

Farmington
AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Robert Boeckman Middle School

GRADES 6-8 2020-2021 COURSE REGISTRATION GUIDE

Robert Boeckman Middle School
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Farmington, MN 55024

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Dear Parent/Guardian(s) and Future 6th, 7th, & 8th grade Students:

As of fall 2020 your child will be attending Robert Boeckman Middle School for the 2020-2021 school year! We have designed this registration guide to inform you about course offerings and provide support as you begin the registration process. We hope you find it helpful as you plan your educational career at Boeckman Middle School. Please read through it carefully.

Sixth grade students are required to take Language Arts, Mathematics, Physical Education, Minnesota Studies, Physical Science, Tiger Connections, and Transitions, which are classes that meet for a full year. Sixth grade students are also required to take the following five exploratory classes which meet for approximately seven weeks each: Art, Globetrotters, Family and Consumer Science, Keyboarding and Computer Skills, and Media Art. In addition to the required courses listed above, all 6th grade students are required to choose a music class. Music options include Band, Choir, and Explorations in Music. Music classes are skill development classes and require full year participation.

Seventh grade students are required to take Language Arts, Life Science, Mathematics, Physical Education, Tiger Connections, and U.S. History which are classes that meet for a full year. Seventh grade students are also required to take the following five exploratory classes which meet for approximately seven weeks each: Art, Coding, Family and Consumer Science, Health, and Technology Education. In addition to the required courses listed above, all 7th grade students are required to choose a music class. Music options include Band, Choir, and Explorations in Music. Music classes are skill development classes and require full year participation.

Eighth grade students are required to take Earth Science, Geography, Health, Language Arts, Mathematics, Physical Education and Tiger Connections, which are classes that meet for a full year. In addition, eighth grade students are required to choose elective courses from the departments of Art, Family and Consumer Science, Music, Technology, and World Language. One of these elective classes must fulfill the Fine Arts requirement.

A registration form was given to your student when the counselors visited classrooms in January. Both the student and the parent/guardian signatures are required on the form for it to be a valid request.

We look forward to an exciting year as we work together to help your student achieve maximum educational success. If you have any questions regarding registration please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Sarah Kortuem, School Counselor

Nicole McGuire, School Counselor

Nicole Pierce, School Counselor

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District 192 serving all or parts of Farmington, Lakeville, Castle Rock, Eureka, Empire, Hampton, and Vermillion Townships

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GRADE 6

Sixth grade students are required to take Language Arts, Mathematics, Physical Education, Physical Science, Minnesota Studies, Tiger Connections, and Transitions/Study, which are classes that meet for a full year. Sixth grade students are also required to take the following five exploratory classes which meet for approximately seven weeks each: Art, Keyboarding and Computer Skills, Globetrotters, Family and Consumer Science, and Media Art. In addition to the required courses listed above, all 6th grade students are required to choose a music class. Music options include Band, Beginner Band, Choir, and Explorations in Music. Music classes are skill development classes and require full year participation.

GRADE 6 – Sample Schedule			
Period	Time	Day A	Day B
TC	7:35 - 7:55	Tiger Connections	
1	7:59 - 9:24	Language Arts	
2	9:28 - 10:54	Math	Minnesota Studies
	10:58 - 11:24	Lunch 6	
3	11:25 - 12:55	Physical Science	Transitions/Study
4	12:59 - 1:41	PE	Exploratory Wheel
	1:43 - 2:25	Music	

***Class times are approximate**

6th GRADE REQUIRED COURSES

6th Grade Language Arts

Full Year: Everyday block

This course will provide students with a solid foundation in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will study the characteristics and features of fiction and nonfiction text as well as poetry. Additionally, students will be required to read self-selected texts for personal enjoyment both at school and at home. Students will practice various forms of writing including creative, descriptive, informational, narrative, and persuasive. Grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary will also be an integral part of the course.

6th Grade Advanced Language Arts*

Full Year: Everyday block

Advanced Language Arts is an opportunity for students who are strong readers and writers to explore language arts in-depth. Students will engage in higher level thinking and work more independently, often at a faster pace, to meet the rigorous standards of the coursework.

Students will explore a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts and engage in discussions involving higher order thinking and critical analysis. Additionally, students will be required to read challenging, self-selected texts for personal enjoyment both at school and at home. Students will practice various forms of writing including personal narrative, literary essay, and research-based informational. Grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary will also be an integral part of the course.

Placement is based on three consecutive years performance scoring at or above 90% nationally on the MAP Reading Test and/or three consecutive years scoring in the “exceeds” category on statewide MCAII Reading Tests. Eligible students will be automatically enrolled in these courses. Students must maintain a grade of C- or higher by the end of each quarter to stay enrolled in the course.

<p>6th Grade Mathematics Full Year: Every other day block</p>

Students will be ability grouped into Mathematics 6, Extended Math 6, or Advanced Math 6 class. It is expected that students will begin sixth grade with a prior understanding of basic math operations, such as an ability to add, subtract, multiply, and divide. Students are evaluated by completing daily practice assignments, projects, quizzes, and tests on each chapter.

The goals for these courses are as follows:

- ❖ Learn and apply important mathematical concepts and skills that are critical for high school and beyond.
- ❖ Develop the reasoning, problem solving, and communication skills that will empower students to apply mathematics to real-life activities.
- ❖ Become confident in the mathematical process as an essential component to daily decision-making.

The 6th grade math curriculum is designed around 6th grade Minnesota Standards and primarily focuses on problem solving, fraction-based operations, percentages, decimals, proportions and ratios, algebraic concepts, geometry, and probability. Mathematics 6 is a grade level appropriate class. Extended Math 6 addresses the standards but at a slower pace and with additional time. Advanced Math 6 students will explore more advanced mathematical concepts through the use of the 7th grade math curriculum preparing them for Advanced Math in 7th grade.

