
WAYNESVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES



2026 - 2027 School Year
Board Approved 2/9/26

Waynesville Middle School
A Recognized School of Excellence
www.wayne-local.com

CONTENT BY SECTION

03 - Welcome

04- Wayne Local Schools District Information

06 - Grading Policies

07 - Scheduling Information

09 - Academic Course Descriptions

14 - Elective Course Descriptions

WELCOME

This Program of Studies is designed to assist middle school parents and students with course selection by giving a brief description of the curriculum content and requirements of each course. School district-required courses in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, health and physical education are offered at the middle school. The elective courses taught are dependent upon the interests of the parents and students, and the availability of seats in each class. As you begin to plan for your child's middle school experience during the 2026- 2027 school year, we hope you will find this information helpful.

WMS follows a 7 -period schedule, including language arts, math, science, and social studies. In addition to these core classes, students will have a lunch/intervention period. During intervention, each student will have time to meet with teachers, enrichment opportunities, re-teaching of concepts, complete any work, and participate in any homeroom activities. In addition to these classes, students will have opportunities in either semester or year long elective classes to round out their schedule.

Below is an example of what a student's schedule might look like.

Period	Class
1st Period	7th Grade Math
2nd Period	7th Grade History
3rd Period	7th Grade ELA
	Lunch
4th Period	7th Grade ELA
5th Period	7th Grade Science
6th Period	Band
7th Period	PE/ Health
Extra Time Extra Help	All students

Thank you for being involved in your child's education. Our hope is that we can work together in promoting the academic and emotional development of the young adults who attend Waynesville Middle School.

WAYNE LOCAL SCHOOLS DISTRICT INFORMATION

ABOUT WLS

All students will be provided the highest possible quality education in a safe, nurturing, and caring environment, where staff will demonstrate a deep and abiding respect for everyone. We will display a passion for excellence in all we do.

OUR EIGHT PILLARS OF EXCELLENCE ARE:

- ★ We will provide a meaningful, rigorous, and adaptive curriculum for each student, including: intellectual skills in written and spoken communication, mathematics, science, technology, social studies, problem-solving, and the tools for application of knowledge.
- ★ We will provide skills and appreciation for the fine arts, physical activities, languages, and leisure time activities for each student.
- ★ We will provide the example, leadership, information, and training to help each student function in an honest, moral, and ethical manner in their family, community, and society.
- ★ We will provide a highly trained, knowledgeable, caring teacher in every classroom whose mission is to teach each student and to maintain an environment that will enable each student to learn, grow, feel worthy, and become successful.
- ★ We will provide a highly trained, sensitive, and motivated staff that will support and foster the mission and vision.
- ★ We will teach and demonstrate a respect and appreciation for diversity of culture.
- ★ We will provide a safe, clean, and attractive environment where learning is an enjoyable, desirable, and eagerly pursued activity.
- ★ We will involve parents and members of the community in their active role as stakeholders in the school district.

DISTRICT PROFILE

The mission of Wayne Local Schools is to, in partnership with the community, develop the intellectual foundation for beneficial life-long learning, the necessary values for success, and the appropriate skills to be an informed, responsible, productive, and adaptive citizen.

The vision of Wayne Local Schools is to provide the highest quality education in a diverse student population with compassion and excellence in all we do.

At Wayne Local Schools we value:

- Academics
- Citizenship
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Service.

As Guiding Principles; we always strive to:

- Provide and implement a state of the art learning environment and a positive learning community
- Provide an educational environment that meets the academic needs of all students
- Provide an educational environment that supports the development of the whole child

Our district's academic program provides opportunities for all students to reach their full potential. We provide a meaningful, rigorous, and adaptive curriculum for each student, including: intellectual skills in written and spoken communication, mathematics, science, technology, social studies, problem-solving, and the tools for application of knowledge.

GRADING POLICIES / SCALE

Letter Grade	Percentage
A+	97 - 100
A	93 - 96
A-	90 - 92
B+	87 - 89
B	83 - 86
B-	80 - 82
C+	77 - 79
C	73 - 76
C-	70 - 72
D+	67 - 69
D	63 - 66
D-	60 - 62
F	59 or Less

Incompletes

Unless there are extenuating circumstances related to medical factors, all incompletes must be made up within 2 weeks after the end of the marking period or semester. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the assignments and a possible "F" in the course.

Mid-Term Grades

Mid-term grades are updated in ProgressBook in the middle of each grading period. If there is a question concerning grades, please call the teacher for details. A conference may be set up to discuss in person or virtually.

Report Cards

Report cards are issued at the end of each quarter, or nine week session. Letter grades are used to designate a pupil's progress. All student fees should be paid in full. If there is a need for a payment plan or alternate plan, please don't hesitate to reach out to the office.

