language of Spanish speaking countries. Fundamental listening and speaking skills and cross-cultural comparisons will be stressed.

Life Skills 7

Course Number(s): 72206G0011
Open to: 7
Length: Quarter
Content: Students begin this class setting goals, exploring decision-making, self-esteem, character, and organization skills. They will also receive information on conflict resolution, violence prevention, and substance abuse.

Lifetime Sports

Course Number(s): 58001G0011
Open to: 7
Length: Quarter
Content: The student will experience a variety of activities that may be enjoyed throughout his/her life. Activities may include football, tennis, soccer, basketball, golf, softball, bowling, badminton, volleyball, personal fitness, dance, archery, orienteering, and fly-casting. Students will participate each day and will need to wear attire that will allow them to safely and appropriately participate in physical activity while following dress code guidelines. Clothing such as shorts, t-shirts, sweats, and athletic-style footwear allows students to participate to the fullest and safest extent possible.

Literacy Lab 7 A & B

Course Number(s): 51067B0011, 51067B0012
Open to: 7 (*This course can be repeated*)
Length: Quarter or semester as determined by individual middle schools.
Content: This course is for students whose reading abilities are below grade level proficiency levels. (Enrollment will be based on MAP scores or other universal screener data and/or RTI Team or counselor recommendation.) The goal is to build skills needed to meet reading proficiency requirements. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Writing Lab A & B

Course Number(s): 51010G0111, 51010G0112
Open to: 6, 7, 8 (*This course can be repeated*)
Length: Quarter or semester as determined by individual middle schools
Content: This course will address remediation in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) language and writing to move students toward meeting proficiency in these grade level standards. (Enrollment will be based on MAP scores or other universal screener data and/or RTI Team or counselor recommendation.) This course can be taken more than once. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Math Skills Lab

Course Number(s): 52001B0011
Open to: 7 (*This course can be repeated.*)
Length: Quarter or semester as determined by individual middle schools.
Content: Emphasis will be on basic mathematical computation. This class will be taken in addition to their regular math class and in place of elective classes. Students will be identified based on grade in previous math class, teacher recommendation and/or parent request. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Study Lab 7

Course Number(s): 72003B0011
Open to: 7 (Elective)
Length: Semester
Content: This course is for students who are deficient in completing course assignments as identified by teachers and counselors. After receiving instruction in basic study skills students will apply those skills to their assigned coursework in a monitored environment. Students also will have access to school resources (computers, printer, etc,) and be able to study for tests. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

7TH Grade Electives

7th grade students may choose either one full year or two semester electives.

Beginning Art 7

Course Number(s): 55154G0011
Open to: 7
Length: Semester
Content: Students will participate in a variety of experiences using the elements and principles of design. The students will explore the fundamentals of drawing, painting, sculpture, and art history. Beginning Art fulfills the prerequisite requirement for Drawing and Painting as well as Pottery and Sculpture.

Band - Brass & Percussion 7

Course Number(s): 55101G0011, 55101G0012
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Content: This class is for brass and percussion students with preferably one year of prior band experience. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 100 minutes per week at home. Students will study and perform a variety of styles of music including pop, sacred, secular, spirituals and other genres. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them.

Band – Woodwinds 7

Course Number(s): 55101G0021, 55101G0022
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Content: This class is for band and woodwind students with preferably one year of prior band experience. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 100 minutes per week at home. Students will study and perform a variety of styles of music including pop, sacred, secular, spirituals and other genres. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them.

Orchestra 7/8

Course Number(s): 55101G0051, 55101G0052
Open to: 7, 8 (*This course can be repeated*)
Length: Year
Content: This class is for orchestra students with preferably one year of prior orchestra experience on violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students will study and perform a variety of styles of music including pop, sacred, secular, spirituals and other genres. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them.

Choir 7

Course Number(s): 55111G0011, 55111G0012
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Year
Content: This class gives students an introduction and foundation in singing two and three-part music of various styles, with emphasis on the enjoyment of singing. Students will perform a variety of styles of music which may include pop, sacred, secular, spirituals, and madrigals. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them.

