# Smith Middle School

# Curriculum Guide

# 2019~2020

# Troy School District
# Middle School Philosophy

Troy middle schools provide a program that creates an environment that recognizes, accepts, respects, and meets the diverse needs and characteristics of young adolescent students.

The middle schools are committed to academic excellence and to being developmentally responsive to the adolescents' natural characteristics: an innate curiosity, a desire to expand their environment, and the need for recognition and personal achievement. As such, the middle school program is characterized by:

- A research based curriculum, with effective assessment and evaluation, that is challenging, integrative, exploratory, and that promotes the learning of skills and content for functioning in a highly technological, complex, and changing society,
- Sharing a vision with all members of the educational community to foster respect for learning, diversity, and responsible behavior,
- A cooperative partnership with its parents and members of the community.

## Middle School Goals

Goal 1: All programs will be developmentally appropriate.

Goal 2: Ensure all programs will meet the needs of a diverse student population.

Goal 3: Ensure all students will develop skills and knowledge in the core subject areas.

Goal 4: Provide students with the opportunity to discover their special interests, attitudes, aptitudes, and abilities as the basis for determining future actions.

Goal 5: Provide students with diversified experiences in the area of cultural, social, civic, vocational and recreational programs.

Goal 6: Provide guidance services and programs to promote self-esteem, independence, and responsible behavior so that young people will make appropriate decisions.

Goal 7: Provide the opportunity for students to establish partnerships with the community.

Goal 8: Provide a transition from elementary to high school.

Goal 9: Provide a model for healthy lifestyles for students.

# Troy School District
# Middle School Outcomes

In a cooperative partnership with home and community, we are committed to prepare each student to become:

1. A self-directed learner who:
    a. Is responsible, enthusiastic, and inspired by learning;
    b. Thinks independently;
    c. Is open-minded and intellectually curious.

2. A quality worker who:
    a. Designs a plan;
    b. Applies the best possible resources, technologies, and organizational strategies;
    c. Creates products and performances;
    d. Monitors development;
    e. Maintains high standards;
    f. Assesses results.

3. A positive communicator who:
    a. Conveys his/her ideas and feelings in skillful and acceptable ways;
    b. Respects the contributions of others;
    c. Helps resolve conflicts;
    d. Stays focused and task oriented.

4. A collaborative and cooperative contributor who:
    a. Creates and sustains productive group relationships;
    b. Respects the contributions of others;
    c. Helps resolve conflicts;
    d. Stays focused and task oriented.

5. An involved and visionary citizen who:
    a. Develops an awareness of global issues;
    b. Contributes positively to his/her local and world communities;
    c. Advocates for the environment;
    d. Prepares to meet future challenges.

# GRADE 6

## ELA 6 (Full year) - required

Over the course of 6th grade, students will study literature of various genres and informational text including literary nonfiction. Through wide and deep reading, students will gain literary and cultural knowledge. This course follows a standard-based curriculum that focuses on deepening comprehension of complex texts, making inferences that are based upon textual evidence, determining thematic and character development, understanding claims and evidence, and applying those skills across complementary texts. Time will also be devoted to the development of academic vocabulary and independent choice reading.

## LA 6 (Full year) – required

Over the course of 6th grade, students will study three types of writing: narrative, informational, and argumentative. By writing often and using mentor texts to guide the process, students will learn to effectively communicate ideas, tell a story, and express an opinion. This course follows a standard-based curriculum that focuses on the development of clear and coherent writing through the writing process. Conventions of writing will be woven throughout instruction. Short and sustained research through inquiry will be a natural extension of the writing tasks. Students will express information and enhance understanding of presentation through strategic use of digital media and a variety of visual representations.

## Mathematics 6 (Full year) – required or another math class

Math 6 is designed to help students transition from the study of numeracy and computation in elementary school to the study of algebra and functions. The course develops a deep conceptual and procedural understanding of mathematics. There are five critical areas of study: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using algebraic expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking; (5) reasoning about relationships among shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume.