Homework

The assignment of homework can be expected. Student grades will reflect the completion of all work, including outside assignments. Homework is also part of the student's preparation for state testing and high school course work.

Summer School

Waynesville Local Schools is in the process of reestablishing a junior high summer school opportunity designed to support students in demonstrating mastery of essential grade-level standards prior to promotion to the next grade. The program will utilize **Grad Alliance** as the primary instructional platform and will focus on core academic areas.

Participation in summer school may be **recommended by the school** based on academic performance and mastery of required standards. This program is intended to provide students with additional time, instruction, and support to strengthen foundational skills and improve readiness for the upcoming school year.

SCHEDULING INFORMATION

COURSE TYPES

Resource Classes: Courses designed for students who are on an Individualized Educational Plan with a need for more intense small group instruction.

High School Prep Courses: Courses that follow grade-level Ohio Learning standards. Students will learn the knowledge needed to meet the expectations set forth by the state.

Advanced Courses: Courses that challenge the student to go beyond the content and work required in the standards based courses. These courses are exceptional preparation for the student working towards taking Honors or AP classes in high school. These courses have specific requirements which are listed under course descriptions.

High School Courses: Some students may take high school classes when they are in 8th grade. They will need to have met all prerequisites before doing so. These courses count towards their high school grade point average and credit towards graduation. Not all students that sign up for these courses will be placed in the course as there is limited space available. All exams will count and follow the high school procedure of exams counting for a 20% separate grade for their final exam. High school courses can not be dropped after 10 days of the beginning of the term.

SELECTION TYPES

Students are required to take the following classes in 6th grade:

- Language Arts (double block)
- Math
- Science
- History
- Future Ready (Year long Elective)
- Elective Course (Band/Choir, PE/Art/Gateway/JH 101, or a combination of these courses)

Students are required to take the following classes in 7th grade:

- Language Arts (double block)
- Math
- Science
- History
- PE (Semester Class)/Health (semester class)
- Elective Course/s (Two additional semester courses or one year long elective)

Students are required to take the following classes in 8th grade:

- Language Arts (double block)
- Math
- Science
- History
- Elective Course/s (Four additional semester courses; or two year long courses; or a combination of two semester and one year long courses)

Student Course Load

Student school days will consist of 6 classes and lunch/Connect. Students will be required to take the above classes, and then will choose elective classes (either semester or year) to make up the rest of their school day.

OTHER INFORMATION

Gifted Services

Gifted services will be provided in all courses according to each identified student's Written Education Plan.

Special Education Services

Special Education services will be provided in all courses according to each identified student's Individual Education Plan.

Schedule Changes

Careful course planning on the part of the student and parent with your teachers and counselor should keep the number of students wishing to drop a course at a minimum number. Students must fill out a schedule change request form and return it with their parent's signature of permission. No schedule will be changed after the first week of class. Courses dropped after the first week for semester and year courses must be with parental and principal's approval and may result in an "F" on the permanent record.

Double Blocks (Blk.)

A course, or multiple courses, offered for two periods for one semester only; or two periods for a year-long duration for both semesters (i.e., language arts).

ACADEMIC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH COURSE OFFERINGS

6th Grade Language Arts

Sixth grade language arts skills build on the analytical thinking that was introduced in previous grade levels. The aim of this class is to develop students' reading and writing while nurturing critical thinking for a diverse and wide range of genres and media. Students are to read text critically and use the text to identify central ideas and find accurate supporting textual evidence. Students will demonstrate the rules of grammar, and written expression through a multitude of writing modes; literary analysis, expository, and argumentative. Students will utilize inferencing in order to connect evidence and elaboration within their writing in order to make clear connections.

6th Grade Language Arts (Advanced)

Advanced English Language Arts is an extension of the sixth grade ELA curriculum (see above). Students experience more in-depth enrichment opportunities in terms of content, products, and processes of their coursework. Students will read more challenging and rigorous texts, will experience a faster pace through the curriculum with curriculum compacting, and will demonstrate their learning through a wider variety of assessments.

Requirements: Students wishing to take an advanced course must meet the district requirements.

To be approved students must meet 4 out of the 5 categories:

1. Work Completion - 90% avg. in each quarter
2. Formal Assessments - 85% avg. on these assessments in each quarter
3. Previous AIR Score and the current years' MAP Scores and Benchmark score must be "Accomplished" or "Advanced"
4. Student Responsibility: Academic Honesty, Participation, Social Maturity, Behavior, Attendance
5. Reading & Writing Gifted ID

7th Grade Language Arts (High School Prep)

Seventh grade skills build on the foundations set in previous grade levels and move students into deeper analytical thinking in their reading, writing, and speaking and listening. Students read diverse texts to explore important ideas and themes. Reading experiences focus on close reading to determine how authors strategically employ literary tools and structures as well language techniques. Students will practice identifying and summarizing textual evidence to support their analysis of how an author uses these techniques to develop a theme or central idea over the course of the text. Students will participate in multiple writing projects to examine writer's craft and produce complex narrative, expository, and argumentative writing based upon class texts.