*District practice for student placement into the Advanced Math class is consistent performance at or above the 90%ile on the NWEA MAP test and a rating of Exceeds Standards on the Minnesota MCA math test.

*Students will be placed in the most appropriate math class based on standardized assessment results. All students will be exposed to the same mathematical concepts, but at different paces and levels of enrichment. Appropriate placement will be closely monitored and reviewed for each student.

<p>6th Grade Physical Education Full Year: Every other day skinny</p>

A variety of physical activities are offered in this course. The major emphasis of physical education is to help students obtain an understanding of basic fitness and sport knowledge and skills that promote lifetime fitness. Some of the physical education curriculum includes cooperative games, fitness, soccer, flag football, volleyball, basketball, floor hockey, team handball, badminton, lacrosse, pickleball, ultimate frisbee, track and field, and tennis. The course will utilize heart rate monitors to record physical activity levels.

<p>6th Grade Physical Science Full Year: Every other day block</p>
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The 6th grade science curriculum consists of four core content areas that are taught over the course of the year. These content areas include the Nature of Science and Engineering (the practice of engineering; interactions among Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Society; science tools and metric measurement), Matter (physical properties and change), Energy (waves, types of energy, transfer of energy), and Motion

(balanced and unbalanced forces, net force, speed). The science content standards are explored using a variety of hands-on activities, experiments, and lessons to help students develop a deeper understanding of the scientific world while using higher level thinking to learn new concepts.

6th Grade Minnesota Studies

Full Year: Every other day block

This course will focus on the history of Minnesota. Some of the core units of study may include:

- The First Minnesotans-which also include three archeological sites
- Native Americans-specifically, but not limited to the Dakota and Ojibway
- Fur Trade- which include roles and relationships of the fur trade and growth of the Minnesota territory
- Treaties and land acquisitions
- Minnesota's Immigrants
- Minnesotan's and their involvement in the Civil War
- Dakota Conflict
- Small Town Life and Industrial Revolution
- WWII and the impact it had on Minnesota and the work force
- 20th Century Minnesotans/Minnesota today

Textbook used: Northern Lights-The Stories of Minnesota's Past 2nd Edition

Tiger Connections

Full Year: Twenty-Five minutes Monday, Thursday, and Friday Mornings

Our middle school advisory program is a valuable part of our day where students develop meaningful relationships and a strong sense of school connectedness. Advisory groups are facilitated by a supportive adult that loops with his/her advisory students for all three years of middle school. They meet for twenty minutes a day and are comprised of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who provide mentorship and support to one another in a variety of ways. Advisory groups engage in character building activities, self-discovery, team-building, goal setting, and service learning projects together. With a focus on relationships, advisory groups provide each student with a "middle school family" where students learn about each other's backgrounds, interests, and sparks.

WIN Time

Full Year: Twenty-Five minutes Wednesday and Thursday Mornings

WIN (What I Need) Time is offered Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Students are able to choose a variety of enrichment, extension, and intervention opportunities to support learning. Students choose sessions to best support their learning and may also be teacher requested into a session. A variety of student groups and clubs also meet during this time.

Transitions/Study

Full Year: Every other day block

Our 6th grade "Transitions" course will assist students in learning strategies for successful time management, goal setting and problem-solving in the context of transitioning to middle school. Students will examine their roles as contributing members of their school community and the larger community. Students will learn strategies to stretch their thinking, develop study skills, and grow into independent middle school learners.

6th GRADE REQUIRED EXPLORATORY COURSES

6th Grade Art

One Exploratory Rotation: Every other day block

Welcome to Middle School Art! This year you will be exploring your own personal artistic style. You will learn strategies in creative problem solving and will discover ways to visually communicate your ideas by using the Elements of Art. We will review each of the Elements of Art through a series of creative projects where you will experiment with a variety of materials. Get ready to learn some new drawing and painting techniques while making your own unique designs!

6th Grade Basic Child Development/Babysitting & Healthy Snacking (FaCS)

One Exploratory Rotation: Every other day block

Students will learn the Five Ways Children Grow, Develop and Mature. This basic knowledge is the foundation for understanding children at all ages and stages as it relates to them and taking care of other children. Students will self-reflect asking the question "Am I Ready to Be a Good Babysitter?" The unit ends with the opportunity to complete a babysitting simulation using the computerized Baby Think It Over infant simulator. Students will also explore some of the MyPlate food groups and experience working in groups to prepare and taste several healthy snacks. Kitchen Safety and Sanitation are emphasized in this unit as well.

6th Grade Globetrotters

One Exploratory Rotation: Every other day block

Get ready for an adventure - we'll bring the world to you through the exploratory Globetrotters class! This class is an introduction to the people and places around the world where French, German and Spanish are spoken. Students will learn key basic phrases in each language; like how to greet others, ask and answer simple questions, count, spell, describe objects and more. Globetrotters students also broaden their horizons by discovering the people and places where each language is spoken. We explore language and culture through foods, games, songs/music, movement and video/film. Students will also have opportunities to independently explore different cultures that pique their interest. Globetrotters will take you around the world!

6th Grade Keyboarding and Computer Skills

One Exploratory Rotation: Every other day block

This course provides advanced development of keyboarding and computer skills. Students will use computerized typing programs with an emphasis on developing touch control of the keyboard using proper techniques to build speed and accuracy. In addition to learning to type by touch, students will also learn the basics of word processing, spreadsheets, and to work on Google Docs.

6th Grade Media Art

One Exploratory Rotation: Every other day block

Through a variety of technology applications, students will learn about Digital Photography, Video Production, Animation, Graphic Design, and Game Design. Students will create at least one sample of each type of Media Art while learning the processes that artists use when creating digital art.