Drama/Communications 7

Course Number(s): 55051G0011
Open to: 7
Length: Semester
Content: This class is designed for the student who enjoys dramatic presentations. Students will explore drama through performance, communication, criticism, history/culture, and vocational activities. An emphasis is placed on performance and communication. Presentations may include sacred and/or secular pantomime, oral interpretations, Reader's Theater, mini plays, radio theater, speeches, and puppetry.

Advanced Drama & Communications 7 (Schools of Choice Only)

Course Number(s): 55055G0031
Open to: 7
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Drama/Communications 6
Content: This class is designed as the next step for the Drama/Communications 6 drama class. It is considered to be an advanced drama class. Without the prerequisite Drama/Communications 6 class, students must go through an audition process in order to participate in this class. Students will continue to explore drama through a wide variety of performances and exercises, which may have secular or sacred text in both non-verbal communication and vocal communication. Emphasis is placed on the actor's imagination, self-awareness, and self-control.

Computer Explorations I 7/8

Course Number(s): 60004T0011
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Exploratory Keyboarding 6, Applied Keyboarding 7/8 or Teacher Approval
Content: Students will learn basic skills needed for the use of a word processor, spreadsheet, and database including how to edit, format, change, and manipulate documents for a variety of school and personal projects. Emphasis will be placed on real world applications of the software presented. A review of Internet safety, research strategies, and copyright laws will be integrated into assignments as they apply. This class is a prerequisite for Computer Explorations II.

Computer Explorations II 7/8

Course Number(s): 60004T0021
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Computer Explorations I 7/8 or Teacher Approval
Content: This course builds upon and advances concepts introduced in Computer Explorations I. Emphasizing current emerging applications and technologies. Real world applications, multimedia approaches and career opportunities will be emphasized.

Family & Consumer Science (FCS) I

Course Number(s): 72201T0011
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Content: This course is designed for the student who has an interest in nutrition, food preparation skills, sewing and the development of healthy family and community relationships. Students will explore the importance of making wise consumer choices, the importance of family relationships, studying and preparing a variety of foods, and constructing a variety of sewing projects. (This course is a prerequisite for FCS II).

Family & Consumer Science (FCS) II

Course Number(s): 72206T0011
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Successful completion of FCS I
Content: FCS II will build on skills learned in FCS I. Students will explore a variety of concepts including consumer choices, personal development, food preparation, nutrition, sewing, and design techniques.

Peer Tutor 7/8

Course Number(s): 88500G0051
Open to: 7, 8 (*This course can be repeated.*)
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Teacher or counselor recommendation is needed.
Content: The peer tutors are involved in assisting students with special needs one-on-one in their mainstream classes. Students must be kind and caring, accepting of other's feelings and have a willingness to take direction in helping other students. The Extended Resource Room teachers supervise peer tutors. A brief, pre-training session is required in addition to a final essay reflecting the peer tutoring experience.
This course is graded as pass/fail.

Library Assistant

Course Number(s): 88500G0011, 88500G0012
Open to: 7 (*This course can be repeated.*)
Length: 1 or 2 semesters
Prerequisite: Counselor/Librarian Recommendation
Content: Students will gain skills in organization, responsibility, and people skills while serving as assistants to library staff members. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Math Excursions

Course Number(s): 52001G0031
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Content: This course offers students the chance to explore areas of mathematics not commonly covered in the standard curriculum. Students will experiment with tangrams, miras, probability, geometric design, and more.

Publications (Newspaper) A & B

Course Number(s): 51103G0011, 51103G0012
(If the teacher is journalism certified, use course number 61101G0011)
Open to: 7, 8 (*This course can be repeated*)
Length: 1 or 2 Semesters
Content: Students learn the basic forms of journalistic writing, design, and layout. Students should be able to work independently, write with few grammatical errors, take responsibility for their work, and meet deadlines. Publications students will produce a school newspaper and may produce a magazine of student work. Students who successfully complete this course do not need to take Introduction to Newspaper in high school.

Filmmaking I

Course Number(s): 55154G0071
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Content: This course introduces basic cinematography and scriptwriting concepts needed for all parts of the production processes. With the use of digital video cameras and computer editing software, students are able to complete various projects, such as public service announcements, animation and meaningful storytelling. Common Core writing needs are addressed within the scriptwriting of this class.