7th Grade Language Arts (Advanced)

Advanced English Language Arts is an extension of the seventh grade ELA curriculum (see above). Students experience more in-depth enrichment opportunities in terms of content, products, and processes of their coursework. Students will read more challenging and rigorous texts, will experience a faster pace through the curriculum with curriculum compacting, and will demonstrate their learning through a wider variety of assessments.

Requirements: Students wishing to take an advanced course must meet the district requirements.

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2. Formal Assessments - 85% avg. on these assessments in each quarter
3. Previous AIR Score and the current years' MAP Scores and Benchmark score must be "Accomplished" or "Advanced"
4. Student Responsibility: Academic Honesty, Participation, Social Maturity, Behavior, Attendance
5. Reading & Writing Gifted ID

8th Grade Language Arts (High School Prep)

Eighth grade skills require students to build upon their analysis and synthesis experiences in seventh grade and evaluate the complex issues and ideas they encounter in their reading, writing, speaking and listening experiences with a more sophisticated range of texts and media. Reading experiences continue to focus on close reading, diving deeper into evaluating authors' and speakers' writing techniques. Students study and assess how authors use literary elements and techniques to develop a theme or central idea over the course of the text and support their analysis with textual evidence. Students will participate in multiple writing projects to examine writer's craft and produce complex narrative, expository, and argumentative writing based upon class texts.

8th Grade Language Arts (Advanced)

Advanced English Language Arts is an extension of the eighth grade ELA curriculum (see above). Students experience more in-depth enrichment opportunities in terms of content, products, and processes of their coursework. Students will read more challenging and rigorous texts, will experience a faster pace through the curriculum with curriculum compacting, and will demonstrate their learning through a wider variety of assessments.

Requirements: Students wishing to take an advanced course must meet the district requirements.

To be approved students must meet 4 out of the 5 categories:

1. Work Completion - 90% avg. in each quarter
2. Formal Assessments - 85% avg. on these assessments in each quarter
3. Previous AIR Score and the current years' MAP Scores and Benchmark score must be "Accomplished" or "Advanced"
4. Student Responsibility: Academic Honesty, Participation, Social Maturity, Behavior, Attendance
5. Reading & Writing Gifted ID

MATH COURSE OFFERINGS

6th Grade Math

Students taking Math 6 will focus on a problem-based approach to mathematics. They will learn the state standards through problems of varying difficulty to demonstrate their level of understanding. Course work is aligned with state standards, covering ratios and proportions, expressions and equations, geometry and statistics and the number system. Some of the 6th grade concepts will be extensions of the 5th grade standards with the further development of students' ability to work with fractions and decimals in real world situations.

6th/7th Grade Accelerated Math

Students taking Accelerated Math 6 will focus on a problem-based approach to mathematics. We will learn the state standards by demonstrating higher levels of understanding. Course work is aligned with state standards, covering ratios and proportions, expressions and equations, geometry and statistics, and the number system. Many units of study will focus on real-world application of the standards. Due to the course compaction, students will learn both 6th and 7th grade standards.

Students will be placed in this course based on the following data-based requirements:

- Classroom performance
- Assessment results, including district, state, and nationally-normed assessments
- Evidence of the Standards for Mathematical Practice (i.e., perseverance in problem-solving, abstract reasoning, mathematical modeling with mathematics)

7th Grade Math

Students taking Math 7 will continue to build upon a variety of content learned in previous grade levels. Course work is aligned with state standards, covering operations with rational numbers, ratios and proportions, number systems, expressions and equations, geometry, statistics and probability. Students are required to have a TI-30xiis calculator.

7th/8th Grade Accelerated Math

Students taking Accelerated Math 7 are exposed to a challenging curriculum composed of 7th-grade and pre-algebra content. Course work is aligned with state standards, covering operations with rational numbers; ratios and proportions; number systems; expressions and equations; geometry; statistics and probability. The remainder of the year will expose students to essential algebra skills in preparation for Advanced Algebra. Students will take the 8th grade Math End of Course Assessment. Students are required to have a TI-30xiis calculator.

Requirements:

- Students must have successfully completed 6th Grade Accelerated Math

8th Grade Math

This course is aligned to Grade 8 Common Core Mathematics Standards. In this course, students will be introduced to algebraic concepts through both theory and applications. Modeling and real-world problems are introduced throughout the course. This course focuses on the study of algebraic manipulation and graphical interpretations. Topics include: the number system, expressions and equations, functions, geometry, statistics and probability. Students are required to have a TI-30xiis calculator.