6th GRADE REQUIRED MUSIC COURSE OPTIONS

***Students are required to take a music class in grade 6. Students can elect to take both band and choir with band being the primary music class meeting on opposite days of physical education and choir being a pullout class occurring during Transitions.**

*****Please note: Staffing is determined by student selection of music courses. Please select your music course carefully as we are not able to make changes to music selections once the year has started.**

6th Grade Band

Full Year: Every other day skinny

Band 6 is designed for students beginning their second year of instrumental music instruction. Students will study the fundamentals of music, instrumental techniques and musicianship. The course will focus on sound production, articulation, dynamics and note reading skills. Students participate in large group rehearsals and small group lessons to focus on individual skills that are specific to their instrument. Band 6 is a year-long commitment with 3 evening required concert performances. Fifth grade band is the recommended pre-requisite for 6th grade band.

Beginner Band

Full Year: Every other day skinny

Beginner Band is designed for students in grades 6-8 with less than 6 months instruction on their instrument. Students with no previous experience are welcome! Students must provide their own instrument or arrange for rental of a school instrument upon registering for the class. Students will study the fundamentals of music, instrumental techniques, and musicianship. The course will focus on sound production, articulation, and note reading skills. Students will participate in large and small group lessons at the start of the school year. Band is a year-long commitment, participation is required in the winter and spring concerts, which are scheduled in the evening.

6th Grade Choir

Full Year: Every other day skinny

This class is for students who enjoy singing! It offers students the opportunity to sing and perform in a two-part choir. Students will learn the basics of proper vocal technique, reading music, music theory and performance skills. All members of this class are required to perform in the winter, Choirpalooza, and spring concerts. All concerts are evening performances.

6th Grade Explorations in Music

Full Year: Every other day skinny

Music students will explore many different aspects of music in our world. The course exposes students to world music drumming, basic keyboard instruction, music from around the world, musical theatre, instruments families, music history, and contemporary music topics.

6th GRADE ADDITIONAL MUSIC COURSE OPTION

Solar Choir

Full Year: Every other day skinny

Solar choir is a choir scheduled for students who would like to register for more than one music class. (ex. band and solar choir, explorations in music and solar choir) The curriculum is the same as choir 6. (see description above.) All members of this class are required to perform in the winter, Choirpalooza, and spring concerts. All concerts are evening performances.

GRADE 7

Seventh grade students are required to take Language Arts, Life Science, Mathematics, Physical Education, Tiger Connections, & U.S. History, which are classes that meet for a full year. Seventh grade students are also required to take the following five exploratory classes which meet for approximately seven weeks each: Art, Coding, Family and Consumer Science, Health, and Technology Education. . In addition to the required courses listed above, all 7th grade students are required to choose a music class. Music options include Band, Choir, and Explorations in Music. Music classes are skill development classes and require full year participation.

GRADE 7 – Sample Schedule			
Period	Time	Day A	Day B
TC	7:35 - 7:55	Tiger Connections	
1	7:59 – 8:41	PE	Exploratory Wheel
	8:43 – 9:24	Music	
2	9:28 - 10:54	Math	Elective
3	10:58 - 11:24	U.S. History	Life Science
	11:25 – 11:55	Lunch 7	
	11:56 – 12:55	U.S. History	Life Science
4	12:59 – 2:25	Language Arts	

***Class times are approximate**

7th GRADE REQUIRED COURSES

7th Grade American History

Full Year: Every other day block

This integrated course focuses on the history of the United States from 1800 to the present. The course's core concepts are change, citizenship, conflict, culture, movement, power, and progress. The course explores Manifest Destiny, Slavery, Civil War, Industrial Revolution, WWI, Great Depression, WWII, Cold War, Civil Rights, and Globalization. Also included in this course is an introduction to the basic concepts of geography, economics, civics, and the structure/function of government. Students will construct and apply knowledge as they participate in interactive discussions, historical trials, primary source analysis, research projects, current event exploration, and the formulation of historical arguments.

Textbook used: *A History of Us* by Joy Hakim

7th Grade Language Arts

Full Year: Everyday block

This course will focus on the development of reading and writing skills through the use of Reader's and Writer's Workshop formats. Students will develop skills in writing different genres (fiction, informational, and persuasive). Students will also be utilizing different word work strategies and focusing on the rules of the English language. This course will also use both whole class novels and independent choice books to ensure students will develop skills in critically analyzing different genres of text (fiction and non-fiction). In addition, students are required to read independently both at school and at home for personal enrichment and enjoyment.

7th Grade Advanced Language Arts*

Full Year: Everyday block

This course will explore the concept of “Utopia” through advanced reading selections chosen for their complexity, depth, relevance to the theme, and capacity to provoke interpretive and contemplative thought. The unit will work to help form a foundation for students’ development as critical thinkers.

Reading and writing will be integrated so that students have the opportunity to apply rigorous higher-order analysis of a variety of situations in literature and society. Students will explore text in greater depth to enhance comprehension and practice various writing models, including persuasive and narrative.

In addition, students are required to read independently both at school and at home for personal enrichment and enjoyment.

* Placement is based on three consecutive years performance scoring at or above 90% nationally on the MAP Reading Test and/or three consecutive years scoring in the “exceeds” category on statewide MCAII Reading Tests. Eligible students will be automatically enrolled in these courses. Students must maintain a grade of C- or higher by the end of each quarter to stay enrolled in the course.

7th Grade Mathematics

Full Year: Every other day block

This course will be ability grouped into Math 7, Extended Math 7, or Advanced Math 7. Students are evaluated by completing daily practice assignments, projects, quizzes, and tests on each chapter.

The goals for these courses are:

- ❖ Learn and apply important mathematical concepts and skills that are critical for high school and beyond.
- ❖ Develop the reasoning, problem solving, and communication skills that will empower students to apply mathematics to real-life activities.
- ❖ Become confident in the mathematical process as an essential component to daily decision-making.

The 7th grade math curriculum is designed around 7th grade Minnesota Standards and primarily focuses on number sense, proportional reasoning and algebraic thinking. Extended Math 7 addresses the standards but at a slower pace and with additional time. Advanced Math 7 students will explore more advanced Algebraic concepts through the use of the 8th grade math curriculum preparing them for Algebra in 8th grade.