Filmmaking II

Course Number(s): 55154G0072
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Filmmaking I
Content: This course builds on the basic cinematography and digital moviemaking techniques learned in Filmmaking I. With the use of digital video cameras and computer editing software, students produce videos that require more advanced editing procedures, such as blue/green screening, simple special effects, and stop motion. Furthermore, students will have to apply more advanced Common Core writing strategies into their scripts by being exposed to more challenging topics.

**8TH Grade
Course Descriptions**

English
Health
World Geography
Physical Science
Math
Physical Education
Electives

**8TH Grade
Required Classes**

8th grade students have six required classes in the core curriculum.

Advisory 8

Course Number(s): 72102G0021
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Content: Advisory is a twenty-minute daily meeting time for students and their teachers. Advisory serves as a home base for students, offering them the opportunity to review the personal, social, academic and study skills, introduced and developed in the 6th and 7th grade programs. In addition, focus will be placed on career awareness.
This is a no-credit course.

English 8

Course Number(s): 51002G0011, 51002G0012
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Credits: 2
Content: English 8 integrates the skills identified for 8th grade by district and state standards. Four concept-based units are covered. See the West Ada School District website for detailed descriptions. Instruction focuses on reading strategies, comprehension skills, the writing process, modes of writing, writing traits, and language usage. Students will read from various genres.

English Honors 8

Course Number(s): 51002H0011, 51002H0012
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Credits: 2
Prerequisite: Signed Rigor Commitment Form required
Content: English Honors 8 offers rigorous, accelerated instruction in the reading process, reading comprehension and interpretation, the writing process, writing applications, and writing components. Students will complete in-depth studies of literary selections connected to the concept-based units, and develop advanced literary response skills. Emphasis is placed on the research process, longer writing formats, including using writing as assessment, self-selected reading and individualized projects. Successful honors students tend to score in the advanced category on the Reading MAP, attend class regularly, consistently meet deadlines, and have a willingness to work outside of class.

Physical Science 8

Course Number(s): 53159G0011, 53159G0012
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Credits: 2
Content: Fundamental physical science principles are introduced through student involvement in hands-on learning activities. A well-balanced introduction to chemistry and physics is provided as students explore the periodic table, chemical reactions, and the laws of motion and energy. Practical application and authenticity are stressed with an emphasis on writing skills, technology, and career investigations.

Math 8 A & B

Course Number(s): 52052G1011, 52052G1012
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Credits: 2
Content: This is the Idaho State Standards Math class for 8th grade students. Its focus is to build the requisite conceptual understanding of irrational numbers, exponents, functions, geometry, statistics and probability, and the correct application of mathematical expression and equations to describe the above and solve real world problems.

Honors HS Math I A & B

Course Number(s): 52052H1031, 52052H1032
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Credit: 2
Prerequisite: Honors Math 7
Content: The fundamental purpose of this course is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. The critical areas, organized into units, deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomena, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. This course uses properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge from prior grades. The final unit in the course ties together the algebraic and geometric ideas studied. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. **This class will be transcribed for high school credit and will be computed in the student's high school GPA.**

World Geography 8

Course Number(s): 54001G0011
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Credits: 1
Content: This semester course is designed to give students a comprehensive study of world geography. Emphasis will be placed on map skills, physical systems and Human-Environment Interaction.

Health

Course Number(s): P1: 58051G0011 P2: 58051G0021
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Credits: 1
Content: This class helps young people make independent, informed decisions concerning their physical, mental, and social well-being. It will focus on core concepts while implementing health related skills. It will encourage students to discover their capability and responsibility for developing attitudes and patterns of behavior that promote a full and satisfying life. **Note:** only P1 students will have the option to opt-out of the following portions of the health curriculum: human sexuality, STDs/STIs, and HIV/AIDS. The primary differences between P1 and P2 is the level of questioning that will take place in the classroom. Additionally, instruction in P2 will include methods for preventing STIs/STDs and pregnancy.