## Mathematics 6/7 Honors (Full year) – required or another math class

Math 6/7 Honors is a rigorous pre-algebra course designed for students who learn at an accelerated pace. Placement into the honors program will be available to students meeting the criteria established by the math department. Students will study three years of mathematics in two years. The course develops a deep conceptual and procedural understanding of mathematics. The critical areas for Math 6/7 Honors are: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using algebraic expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking; (5) reasoning about relationships among shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume; (6) developing understanding of and applying proportional

relationships; (7) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with algebraic expressions and linear equations.

## Physical Education 6 (Full year EOD*) – required

The physical education program will be run as either a yearlong, every-other-day program or as an everyday, semester class. The focus of the program--a combination of cardio-respiratory fitness program with games, skills development, and recreational activities--is designed to help students develop a lifelong, positive attitude toward physical activity. The course also helps students develop the necessary skills to appreciate and participate in team and individual sports and recreation activities. **EOD = Every Other Day*

## Science 6 (Full year) - required

Sixth-grade students will develop their problem-solving skills as they study topics in life and earth science. They will continue to learn more about the scientific method and will develop an understanding of how to scientifically test ideas. This course includes units on cells and heredity, ecology, Earth's changing surface, and species adaptation and survival.

## Social Studies 6 (Full year) - required

Social Studies 6 is a geography-based course that introduces students to the physical and human geography of the world. Students will explore patterns of natural and human characteristics and use case studies to examine how the physical environment has provided both benefits and obstacles to human society. In doing so, students will explore how humans have used, adapted, or modified their environment and the consequences. Students will examine a variety of global issues that come from human activities such as migration and settlement, culture and cultural diffusion, population and demographic changes, resource use, and increasing networks of trade and economic interdependence. Students will investigate how local, national, and international governmental and non-governmental organizations respond to contemporary issues. The different regions of the world will be used to illuminate examples of how these global issues or problems affect people in places around the world. They will deepen their understanding of the disciplines of history, geography, economics and political science. Students will explore how all of these social studies fields are both complementary and interdependent.

# GRADE 6
# ELECTIVE COURSES
**Meet Every Other Day and alternating with PE**

## Art 6 (Full year EOD*) - elective

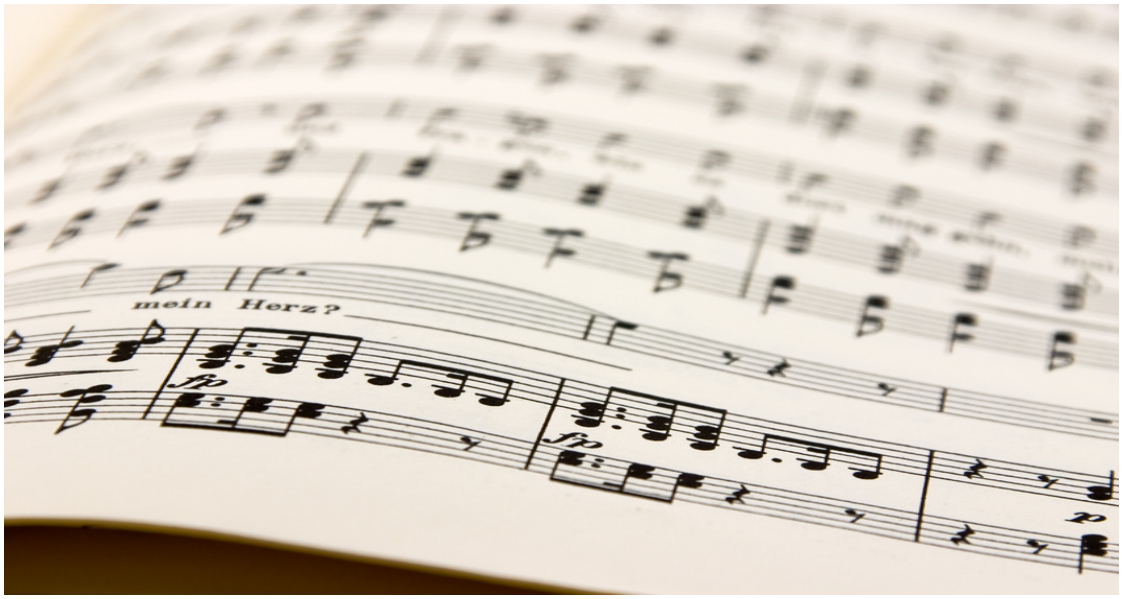
Art 6 provides a study of the elements and principles of art through experiences with a different art media and tools in design and creation. Students will identify and compare artwork across time and culture. Students will evaluate art and describe both the elements of art and their reactions to the works.