7th Grade Physical Education

Full Year: Every other day skinny

A variety of physical activities are offered in this course. The major emphasis of physical education is to help students obtain an understanding of basic fitness and sport knowledge and skills that promote lifetime fitness. Some of the physical education curriculum includes cooperative games, fitness, soccer, flag football, volleyball, basketball, floor hockey, team handball, badminton, lacrosse, pickleball, ultimate frisbee, track and field, and tennis. The course will utilize heart rate monitors to record physical activity levels.

7th Grade Life Science

Full Year: Every other day block

In this course, 7th graders learn about life science and the interaction of living and nonliving things in our environment. Students will review the Scientific Method to learn about controlled experiments along with other methods of investigation. Microscopes will be used to learn about the differences and similarities of plant and animal cells. They will learn about the Kingdoms of Living Things and identify common characteristics. In the Human Anatomy unit, students will gain an understanding of the circulatory, respiratory, digestive, immune, excretory and reproductive systems. This course requires students to participate in laboratory assignments.

Tiger Connections

Full Year: Twenty-Five minutes Monday, Thursday, and Friday Mornings

Our middle school advisory program is a valuable part of our day where students develop meaningful relationships and a strong sense of school connectedness. Advisory groups are facilitated by a supportive adult that loops with his/her advisory students for all three years of middle school. They meet for twenty minutes a day and are comprised of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who provide mentorship and support to one another in a variety of ways. Advisory groups engage in character building activities, self-discovery, team-building, goal setting, and service learning projects together. With a focus on relationships, advisory groups provide each student with a “middle school family” where students learn about each other’s backgrounds, interests, and sparks.

WIN Time

Full Year: Twenty-Five minutes Wednesday and Thursday Mornings

WIN (What I Need) Time is offered Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Students are able to choose a variety of enrichment, extension, and intervention opportunities to support learning. Students choose sessions to best support their learning and may also be teacher requested into a session. A variety of student groups and clubs also meet during this time.

7th GRADE REQUIRED EXPLORATORY COURSES

7th Grade Art

One Exploratory Rotation: Every other day block

Through a series of projects, both two-dimensional and three-dimensional, students will create a portfolio of artwork demonstrating their creative process. Student artists will learn how the Elements of Art and Principles of Design work together. A variety of materials will be available for students to increase their skills, learn new techniques, and express themselves through the art making process.

7th Grade Coding

One Exploratory Rotation: Every other day block

Students will learn the basics of computer programming/coding using in class and interactive online instruction to include Processing language, a language used by programmers, artists and scientists to create everything from interactive art to games to scientific visualizations. Coursework will be primarily project based with students completing projects both individually and in groups. What is YOUR vision for the next app or game?

7th Grade Survival Sewing/Clothing Care & Basic Food and Nutrition (FACS)

One Exploratory Rotation: Every other day block

“Button, button who’s got the BUTTON!” Learn to thread a needle and sew on the lost button and save time and money by not needing to hire a tailor. This basic survival skill, along with repairing a ripped seam or fallen hem is offered to 7th grade students. Proper clothing care continues with opportunities to research and test a variety of stain removal techniques and the unit concludes with an At-Home laundry project.

Basic nutrition is also a part of this course. We read labels, analyze nutritional content and quality of foods, plan healthy, appealing meals and prepare delicious treats and snacks.

7th Grade Health

One Exploratory Rotation: Every other day block

7th grade Health will address a variety of issues related to the physical, social and emotional development specific to this age level. The Health curriculum will provide students with a basic awareness of health practices that lead to healthy choices and a healthy lifestyle.

7TH Grade Technology Education

One Exploratory Rotation: Every other day block

Technology Education 7 is an exciting class that introduces students to the field of engineering. Students will learn how everyday products are designed and engineered. Using a hands-on approach, students will learn to use a computer-aided design (CAD) program. This CAD program allows students to create 3D drawings of their design ideas. Students will have the opportunity to design and later create a woodworking project that they may take home. Technology Education 7 uses the Gateway to Technology pre-engineering curriculum from Project Lead the Way, whose goal is to develop more American engineers.

7th GRADE REQUIRED MUSIC COURSE OPTIONS

***Students are required to take a music class in grade 7.**

*****Please note: Staffing is determined by student selection of music courses. Please select your music course carefully as we are not able to make changes to music selections once the year has started.**

7th Grade Band

Full Year: Every other day skinny

Band 7 is designed for students beginning their 3rd year of instrumental music instruction. Students will continue the study of music fundamentals, instrumental techniques and musicianship. The course will focus on sound production, articulation, dynamics, intonation and balance. Students participate in large group rehearsals and small group lessons to focus on individual skills that are specific to their instrument. Band 7 is a year-long commitment with 2 evening required concert performances. 6th grade band is the recommended pre-requisite for 7th grade band.

Beginner Band

Full Year: Every other day skinny

Beginner Band is designed for students in grades 6-8 with less than 6 months instruction on their instrument. Students with no previous experience are welcome! Students must provide their own instrument or arrange for rental of a school instrument upon registering for the class. Students will study the fundamentals of music, instrumental techniques, and musicianship. The course will focus on sound production, articulation, and note reading skills. Students will participate in large and small group lessons at the start of the school year. Band is a year-long commitment, participation is required in the winter and spring concerts, which are scheduled in the evening.

7th Grade Choir

Full Year: Every other day skinny

This class is for students who enjoy singing! It offers students the opportunity to sing and perform in a two and three-part choir. The choir is designed to enhance and address the developmental stage of voices as the physical changes occur in the middle school years. Students will build on the skills they learned in 6th grade choir, including proper vocal technique, reading music, music theory and performance skills. All members of this class are required to perform in the winter and spring concerts. All concerts are evening performances.

7th Grade Explorations in Music

Full Year: Every other day skinny

Music students will continue to explore many different aspects of music. They will learn more advanced drumming techniques and continue keyboard instruction. Students will also study the history of rock and roll, music careers, research composers, and jazz music.