Physical Education 8

Course Number(s): 58001G0021, 58001G0022

Open to: 8

Length: Year

Credits: 2

Content: Physical, mental, emotional, and social health is promoted in this class. This is accomplished by a variety of activities with emphasis on team sports and/or fitness. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own physical fitness. Students will participate each day and will need to wear attire that will allow them to safely and appropriately participate in physical activity while following dress code guidelines. Clothing such as shorts, T-shirts, sweats, and athletic-style footwear allows students to participate to the fullest and safest extent possible.

Multi-Fitness Education A & B

Course Number(s): 58001G0051, 58001G0052

Open to: 8

Length: Semester or Year

Credits: 1-2

Content: This class will focus on strength training, aerobic conditioning, speed and agility development, flexibility, and weight management. Students who desire to gain muscular strength, aerobic endurance, and/or lose weight are highly encouraged to participate. Students will participate each day and will need to wear attire that will allow them to safely and appropriately participate in physical activity while following dress code guidelines. Clothing such as shorts, T-shirts, sweats, and athletic-style footwear allows students to participate to the fullest and safest extent possible.

8th Grade Electives

8th grade students may choose four semesters of elective classes for the year. Some of the courses are for a year, while others are semester classes.

Beginning Art 8

Course Number(s): 55154G0021
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Content: Students will participate in a variety of experiences using the elements and principles of design. The students will explore the fundamentals of drawing, painting, sculpture, and art history. Beginning Art fulfills the prerequisite requirement for Drawing and Painting and Pottery and Sculpture.

Art - Drawing and Painting 8

Course Number(s): 55154G0031
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Successful Completion of Beginning Art 6, 7, or 8
Content: Students will explore the elements and principles of design as they apply to two-dimensional artwork. Students will learn drawing and painting techniques as well as explore a variety of media and art history.

Art - Pottery and Sculpture 8

Course Number(s): 55154G0041
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Successful Completion of Beginning Art 6, 7, 8
Content: Students will explore the elements and principles of design as they apply to three-dimensional artwork. Students will learn basic clay building techniques, utilize sculptural media and explore art history.

Art – Advanced Pottery & Sculpture (Schools of Choice Only)

Course Number(s): 55154H0041
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Successful Completion of Pottery and Sculpture 7 or 8
Content: Students will explore the elements and principles of design as they apply to three-dimensional artwork. Students will continue to develop and apply pottery skills introduced in Art – Pottery and Sculpture. Students will use advanced techniques in construction, hand-building, and decoration. Students will also study historically significant sculptures in art history.

Art – Mixed Media (Schools of Choice Only)

Course Number(s): 55154G0081
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Successful Completion of Drawing and Painting 8
Content: Students will participate in a variety of art experiences and explore the elements and principles of design. Students will produce original artworks and learn skills and techniques associated with a variety of art media. Students will work with printmaking, batik, collage, murals, paper design, and more.

Concert Band 8

Course Number(s): 55101G0031, 55101G0032
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Content: This class is for band students with at least two years of successful prior band experience. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 120 minutes per week at home. Students will study and perform a variety of styles of music including pop, sacred, secular, spirituals and other genres. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them.

Orchestra 7/8

Course Number(s): 55101G0051, 55101G0052
Open to: 7, 8 (*This course can be repeated*)
Length: Year
Content: This class is for orchestra students with preferably one year of prior orchestra experience on violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students will study and perform a variety of styles of music, including pop, sacred, secular, spirituals and other genres. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them.

Choir 8

Course Number(s): 55111G0021, 55111G0022
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Year
Content: This class gives students an introduction and foundation in singing two and three-part music of various styles, with emphasis on the enjoyment of singing. Students will perform a variety of styles of music which may include pop, sacred, secular, spirituals, and madrigals. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them.

Drama/Communications 8

Course Number(s): 55051G0021
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Content: This class is designed for the student who enjoys dramatic presentations. Students will explore drama through performance, communication, criticism, history/culture, and vocational activities. An emphasis is placed on performance and communication. Presentations may include sacred and/or secular pantomime, oral interpretations, Reader's Theater, mini plays, radio theater speeches, and puppetry.

Advanced Drama & Communications 8

Course Number(s): 55055G0021
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Drama/Communications and instructor approval
Content: This course is an introduction to basic acting techniques and terminology. These may include sacred and/or secular pantomime, improvisation, characterization, memorization, skits, and scenes. Students develop voice, create a character, evaluate a play, and perform in scenes. Students also will learn components of theater history, criticism, and vocational opportunities.