## Band 6 or Orchestra 6 (Full year EOD*) - elective

Instrumental music classes initially reinforce the skills presented in the fifth grade and then progress to new areas of study, preparing students for every-day, full ensemble experiences. Sixth-grade students choosing this exploratory core should have taken band or orchestra in the fifth grade or formal instruction prior to their entry into middle school. Public performance may occur as an outgrowth of classroom activities.

## Vocal Music 6 (Full year EOD*) - elective

Vocal Music 6 builds on the knowledge, skills and understanding developed through the elementary school program. Students in this course will experience singing in unison as well as in parts. There will be an emphasis placed on proper vocal techniques and sight-reading skills.




**EOD = Every Other Day*

# GRADE 7

## Digital Applications 1.0 (Half year) – required

Harness the power of a variety of online tools to engage students and foster collaboration! In this course, participants will explore a wide variety of 21st Century tools that have the power to engage students and facilitate learning, communication and collaboration. 21st Century or Web 2.0 tools are online applications that facilitate interactive information sharing. Various online tools will be featured in this course, as well as an assortment of other classroom-friendly Web 2.0 applications.

## English 7 (Full year) - required

Over the course of 7th grade, students will continue to study literature of various genres and informational text. This course follows a standard-based curriculum focused to deepen reading comprehension, application, literacy response, analysis, and vocabulary development. Writing to communicate ideas and information using conventional writing skills is woven throughout instruction in narrative and informational areas. Students will express information and enhance understanding of presentation through strategic use of digital media and a variety of visual representations.

## Health and Physical Education 7 (Half year) - required

This will be a combined course in health and physical education. This physical education program is comprised of a combination of cardio-respiratory fitness and skill development through games and recreational activities. This ten-week course is a continuation of the sixth-grade program in selected skill areas, depending on the actual quarter that the course is offered to the student. The health benefits of an active lifestyle are emphasized and encouraged. The health component of the course will provide a positive approach to health, developed around the characteristics, needs, and interests of seventh graders. Course topics include nutrition, recognizing influences, human sexuality, and choosing healthy behaviors. These units help students recognize and counter messages encouraging unhealthy behaviors, including tobacco, alcohol, and other drug usage. Information about the spread of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases is included. Students are encouraged to make healthy choices to promote good health. (Parents may excuse their child from class sessions in which human sexuality and AIDS are covered.)

## Mathematics 7 (Full year) – required or another math class

Math 7 is a pre-algebra course designed to develop deep conceptual and procedural understanding of mathematics. The course focuses on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with algebraic expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

## Mathematics 7/8 Honors

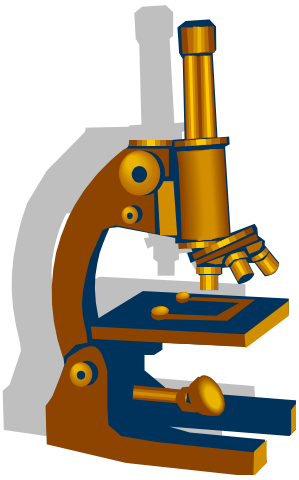
Math 7/8 Honors is a rigorous pre-algebra course designed for students who learn at an accelerated pace. The course develops a deep conceptual and procedural understanding of mathematics. The critical areas for Math 7/8 Honors are: (1) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (2) drawing inferences about populations based on samples; (3) formulating and reasoning about algebraic expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (4) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (5) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

## Science 7 (Full year) - required

Seventh-grade students will continue to develop their understanding of the scientific method and its uses in the real world as they study topics in earth science, physics, and chemistry. Units of study will include Earth's waters, weather and climate, astronomy, waves, energy, physical and chemical changes, and chemical properties.