7th GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE OPTIONS

These may be mixed grade level courses 7/8

Academic Support

Academic Support

In this course a learning advisor will support students' ongoing learning by providing assistance with organization, study skills, test-taking strategies, and time-management skills, based on a student's specific needs. Academic support courses will also provide students with additional time to complete test retakes, ask questions, and work on homework assignments. Students lead very busy lives and may benefit from academic support during a certain semester of the year. Students selecting academic support will receive either an every other day skinny all year or a semester of every other day block. This will be determined by what will work best with the electives they choose.

Art

Drawing and Painting

Find your creative spark through drawing, painting, printmaking, and other two-dimensional media! This course will allow you to explore different art materials in an active, hands-on experience. You will build on skills learned in previous art classes while preparing yourself to become a high school artist!

Sculpture

Art isn't always flat and on a piece of paper. Art can be three-dimensional! Art can be hanging from the ceiling or sitting on a pedestal. It can be made out of clay, cardboard, wire, fabric, or even duct tape. Students will explore a variety of art materials to create unique large and small-scale sculptures.

Digital Photography & Graphic Design

Learn what it takes to be a photographer or graphic designer! You will learn a variety of photography techniques, as well as graphic design skills. Photography units will introduce students to both technical and creative aspects of this art form. Topics include composition, lighting, exposure, creativity, and photo-editing. Graphic design units will also focus on composition, design elements, audience, and creativity. Students will have the opportunity to make designs such as logos, posters, ads, animations, and even a website!

Dramatic Arts

In this course, students will research the history of theatre in the world, acquire and use technical vocabulary of stage and theater, play write, review short plays, and work cooperatively to create a final scene. To know and understand everything that goes into a single successful scene (whether it be on a stage or a movie or tv set), a person would need an advanced degree and/or years of experience in the industry. This is an opportunity to learn about what may be or become your SPARK.

Family & Consumer Sciences

Advanced Food and Nutrition, Machine Sewing, & Healthy Relationships

All food groups of MyPlate and their nutritional contents are explored in detail the entire first quarter of this course. The Six Basic Nutrients and how they contribute to health and wellness are the emphasis of this unit along with advanced recipe preparation.

The second quarter's focus is on Textiles and Construction using sewing machines. Machine part awareness and safety are explored along with the vocabulary of the sewing world. Technical reading skills are used and developed along with problem solving opportunities around every corner of the sewing construction process. Students are provided the opportunity to sew a variety of projects based on their assessed skill level and desire.

Developing healthy relationships is the final unit of this course. How do we treat ourselves and others around us?

Fashion and Interior Design/Consumerism and Money Management

The Elements and Principles of Design are EVERYWHERE! We'll apply these to fashion design, interior design and business designs.

The world of fashion and all its opportunities will be explored. Fashion cycles, trends and fads will be identified as well as an opportunity to try your hand at original design and sketching. There will be some sewing opportunity in this course.

Learn to use the elements and principles to create organized and inviting interior spaces. Participate in your own version of a "Room Re-do!"

We will also explore marketing and advertising strategies and money management.

Music

Choir

This class is for students who enjoy singing! It offers students the opportunity to sing and perform in a two and three-part choir. The choir is designed to enhance and address the developmental stage of voices as the physical changes occur in the middle school years. Students will build on the skills they learned in 6th grade choir, including proper vocal technique, reading music, music theory and performance skills. All members of this class are required to perform in the winter and spring concerts. All concerts are evening performances.

Guitar I

Guitar I is designed to teach beginning guitar in a class setting. This class is an in-depth study of the guitar, focusing on playing skills and practice. Students will learn notes, rhythms, chords, and tab. They will learn to play alone and with others. Repertoire will include rock/blues, folk and pop music. Music selection will be guided by student choice.

From the skills learned in this course, students will be able to further their study of music independently and cultivate a lifelong enjoyment of music. Students will play on school-owned instruments.

Piano

This course is designed for piano beginners. The course is self-paced with the aid of Piano Maestro, a piano lesson app, and students will use school-owned keyboards and pianos. Students may enroll in piano more than once as the learning is differentiated to the student level.

Musical Theater

Students will audition for, rehearse, and perform a Musical! Be prepared to participate in singing, acting, and learning choreography and blocking. Students may register for this course more than one year, as different shows will be selected. Students will need to commit to performing at one evening performance.

Physical Education

Unified Physical Education

Unified Physical Education is a class that combines students with disabilities and students without disabilities for an inclusive Physical Education experience. Students are partnered to assist one another and encourage participation while being physically active. Physical Education units of activity will be similar to our grade level PE classes, while additionally providing unique experiences such as bowling, hiking, geocaching and more. Unified PE provides opportunities for the student with a disability and the students without disabilities unique experiences in student leadership, while enhancing physical, social and emotional wellness. Unified PE also promotes inclusion with whole school awareness activities and cultivates acceptance of inclusion throughout the school.

Technology

Computer Skills for Life

Learn to be a professional in both the competitive academic and consumer world today using MS Office, Google, and online keyboarding programs! Students experience how to make themselves look good on a resume, format a research paper, create personal business cards, calculate retail prices and discounts, balance a checkbook, create a web page, market a business, and more. Students will have opportunity to improve their keyboarding and learn 10-key skills.

Video Production

Do you like making videos? If so, Video Production is the class for you! We will continue to develop the skills you learned in 6th grade Media Art with continued focus on storytelling using: storyboards, scripts, composition skills, sound and voice. Each student is expected to work as a productive member of a team and be responsible for their portion of each video project.

GRADE 8

Eighth grade students are required to take Earth Science, Geography, Health, Language Arts, Mathematics, Physical Education and Tiger Connections, which are classes that meet for a full year. In addition, eighth grade students are required to choose elective courses from the departments of Art, Family and Consumer Science, Music, Technology, and World Language. One of these elective classes must fulfill the Fine Arts requirement.