Advanced Drama & Communications 8 (Arts Schools of Choice)

Course Number(s): 55055G0041
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Advanced Drama/Communications 7 or instructor approval
Content: This class is an advanced class intended for the Arts Schools of Choice students. Those students who are not in the program must audition with the instructor to qualify for the class. The students will continue to explore acting and theatre through a wide variety of performances (which may have secular or sacred themes) and class exercises. Acting instruction, in the class and in coordination with various performances, focuses on methodology from Tadashi Suzuki, the Japanese theatre director. Emphasis is placed on the actors' imagination, self-awareness, self-control, and observation.

Computer Explorations I

Course Number(s): 60004T0011
Open to: 7,8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Exploratory Keyboarding 6, Applied Keyboarding 7, 8 or instructor approval
Content: This course is designed to utilize computers as tools to create word processing, spreadsheet, and database applications, multimedia presentations and basic desktop publishing. Emphasis will be placed on real-world applications of the software presented, digital citizenship and Internet safety concepts. A review of proper keyboarding techniques will be emphasized for improving the accuracy and speed of work productions. This class is a prerequisite for Computer Explorations II.

Computer Explorations II

Course Number(s): 60004T0021
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Computer Explorations I 7/8 or Teacher Approval
Content: This course gives students an opportunity to explore and utilize advanced computer application concepts by emphasizing current and emerging applications. Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate authentic learning and technologies such as coding, creating an electronic notebook, editing digital photos and videos, and practicing leadership skills and responsibilities. Emphasis will be placed on real-world applications of the software presented, digital citizenship and Internet safety concept.

Gateway To Technology Pre-Engineering 8

Course Number(s): 71051T0051
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Content: Students will meet the Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) criteria as they fabricate a series of projects, using the design process to solve problems and understand the influence that technology has on our lives through innovation. Students use industry-standard III D. modeling software to create a virtual image of their designs. Students use a robotics platform to design, build, and program a solution to solve an existing problem. Students investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the environment.

Photography I

Course Number(s): 55154G0051
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Content: This course will introduce students to the basic aspects of visual artistic design. Content of the course may include the following: basic elements of design, composition, subjects, understanding exposure, camera operation, lighting and light quality, film speeds and formats, flash pictures, and darkroom black-and-white films.

Peer Tutor 7/8

Course Number(s): 88500G0051
Open to: 7, 8 (*This course can be repeated.*)
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Teacher or counselor recommendation needed
Content: The peer tutors are involved in assisting students with special needs one-on-one in their mainstream classes. Students must be kind and caring, accepting of other's feelings and have a willingness to take direction in helping other students. The Extended Resource Room teachers supervise peer tutors. A brief pre-training session is required in addition to a final essay reflecting the peer tutoring experience.
This course is graded as pass/fail.

Assistants

Course Number(s): **Counseling** – 88500G1011 **Office** – 88500G1031
Library – 88500G1021 **Teacher** – 88500G1051
Open to: 8 (*This course can be repeated.*)
Length: 1 or 2 semesters
Prerequisite: Counselor/Teacher/Library Recommendation
Content: Counselor/Office/Teacher – Each school offers students the opportunity to serve as an assistant. They will work with staff, students, and parents. Library – Students will gain skills in organization, responsibility, and people skills while serving as assistants to staff members. ***These courses are graded as pass/fail.***

Spanish I A & B

Course Number(s): 56101G0021, 56101G0022
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Content: This course provides students with the fundamental skills of Spanish language study with an emphasis on comprehension, speaking, reading, writing and culture. **This class will be transcribed for high school credit and will be computed in the student's high school G**

Astronomy 8

Course Number(s): 53001G0011
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Content: This course is designed to introduce the student to the solar system and the planet Earth's involvement in that system. Through multi-media presentations, planetarium demonstrations, model construction, and various hands-on activities, students will discover the science behind astronomy. Library research is one form of data collection used for this course. Math Excursions

Math Excursions

Course Number(s): 52001G0031
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Content: This semester elective offers students the chance to explore areas of mathematics not commonly covered in the standard curriculum. Students will experiment with tangrams, miras, geometric design, probability, and more.