## Social Studies 7 (Full year) - required

The seventh grade social studies curriculum focuses on ancient world history and geography with a deliberate focus on the content literacy. Students investigate human history from the beginning until around 1500. They chronologically explore major and significant changes through each era. Students learn about the earliest humans and explore early migration and settlement patterns. Students examine how the emergence of pastoral and agrarian societies set the stage for the development of powerful empires, trade networks, and the diffusion of people, resources, and ideas.
** The seventh grade social studies curriculum focuses on ancient world history/geography with deliberate focus on content literacy.*



# GRADE 8

## Algebra 1 Honors (Full year) – required or another math class

Algebra 1 Honors is a first-year high school algebra course for advanced students. The course includes 5 critical areas. Students will: (1) develop fluency in writing, interpreting, and translating between various forms of linear equations and inequalities, and use them to solve problems and apply related solution techniques; (2) explore many examples of functions, including sequences; students interpret functions given graphically, numerically, symbolically, and verbally, translate between representations, and understand the limitations of various representations; (3) use regression techniques to describe approximately linear relationships between quantities; (4) create and solve equations, inequalities, and systems of equations involving exponential , quadratic , and rational expressions; (5) expand their experience with functions to include more specialized functions—absolute value, step, and those that are piecewise-defined. ***This class will count towards a high school credit and will be figured into your GPA at the high school.***

## English 8 (Full year) - required

Over the course of 8th grade, students will continue to study literature of various genres and informational text. This course follows a standard-based curriculum focused to deepen reading comprehension, application, literacy response, analysis, and vocabulary development. Writing to communicate ideas and information using conventional writing skills is woven throughout instruction in narrative and informational areas. Students will express information and enhance understanding of presentation through strategic use of digital media and a variety of visual representations.

## Geometry Honors (Full year) – required or another math class

Geometry Honors is a high school course for advanced students who have completed Algebra 1 Honors. The course includes 6 critical areas. Students will: (1) understand congruence in terms of rigid motions, geometric constructions, and geometric theorems; (2) expand their understanding of triangles to include similarity transformations, theorems involving similarity and right triangle trigonometry; (3) develop an understanding of geometric relationships within the coordinate plane and make connections between geometric properties and algebra; (4) understand and apply theorems about circles; (5) apply geometric measurement for both two-dimensional and three-dimensional objects; (6) apply geometric concepts in modeling situations. ***This class will count towards a high school credit and will be figured into your GPA at the high school.***

## Mathematics 8 (Full year) – required or another math class

Math 8 is a pre-algebra course designed to develop deep conceptual and procedural understanding of mathematics. The course focuses on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about algebraic expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

## Science 8 (Full year) - required

Eighth-grade students will extend their understanding of the scientific method and experimental design. This course will include advanced earth science topics such as energy, biogeochemical cycles, resources and human impacts on Earth systems, advanced rock cycle, interior of Earth, plate tectonics theory, earthquakes, volcanoes, hydrogeology, severe weather, Earth in space, the sun, Earth history and geologic time, and climate change. Students participate in cooperative lab work throughout the year, and will also complete an on-line Moodle project. An emphasis is placed on scientific writing and analysis.

## United States History 8 (Full year) - required

The purpose of this course is to develop the student's understanding of the heritage that shaped the United States as a democratic nation. United States history is surveyed from the time of the Native Americans to 1877 by looking at political, economic, and social changes of our nation. Native Americans, exploration and colonization will be reviewed. The American Revolution, formation of our national government, westward movement, and the Civil War and Reconstruction will be studied in detail. The course will periodically include the study of Michigan history and U.S. foreign affairs. The study of American history will prepare students to become responsible citizens.

# GRADE 7 and 8
# ELECTIVE COURSES (Half year)

## Art Expression (Grades 7 and 8) - elective

This course is for the 7th and 8th grade students who would like to begin their art experience at the middle school level. No prerequisite is required, and all students can achieve success, regardless of past training. A wide variety of media will be explored, such as ceramics, drawing, painting, sculpture, and printmaking, while implementing the elements and principles of design. This course combines hands-on art production with extended experiences in art history, judgment/criticism, and aesthetics.