Grade 8 – Sample Schedule			
Period	Time	Day 1	Day 2
TC	7:35 - 7:55	Tiger Connections	
1	7:59 – 9:24	Earth Science	World Language/2 Electives
2	9:28 – 10:10	PE	Health
	10:12 – 10:54	Fine Arts requirement	1 Elective
3	10:58 - 11:55	Language Arts	
	11:56 – 12:26	Lunch 8	
	12:27 – 12:55	Language Arts	
4	12:59 – 2:25	Math	Geography

***Class times are approximate**

8th GRADE REQUIRED COURSES

8th Grade Language Arts

Full Year: Everyday block

This course aligns with the MN State Language Arts Standards, covering the following areas: Literature, Informational Text, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language. This course includes reading, writing, vocabulary development, and language usage skills. These skills are developed throughout the year using many instructional strategies for fiction and non-fiction reading, formal and informal writing, classroom discussion, and oral presentations. Assessment will be on daily work, quizzes, tests, projects, and participation.

8th Grade Advanced Language Arts*

Full Year: Everyday block

In 8th grade Advanced Language Arts, students will continue to develop an appreciation for literature through the study of literary elements in classic and contemporary selections through whole class novels and small group literature circle choice novels. Academic writing is a focus in the course; students will learn MLA style and write informational, literary analysis, narrative, argumentative, and research papers. Emphasis is placed on students reading higher-level texts for their independent reading books, and students will analyze those texts through in-class essays, discussions, and literary analysis activities. Students will develop their presentation skills through Socratic Seminar discussions, group presentations, individual speeches, and small group discussions. Collaboration with peers and using technology to meet learning standards is essential to this course. Additionally, students will develop an appreciation for creative texts, such as plays and poetry, and will understand how to analyze and critique those texts.

* Placement is based on three consecutive years performance scoring at or above 90% nationally on the MAP Reading Test and/or three consecutive years scoring in the “exceeds” category on statewide MCAII Reading Tests. Eligible students will be automatically enrolled in these courses. Students must maintain a grade of C- or higher by the end of each quarter to stay enrolled in the course.

8th Grade Geography

Full Year: Every other day block

World Geography is an introduction to the physical and human geography of the world. Units of study include the people, places, and features of the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. The course also includes skills development in the areas of map reading, research, data analysis, critical thinking, writing and presenting. Assessment occurs unit by unit through the use of summative tests, research projects, and other forms of demonstrating knowledge and mastery of standards.

8th Grade Health

Full Year (every other day skinny) or Semester (every other day block)

8th grade Health will address a variety of issues related to the physical, social and emotional development specific to this age level. The Health curriculum will provide students with a basic awareness of health practices that lead to healthy choices and a healthy lifestyle. The units covered are Mental Health, Substance Use and Abuse, First Aid and CPR and Human Sexuality.

8th Grade Mathematics

Full Year: Every other day block

This course will be ability grouped into Math 8, Extended Math 8, or Intermediate Algebra. Students are evaluated by completing daily practice assignments, projects, quizzes, and tests on each chapter.

The goals for all courses are:

- ❖ Learn and apply important mathematical concepts and skills that are critical for high school and beyond.
- ❖ Develop the reasoning, problem solving, and communication skills that will empower students to apply mathematics to real-life activities.
- ❖ Become confident in the mathematical process as an essential component to daily decision-making.

All courses will address the 8th grade Minnesota Standards, which are heavily focused on increasing students’ algebraic proficiency. Active learning, modeling, and mathematical communication serve as the framework for these courses.

Mathematics 8 is a grade level appropriate class, which will prepare students for Intermediate Algebra in 9th grade. Extended Math 8 addresses the standards but at a slower pace and with additional time. Intermediate Algebra students will explore intermediate Algebra concepts. Students in Intermediate Algebra will progress to Geometry in 9th grade.

8th Grade Physical Education
Full Year: Every other day skinny

A variety of physical activities are offered in this course. The major emphasis of physical education is to help students obtain an understanding of basic fitness and sport knowledge and skills that promote lifetime fitness. Some of the physical education curriculum includes cooperative games, fitness, soccer, flag football, volleyball, basketball, floor hockey, team handball, badminton, lacrosse, pickleball, ultimate frisbee, track and field, and tennis. The course will utilize heart rate monitors to record physical activity levels.

8th Grade Earth Science
Full Year: Every other day block

Studying Earth Science involves four main scientific fields: meteorology, astronomy, geology, and oceanography. These fields will be examined through laboratory experiences including weather observations, analyzing ocean current data, and identifying minerals and rocks, for example. An introduction to chemistry is also part of 8th grade science. Students will continue to use skills such as measurement, graph making and analysis, and using data as evidence to form conclusions.

Tiger Connections
Full Year: Twenty-Five minutes Monday, Thursday, and Friday Mornings

Our middle school advisory program is a valuable part of our day where students develop meaningful relationships and a strong sense of school connectedness. Advisory groups are facilitated by a supportive adult that loops with his/her advisory students for all three years of middle school. They meet for twenty minutes a day and are comprised of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who provide mentorship and support to one another in a variety of ways. Advisory groups engage in character building activities, self-discovery, team-building, goal setting, and service learning projects together. With a focus on relationships, advisory groups provide each student with a “middle school family” where students learn about each other’s backgrounds, interests, and sparks.

WIN Time
Full Year: Twenty-Five minutes Wednesday and Thursday Mornings

WIN (What I Need) Time is offered Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Students are able to choose a variety of enrichment, extension, and intervention opportunities to support learning. Students choose sessions to best support their learning and may also be teacher requested into a session. A variety of student groups and clubs also meet during this time.

8th GRADE REQUIRED FINE ARTS COURSE OPTIONS

Students **must enroll in ONE of the designated Fine Arts courses below during 8th grade.** Students may elect to take more than one of these Fine Arts designated courses by selecting them as additional electives.