Math Skills Lab

Course Number(s): 52001B0021
Open to: 8 (*This course can be repeated.*)
Length: Semester
Content: Emphasis will be on basic mathematical computation. This class will be taken in addition to their regular math class and in place of elective classes. Students will be identified based on grade in previous math class, teacher recommendation and/or parent request. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Literacy Lab 8 A & B

Course Number(s): 51067B0021, 51067B0022
Open to: 8 (*This course can be repeated.*)
Length: Quarter or a semester as determined by individual middle schools
Content: This course is for students whose reading abilities are below grade level proficiency. (Enrollment will be based on MAP scores or other universal screener data and/or RTI Team or counselor recommendation.) The goal is to build skills needed to meet reading proficiency requirements. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Writing Lab A & B

Course Number(s): 51010G0111, 51010G0112
Open to: 6, 7, 8 (*This course can be repeated*)
Length: Quarter or semester as determined by individual middle schools
Content: This course will address remediation in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) language and writing to move students toward meeting proficiency in these grade level standards. (Enrollment will be based on MAP scores or other universal screener data and/or RTI Team or counselor recommendation.) This course can be taken more than once. ***This course is graded as pass/fail***

Study Lab 8

Course Number(s): 72003B0021
Open to: 8 (Elective) (*This course can be repeated*)
Length: Semester
Content: This course is for students who are deficient in completing course assignments, as identified by teachers and counselors. After receiving instruction in basic study skills students will apply those skills to their assigned coursework in a monitored environment. Students also will have access to school resources (computers, printer, etc,) and be able to study for tests. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Careers 8

Course Number(s): 72151G0011
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Content: Career Exploration is designed to help students explore career options and begin to make career plans. Group activities, hands-on projects and guest speakers make this an exciting class. The course focuses on four main areas: understanding self and work skills, information about training/career options, personal goals and career planning, and job seeking skills.

Family & Consumer Science (FCS) I

Course Number(s): 72201T0011
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Content: This course is designed for the student who has an interest in nutrition, food preparation skills, sewing and the development of healthy family and community relationships. Students will explore the importance of making wise consumer choices, the importance of family relationships, studying and preparing a variety of foods, and constructing a variety of sewing projects. (This course is a prerequisite for FCS II).

Family & Consumer Science (FCS) II

Course Number(s): 72206T0011
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Successful completion of FCS I
Content: FCS II will build on skills learned in FCS I. Students will explore a variety of concepts including consumer choices, personal development, food preparation, nutrition, sewing, and design techniques.

Family & Consumer Science (FCS) III

Course Number(s): 72201T0031
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Successful completion of FCS I and FCS II
Content: This course will build on cooking skills learned in FCS I and FCS II. Students will explore a variety of concepts including consumer choices, personal development, food preparation, nutrition, and career readiness. This experience introduces students to knowledge, basic skills, and attitudes needed for an occupation in a professional-technical education.

Publications (Newspaper) A & B

Course Number(s): 51103G0011, 51103G0012
(If the teacher is journalism certified, use course number 61101G0011)
Open to: 7, 8 (*This course can be repeated*)
Length: 1 or 2 Semesters
Content: Students learn the basic forms of journalistic writing, design, and layout. Students should be able to work independently, write with few grammatical errors, take responsibility for their work, and meet deadlines. Publications students will produce a school newspaper and may produce a magazine of student work. Students who successfully complete this course do not need to take Introduction to Newspaper in high school.

Publications (Yearbook)

Course Number(s): 51103G0011
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Content: Students learn the basic forms of journalistic writing, design, and layout. Students should be able to work independently, write with few grammatical errors, take responsibility for their work, and meet deadlines. Publications students will produce the school yearbook.

Filmmaking I

Course Number(s): 55154G0071
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Content: This course introduces basic cinematography and scriptwriting concepts needed for all parts of the production processes. With the use of digital video cameras and computer editing software, students are able to complete various projects, such as public service announcements, animation and meaningful storytelling. Common Core writing needs are addressed within the scriptwriting of this class.