## Ceramics (Grades 7 & 8) - elective

Ceramics is a hands-on visual art course that will explore various three-dimensional media. Different types of clay will be used to create artwork using the pinch, coil and slab clay construction techniques. The clay process will be explored from its history to the aesthetics of glazing it. Space and Form will not only be implemented with clay, but students will also explore the use of other three-dimensional media, including paper, wire, plaster, wood and found objects. This design based course combines hands-on three-dimensional art production with art history, creative problem solving skills and creative exploration.

## Communication Arts (Grades 7 and 8) - elective

This course explores the various forms of communication: Public speaking, pantomime, role-playing, interviews, listening skills, improvisation, and problem-solving activities. These communications activities foster and develop self-confidence, self-discipline, teamwork, and the ability to discuss, respond, evaluate, and interact.

## Creation Lab (Grades 7 and 8) - elective

Creation Lab embraces the technological and creative revolution. Amazing new tools, materials, and skills turn all students into learners and makers. Combining the use of hands-on tools and modern technology to learn about, build, repair, or customize the world around us, creation Lab allows students to celebrate the harmony of science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (S.T.E.A.M.). This creativity movement overlaps with the natural longing for middle school students to harness the power of learning by doing. The active learner is at the center of the learning process, solving problems through the use of learning and invention. Example projects include: bridge building, soldering, coding, game creation, projectiles, and a research and develop segment focused on the topic of the student's choice.

## Digital Applications 2.0 (Grades 7 and 8) - elective

Students will utilize the Adobe Creative Suite software package to design multimedia projects. Projects will include Video Production, Animation, and Digital Imaging techniques. Students will also design web applications utilizing advanced tools such as Dreamweaver. Additional projects will focus on using mobile devices for content creation. Emphasis will be on analyzing, accessing, managing, integrating, evaluating, and creating information in a variety of forms and media so that students will understand the role of media in society. Communication skills will also be emphasized, so that students will understand, manage, and create effective oral, written, and multimedia communication in a variety of forms and contexts. In this online environment, students will collaborate and share their thinking, ideas, and projects. Students will be given the opportunity to work in small groups, where they will demonstrate teamwork and leadership.
*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Digital Applications 1.0*

## Effective Teens (Grades 7 and 8) - elective

This program offers positive growth experiences and specific coping skills to help young people deal effectively with the changes of our complex society. The book *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens* will be utilized to emphasis the concepts taught in this class. The curriculum emphasizes the development of academic skills, student character, citizenship, and responsibility. As a result of the program, teens will be better prepared to face the challenges, tasks, and rewards of adulthood.

## Life Skills (Grades 7 and 8) - elective

This hands-on Life Skills course for 7th and 8th graders takes a fresh look at preparing and serving creative foods. Students will explore the discipline of sewing by completing a hand and machine sewn project. In addition, students participate in experiences, which help to prepare them for becoming an independent person.

## LINKS* (Grades 7 and 8) – elective

The peer to peer support program provides many opportunities for general education students, as well as the students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other special needs. Students learn to relate to people with different needs and develop an increased understanding of individual differences. Students will be matched up with an ASD or a special needs student. You will be asked to act as a peer advocate, mentor, role model and friend to that student. Together, the students will work toward the goal of independence and socialization.
***TEACHER RECOMMENDATION ONLY**

## Show Choir (Grades 7 and 8) - elective

This course is offered to students with a strong interest or experience in vocal music. Advanced/Show Choir develops musical skills, including vocal technique, stage presence, music reading, and aural perception through a variety of musical styles and cultures. The choir will present day and evening performances in the schools and community.

## Theatre Arts (Grades 7 and 8) - elective

Theater Arts introduces the students to the art of physical and vocal expression through acting, improvisation, and scene study. Students will explore character movement, voice, attitude, and motivation as they develop improvisational skills and learn the techniques of acting. This course includes a public performance, involving the students in all aspects of the production.

## Video Technology (Grades 7 & 8) - elective

Students will learn to use digital video cameras and edit video using Windows Movie Maker and Apple iMovie non-linear editing software. Students will have the opportunity to produce video segments that include such themes as public service announcements (PSA), commercials, and music videos. Students will also have the opportunity to rotate through the various television studio positions of anchors, technical managers, editors, reporters, camera operators, program directors and special features. Students will learn the fundamentals of broadcasting. The students will run professional live morning news broadcasts for the school building each day. The course will also teach skills related to media literacy and ethics (copyright) of using video materials.