Art

Drawing and Painting

Find your creative spark through drawing, painting, printmaking, and other two-dimensional media! This course will allow you to explore different art materials in an active, hands-on experience. You will build on skills learned in previous art classes while preparing yourself to become a high school artist!

Sculpture

Art isn't always flat and on a piece of paper. Art can be three-dimensional! Art can be hanging from the ceiling or sitting on a pedestal. It can be made out of clay, cardboard, wire, fabric, or even duct tape. Students will explore a variety of art materials to create unique large and small-scale sculptures.

Digital Photography & Graphic Design

Learn what it takes to be a photographer or graphic designer! You will learn a variety of photography techniques, as well as graphic design skills. Photography units will introduce students to both technical and creative aspects of this art form. Topics include composition, lighting, exposure, creativity, and photo-editing. Graphic design units will also focus on composition, design elements, audience, and creativity. Students will have the opportunity to make designs such as logos, posters, ads, animations, and even a website!

Interstellar Studio Art

A full year Art course that allows you to explore art through drawing, painting, sculpture, and digital photography. After learning the basic skills of the different materials, you will have the opportunity to personalize your art and work with the materials of your choice, working towards the Art Competencies. This course will take up 2 of your elective choices and will be paired with the 8th grade Interstellar Time.

Music

8th Grade Band

This course is made up of 8th grade students interested in continuing their instrumental music experience. Students will continue to study the fundamentals of music, instrumental techniques and musicianship. The course will focus on sound production, articulation, dynamics, intonation and balance. Students participate in large group rehearsals and small group lessons to focus on individual skills that are specific to their instrument. A variety of musical styles will be studied through performance and analysis. Band 8 is a year-long commitment with 3 Evening required concert performances. 7th grade band is a pre-requisite for 8th grade band.

8th Grade Choir

This class is for students who enjoy singing! It offers students the opportunity to sing and perform in a two and three-part choir. The choir is designed to enhance and address the developmental stage of voices as the physical changes occur in the middle school years. Students will build on the skills they learned in 6th and 7th grade choir, including proper vocal technique, reading music, music theory and performance skills. All members of this class are required to perform in the winter and spring concerts. All concerts are evening performances.

Beginner Band

Full Year: Every other day skinny

Beginner Band is designed for students in grades 6-8 with less than 6 months instruction on their instrument. Students with no previous experience are welcome! Students must provide their own instrument or arrange for rental of a school instrument upon registering for the class. Students will study the fundamentals of music, instrumental techniques, and musicianship. The course will focus on sound production, articulation, and note reading skills. Students will participate in large and small group lessons at the start of the school year. Band is a year-long commitment, participation is required in the winter and spring concerts, which are scheduled in the evening.

8th GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE OPTIONS

Students must enroll in 1.5 credits (equivalent of 3 semesters of every other day block) of elective courses during 8th grade. Actual course offerings will be dependent upon enrollment. Low enrollment may result in a course not being offered.

Academic Support

Academic Support

In this course a learning advisor will support students' ongoing learning by providing assistance with organization, study skills, test-taking strategies, and time-management skills, based on a student's specific needs. Academic support courses will also provide students with additional time to complete test retakes, ask questions, and work on homework assignments. Students lead very busy lives and may benefit from academic support during a certain semester of the year. Students selecting academic support will receive either an every other day skinny all year or a semester of every other day block. This will be determined by what will work best with the electives they choose.

Art

Drawing and Painting

Find your creative spark through drawing, painting, printmaking, and other two-dimensional media! This course will allow you to explore different art materials in an active, hands-on experience. You will build on skills learned in previous art classes while preparing yourself to become a high school artist!

Sculpture

Art isn't always flat and on a piece of paper. Art can be three-dimensional! Art can be hanging from the ceiling or sitting on a pedestal. It can be made out of clay, cardboard, wire, fabric, or even duct tape. Students will explore a variety of art materials to create unique large and small-scale sculptures.

Digital Photography & Graphic Design

Like any working photographer, you will create a photo website/blog that will showcase your development as a fine artist. Through these photographs you will be able to tell your own unique story to the world in a visual way. We will print, hang and showcase photographs in a group show and host many critiques along the way.

Dramatic Arts

"All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players" – William Shakespeare

In Dramatic Arts, learners will be introduced to the world of theater performance. Major units of study include

- * Improv
- * Voice and Diction
- * Acting and Characterization
- * The Stage
- * Theatre Production
- * Final Class Play

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn theatre terms and work cooperatively to create final projects/performances. All levels of experience and interest are encouraged to register.

Interstellar Studio Art

A full year Art course that allows you to explore art through drawing, painting, sculpture, and digital photography. After learning the basic skills of the different materials, you will have the opportunity to personalize your art and work with the materials of your choice, working towards the Art Competencies. This course will take up 2 of your elective choices and will be paired with the 8th grade Interstellar Time.

Family & Consumer Sciences

Advanced Food and Nutrition, Machine Sewing, & Healthy Relationships

All food groups of MyPlate and their nutritional contents are explored in detail the entire first quarter of this course. The Six Basic Nutrients and how they contribute to health and wellness are the emphasis of this unit along with advanced recipe preparation.

The second quarter's focus is on Textiles and Construction using sewing machines. Machine part awareness and safety are explored along with the vocabulary of the sewing world. Technical reading skills are used and developed along with problem solving opportunities around every corner of the sewing construction process. Students are provided the opportunity to sew a variety of projects based on their assessed skill level and desire.

Developing healthy relationships is the final unit of this course. How do we treat ourselves and others around us?

Fashion and Interior Design/Consumerism and Money Management.

The Elements and Principles of Design are EVERYWHERE! We'll apply these to fashion design, interior design and business designs.

The world of fashion and all its opportunities will be explored. Fashion cycles, trends and fads will be identified as well as an opportunity to try your hand at original design and sketching. There will be some sewing opportunity in this course.

Learn to use the elements and principles to create organized and inviting interior spaces. Participate in your own version of a "Room Re-do!"