Filmmaking II

Course Number(s): 55154G0072

Open to: 7, 8

Length: Semester

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Filmmaking I

Content: This course builds on the basic cinematography and digital moviemaking techniques learned in Filmmaking I. With the use of digital video cameras and computer editing software, students produce videos that require more advanced editing procedures, such as blue/green screening, simple special effects, and stop motion. Furthermore, students will have to apply more advanced Common Core writing strategies into their scripts by being exposed to more challenging topics.



Virtual School House Online Middle School Courses

All courses require computer and Internet access

The mission of the Virtual School House is to provide quality online education that is engaging, rigorous and meets the academic needs of students in the 21st Century.

Online courses are web-based teaching and learning with multimedia rich lessons that target multiple learning styles. Certified, highly-qualified online instructors are supportive, motivational, and committed. Courses offer students self-paced learning, individualized instruction, and require self-directed learning. These courses support critical thinking skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation by working in a thematic context, analyzing documents, and developing proficiency in note-taking, writing, and problem solving. Students demonstrate their skills through online assessments, project-based learning, collaboration, and discussion-based assessments. Each course has a password protected Final Exam which must be proctored by a trained instructor.

FEES:

- If courses are taken in a school's **Virtual Learning Center**, there is no cost to the student for an online course. Schools have their own procedures and qualification criteria. Contact your school counselor for more information. Students only pay the course fee of \$150 if *retaking* an online course.
- If courses are taken **asynchronously**, from outside of the public school, cost to the student is \$150 per semester course. The asynchronous registration form can be found at www.westada.org/vsh

Online Courses Available

Mathematics

MS Pre-Algebra A & B

Social Sciences

Social Studies 6 A & B

Social Studies 7 A & B

Science

Life Science A & B

Physical Science A & B

Electives

Career Explorations 8

MS Journalism

Art 6

Art 7

Art 8

MS Family & Consumer Science

Mathematics

MS Pre-Algebra A & B

Course Number(s): 02051B1011, 02051B1012

Open to: 7, 8

Content: In this tablet-ready course, students take a broader look at computational and problem-solving skills while learning the language of algebra. Students extend their understanding of ratios to develop an understanding of proportions and solve problems, including scale drawings, percent increase and decrease, simple interest, and tax. They also extend their understanding of numbers and properties of operations to include rational numbers. Signed rational numbers are contextualized and students use rational numbers in constructing expressions and solving equations. Students derive formulas and solve two-dimensional area problems, including the area of composite figures. In three dimensions, students find surface area using formulas and nets. Students also compute the volume of three-dimensional objects, including cubes and prisms. Students make use of sampling techniques to draw inferences about a population, including comparative inferences about two populations. Students also investigate chance processes through experimental and theoretical probability models. This course meets Common Core State Standards.

Science

Life Science A & B

Course Number(s): 53999G0011, 53999G0012

Open to: 7

Content: The Life Science program invites students to investigate the world of living things—at levels both large and small—by reading, observing, and experimenting with aspects of life on Earth. Students explore an amazing variety of organisms, the complex workings of the cell and cell biology, the relationship between living things and their environments, and discoveries in the world of modern genetics. Students tackle such topics as ecology, microorganisms, animals, plants, cells, animals, species, adaptation, heredity, genetics, and the history of life on Earth. Lesson activities and assignments in this tablet-ready course help students discover how scientists investigate the living world.

Physical Science A & B

Course Number(s): 53159G0011, 53159G0012

Open to: 8

Content: The Physical Science program introduces students to many aspects of the physical world, focusing first on chemistry and then on physics. The tablet-ready course provides an overview of the physical world and gives students tools and concepts to think clearly about matter, atoms, molecules, chemical reactions, motion, force, momentum, work and machines, energy, waves, electricity, light, and other aspects of chemistry and physics. Among other subjects, students study the structure of atoms; the elements and the Periodic Table; chemical reactions; forces, including gravitational, motion, acceleration, and mass; and energy, including light, thermal, electricity, and magnetism.