## World Language I (Grade 7 & 8) - elective

World Language courses welcome all serious students interested in a full-year, every day, world language experience. They parallel the level 1 class taken in high school. Successful completion enables a student to take level 2 as an 8th grader or freshman. Basic speaking, reading, listening and writing skills are taught, using a variety of teaching methods. Students will learn basic social and language skills to cope with real-life, authentic situations with an emphasis on oral proficiency. This course takes care of one of the required world language credits. ***This class will count towards a high school credit and will be figured into your GPA at the high school.***

## French I (Grade 7 & 8) - elective
## Spanish I (Grade 7 & 8) – elective

# GRADE 7
# ELECTIVE COURSES (Full year)

## Concert Band (Grade 7) - elective

This course is a continuation of skills and techniques learned in 6th grade band or equivalent. Concert band placement is made on the basis of student proficiency. These classes meet daily and emphasize the exploration of several musical styles, the appreciation of music, and the development of individual and ensemble playing skills. Several evening performances are required as well as concerts during the school day. Students enrolled in Concert Band grade band are expected to be committed and dependable young musicians for the entire school year.

## Chamber Orchestra (Grade 7) - elective

This course may be selected for students that have successfully participated in Orchestra as a 6th grader. This class emphasizes the exploration of several musical styles, the appreciation of music, and the development of individual and ensemble playing skills. Many evening performances are required. Students enrolled in Chamber Orchestra are expected to be committed and dependable young musicians for the entire school year.

# GRADE 8
# ELECTIVE COURSES

## Advanced Orchestra (Grade 8) -elective

The Advanced Orchestra course may be selected for the 8th grade by students that have successfully participated in Orchestra as a 7th grader. This class emphasizes the exploration of several musical styles, the appreciation of music, and the development of individual and ensemble playing skills. Many evening performances are required as well as a Saturday performance at the MSBOA Orchestra Festival. Students enrolled in Advanced Orchestra are expected to be committed and dependable young musicians for the entire school year

## Fundamentals of Fitness (Grade 8) – half year elective

This course is geared to simulate a fitness center experience. A variety of creative movements, aerobics and exercise strategies will be taught. Styles include a pyramid, AMRAP, Supersets, Counter, EMOM, Tabata, Circuit Training as well as team workouts and team challenges. This course provides exposure to fitness aides in the confidence and knowledge to perform outside of school.

## Jazz Band (Grade 8) – half year elective

This course is **open to all students by audition or teacher approval**. Previous band experience is required. Members of the Jazz Band also participate in a concert band ensemble. The basics of jazz-band style are covered, and the students will perform during the semester.

## Girls and Boys Physical Education (Grade 8) – half year elective

This elective continues the skill development and cardio-respiratory fitness emphasis of the 6th and 7th grade classes. Added to the team sports are fitness activities, including running, circuit training, walking, jumping rope, aerobic exercises, and extended calisthenics. Stretching, flexibility, and progression exercises proceed every activity period. The emphasis is on doing one's best and striving to reach one's potential.

## Symphonic Band (Grade 8) - elective

This course is a continuation of skills and techniques learned in Concert Band or equivalent. Symphonic band placement is made on the basis of student proficiency. These classes meet daily and emphasize the exploration of several musical styles, the appreciation of music, and the development of individual and ensemble playing skills. Many evening performances are required as well as two Saturday performances including MSBOA Band Festival. Students enrolled in Symphonic Band are expected to be committed and dependable young musicians for the entire school year.

## World Language II (Grade 8) – full year elective*

World Language courses welcome all serious students interested in a full-year, every day, world language experience. The student will be reacquainted with their language skills through a systematic reentry of grammar and vocabulary. The student will continue to attain proficiency in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The language will be presented within the context of language-speaking countries and their cultures. ***This class will count towards a high school credit and will be figured into your GPA at the high school.***

*** Please be aware that this class may only be offered at the high school during 1st hour. Parents would need to provide transportation to the high school and a shuttle will bring them back to the middle school.**

**Chinese I – full year elective**
**French II– full year elective**
**Japanese I – full year elective**
**German I - full year elective**
**Spanish II– full year elective**