We will also explore marketing and advertising strategies and money management.

Music

Choir

Full Year

This class is for students who enjoy singing! It offers students the opportunity to sing and perform in a two and three-part choir. The choir is designed to enhance and address the developmental stage of voices as the physical changes occur in the middle school years. Students will build on the skills they learned in 6th and 7th grade choir, including proper vocal technique, reading music, music theory and performance skills. All members of this class are required to perform in the winter and spring concerts. All concerts are evening performances.

Guitar I

Guitar I is designed to teach beginning guitar in a class setting. This class is an in-depth study of the guitar, focusing on playing skills and practice. Students will learn notes, rhythms, chords, and tab. They will learn to play alone and with others. Repertoire will include rock/blues, folk and pop music. Music selection will be guided by student choice. From the skills learned in this course, students will be able to further their study of music independently and cultivate a lifelong enjoyment of music. Students will play on school-owned instruments.

Piano

This course is designed for piano beginners. The course is self-paced with the aid of Piano Maestro, a piano lesson app, and students will use school-owned keyboards and pianos. Students may enroll in piano more than once as the learning is differentiated to the student level.

Musical Theater

Students will audition for, rehearse, and perform a Musical! Be prepared to participate in singing, acting, and learning choreography and blocking. Students may register for this course more than one year, as different shows will be selected. Students will need to commit to performing at one evening performance.

Jazz Band

This course is made up of 8th grade band students interested in the world of jazz. Standard jazz band instrumentation will be used: alto, tenor and bari-saxes, trumpets, trombones and rhythm section (drum set, keyboard, electric guitar, bass guitar). The course will focus on sound production, articulation, dynamics, intonation and balance as it pertains to jazz music. A variety of jazz styles will be studied including rock, swing and Latin, and improvisation will be introduced.

Jazz 8 is a year-long commitment with two evening required concert performances. Jazz students must also register for 8th grade concert band with the exception of students who only play instruments not included in concert band, ie: electric guitar, bass guitar or keyboard players at the discretion of the director.

Physical Education

Fitness

Students in Fitness Training will actively participate in cardiovascular, muscular strength, muscular endurance, agility, and flexibility activities to improve overall fitness. The class will focus on proper lifting techniques, high-repetition/low-weight exercises to prepare the body for continued strength development. The course will utilize heart rate monitors and other tracking devices to monitor and record physical activity levels. Fitness Training students must also register for 8th grade Physical Education class.

Unified Physical Education

Unified Physical Education is a class that combines students with disabilities and students without disabilities for an inclusive Physical Education experience. Students are partnered to assist one another and encourage participation while being physically active. Physical Education units of activity will be similar to our grade level PE classes, while additionally providing unique experiences such as bowling, hiking, geocaching and more. Unified PE provides opportunities for the student with a disability and the students without disabilities unique experiences in student leadership, while enhancing physical, social and emotional wellness. Unified PE also promotes inclusion with whole school awareness activities and cultivates acceptance of inclusion throughout the school.

Technology

Coding II

Now that you've learned how to make characters move and grow, you will continue to improve your coding skills. Students will make their own functions and learn about the processing language of coding. Learners will continue where they left off in 7th grade and if you're new, we'll get you started so you can learn to code too.

Computer Skills for Life

Learn to be a professional in both the competitive academic and consumer world today using MS Office, Google, and online keyboarding programs! Students experience how to make themselves look good on a resume, format a research paper, create personal business cards, calculate retail prices and discounts, balance a checkbook,

create a web page, market a business, and more. Students will have opportunity to improve their keyboarding and learn 10-key skills.

Technology Education

Technology Education 8 is an academically challenging class that builds on concepts learned in Technology Education 7. Students will have the opportunity to explore three different areas of our technological world.

Major course units will include:

Robotics and Automation: Students will study the fascinating world of robotics. They will have the opportunity to design, build, and program robots and automated systems. At the conclusion of the unit the entire class will work together to create a working robotic factory.

Architecture: Students will study the basics of residential home design and construction. Students will design, draw and create a 3D model of their original home design using a computer-aided design (CAD) program.

Woodworking: Building on knowledge and skills learned last year, students will learn woodworking fundamentals and machine safety. Students will create a woodworking project that they can take home.

Video Production

Do you like making videos? If so, Video Production is the class for you! We will continue to develop the skills you learned in 6th grade Media Art with continued focus on storytelling using: storyboards, scripts, composition skills, sound and voice. Each student is expected to work as a productive member of a team and be responsible for their portion of each video project.

World Language

Farmington Public Schools is proud to offer 3 World Languages: French, German and Spanish. Students can elect French or Spanish at the middle school level whereas German is offered starting in 9th grade.

8th Grade World Languages – French and Spanish

Full Year

Bonjour! ¡Hola! (Hello, all!) Come learn to speak, write, listen and read with level I languages! We explore the culture and geography of many places where French and Spanish are spoken. In making comparisons with our own backgrounds, we discover more about the people, customs and food from each culture. Students have the opportunity to interact with the language through role-play, partner work, and special projects in class and using technology. There are always exciting ways to make connections with the language. Common topics in level I include the study of classroom expressions, numbers, time, school activities, days and months, what you like and dislike, leisure activities; and describing yourself, your friends and your family. We even take virtual trips to the places where our languages are spoken; exploring the culture through films, songs, stories, games, cultural celebrations and more. Students are evaluated through their ability to show their knowledge in writing activities and homework assignments, in-class speaking assessments, small-group skits, short quizzes and tests.

Please note again that although German is not offered at the middle level in Farmington, students may elect to start the study of German in 9th grade

*****World Languages are offered at the 8th grade level to provide a comprehensive language-learning program to our students in grades 8-12. In order for students to be able to reach a fifth year of one language study, students will need to begin taking a language course in 8th grade. Students will also have the opportunity to take a first year world language course in 9th grade. If you elect to take a world language, this will count for two of your three semester elective options.**