Social Studies

Social Studies 6 A & B

Course Number(s): 54051G0011, 54051G0012

Open to: 6

Content: In this course, students expand their understanding of history, civics and government, geography, economics, society, and culture by studying the people and events that ushered in the dawn of the major Western and non-Western ancient civilizations. The two-semester course consists of eight units that present content in the following themes: Early Civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Kush; Ancient Hebrews; Ancient Greece; the Persian empire, Ancient Asia: Civilizations of India, China, and Japan; and Ancient Rome. Among other skills, Social Studies 6 equips students to sequence, categorize, and identify cause-and-effect relationships of important events of ancient times; understand, describe, and analyze similarities and differences within and among cultures; and describe how citizenship varies among different societies.

Social Studies 7 A & B

Course Number(s): 54052G0011, 54052G0012

Open to: 7

Content: In this course, students study world history, landforms and geography, money and economics, the powers and parallels of political science, sociology, and anthropology in this two-semester course. Social Studies 7 begins with the mysteries of the ancient empires of the Americas, moves on to the fall of the Roman Empire and the rise of the Franks in Europe, and covers revolutionary Europe, the Industrial Revolution, nationalism and Imperialism, World Wars I and II, colonial India, the United Nations, the Vietnam War, past and current issues in the Middle East, and ancient and modern Africa. The course concludes with an introduction to the Information and Space Ages.

Miscellaneous Elective Courses

Career Explorations 8

Course Number(s): 72151G0011
Open to: 8
Content: This course provides an overview of careers available today and helps students identify careers that may suit them. Course content covers the importance of work to individuals and society; the difference between a job and a career; identifying personal strengths, weaknesses, and interests and how they apply to possible careers; the importance of proper work etiquette; and an exploration of various careers in several career clusters. Students complete self-evaluations to determine which careers may be of interest to them. Assignments, including research and interviews, supplement the instructional content and provide a hands-on approach to creating a career plan for the future.

MS Journalism

Course Number(s): 61101G0011
Open to: 6, 7, 8
Content: Who? What? When? Where? Journalism provides us with the answers to these questions for the events that affect our lives. In this course, students will learn how to gather information, organize ideas, format stories for different forms of news media, and edit their stories for publication. The course will also examine the historical development of journalism and the role of journalism in society.

MS Art 6

Course Number(s): 00036H0011
Open to: 6
Content: In this course, students learn how to identify and discuss formal elements, principles of design, and stylistic characteristics found in artworks from various world regions. They explore the fundamental concepts of art, how to evaluate art, and how to discern the intended function of natural history museums through hands-on activities, discussions, written assignments, and objective assessments. The course begins with an orientation that provides an introduction to art appreciation and a timeline of ancient history. Students move on to study art from various world regions, including Mesopotamia and the Indus River Valley, Egypt, China and Japan, Greece, Italy, and the Americas.

MS Art 7

Course Number(s): 55154G0011

Open to: 7

Content: A follow-up course to Art 6, Art 7 continues students' instruction in the fundamental concepts of art, the evaluation of art, and understanding the mission of natural history museums. In this course, students explore world regions and study the unique art and architecture that defines the Medieval and Renaissance periods. Using relevant terminology, they learn how to identify and discuss formal elements, principles of design, and stylistic characteristics found in artworks from various world regions. Course content begins with a timeline of Medieval/Renaissance history and discussion of art criticism and is supplemented with hands-on activities, discussions, written assignments, and objective assessments.

MS Art 8

Course Number(s): 55154G0021

Open to: 8

Content: Art 8 is a follow-up course to Art 7, and continues students' exploration of world regions as they study the unique art and architecture that defines modern-day civilizations. In Art 8, students learn how to converse with others about art and the function of art in modern society as they analyze artworks and identify valid resources for the study of art history and the applied arts. Students do hands-on activities, participate in discussions, turn in written assignments, and take assessments on art from India, China, Japan, Europe, the United States, the Americas, Africa, and the Pacific cultures. Course content includes instruction on writing about art and a discussion of art historians.

MS Family & Consumer Science

Course Number(s): 72201T0011

Open to: 7, 8

Content: This course focuses on the introduction of skills and knowledge that will help young teenagers transition into the adult roles within the family. Students engage in activities to learn more about managing money, entering the world of work, establishing a home and family, preparing nutritious meals, working as part of a team, and caring for the environment and their community. Students gain an appreciation for the work of the family and how they as individuals contribute to the well-being of their family and their community.