Advanced Algebra (High School Class - 1.0 credit)

Algebra I is an essential course. It consists of the study of algebraic operations, sets, equations, inequalities, formulas, factoring, powers, and roots, systems of linear equations and inequalities, and quadratic equations. Algebra I is the introductory mathematics course at the high school level. This course is designed to help prepare students for the Algebra End of Course (EOC) exam required for a pathway for graduation. Students are required to have a TI-30xiis calculator.

This course is NOT weighted.

Requirements:

- 90% or higher average in 7th Grade Accelerated Math or by teacher recommendation
- A minimum score of an 85% on MAP Test
- Student desire for challenging work is highly recommended.
- Evidence of the Standards for Mathematical Practice (i.e., perseverance in problem-solving, abstract reasoning, mathematical modeling with mathematics)

SCIENCE COURSE OFFERINGS

6th Grade Science

Students in 6th grade will develop foundational skills in scientific inquiry and critical thinking as they explore the world around them. Aligned with Ohio learning standards, this course integrates physical, earth, and life science content. Students will focus on the study of foundational concepts of the particulate nature of matter, as well as explore kinetic and potential energy. They will classify and identify different types of rocks, minerals, and soil to decode past environments in which they formed. As well as study the basics of Modern Cell Theory, understanding that all organisms are composed of cells, cells carry on the many processes that sustain life, and all cells come from pre-existing cells.

7th Grade Science

Students in 7th Grade Science will explore how matter and energy are used, changed, and recycled through observable and predictable patterns. Aligned with state standards, the curriculum will cover content in physical science, earth science, and life science. Students will use inquiry and critical thinking skills to explain how the amount of matter and energy stays the same while the type may change through various real-world examples such as chemical reactions, energy transformations, biogeochemical cycles, phases of the moon, and ecosystems.

8th Grade Science (High School Prep)

Eighth grade science follows the state curriculum required by the state of Ohio. The curriculum covers three different strands of science: Physical Science, Earth Science and Life Science. The topics that will be covered in Physical Science include forces, motion and energy. In Earth Science the topics are Earth's interior, plate tectonics, the rock record, and landforms. Finally, in Life Science the topics include cellular reproduction and heredity.

8th Grade Science (Advanced)

This course is limited to advanced eighth graders who have a solid B or higher in their current science course. Students accepted into this class must be recommended by their current science teacher. Eighth grade students will follow the same state curriculum required by the state of Ohio but will do so using more advanced strategies and techniques. More independent inquiry, experimentation, and long term projects will be required.

Note: Teacher recommendation (teacher signature) required.

Prerequisites: 85% or higher average on all tests, quizzes, and exams in 7th Grade Science; minimum 90% assignment completion rate; consistent attendance; student desire for challenging work/parent support.

HISTORY COURSE OFFERINGS

6th Grade History

The sixth grade year introduces students to the Eastern Hemisphere, exploring its geographic features, early civilizations, cultural development, and economic change. Students study river civilizations like Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus Valley, and China, examining their governments, cultures, and economic systems. Using the five themes of geography, students analyze how these civilizations shaped the world and laid the foundation for modern society. This course serves as a building block for future social studies learning.

7th Grade History

The seventh grade year is an integrated study of world history, beginning with ancient Greece and continuing through global exploration. All four social studies strands are used to illustrate how historic events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic and political factors. Students develop their understanding of how ideas and events from the past have shaped the world today.

8th Grade US History

This high school prep course offers an introduction to American history from its native and colonial beginnings to the Civil War and Reconstruction in 1877. We will examine major changes and continuities during this period of American history. We will consider not only the achievements and successes, but also the challenges and problems encountered along the way. Social, political, religious, and economic perspectives are included and connections with the world beyond North America. We will examine and compare different types of sources, including oral histories, primary documents and the textbook, and discuss the difficulties historians encounter when studying the past, such as a lack of evidence or conflicting interpretations.

ELECTIVE COURSE OFFERINGS

STUDIO ARTS COURSE OFFERINGS

6th Grade Art Exploration- Quarter

In this nine-week course, students explore the elements of art through hands-on creative projects. Using a variety of materials—such as pencils, charcoal, paint, collage, and clay—students learn foundational techniques while developing confidence in their artistic abilities. By the end of the quarter, each student will have a collection of experimental artworks and a personal portfolio that showcases growth, creativity, and an understanding of the art-making process.

7th Grade Art- Semester

In this semester-long course, students dive into the creative process by exploring a wide range of art materials while developing the essential skill of learning how to see. Through drawing, painting, collage, and clay, students practice observing the world with an artist's eye—looking closely at shapes, values, proportions, and details. Class projects include guided observation, creative challenges, artist studies, and opportunities for individual choice on each project. By the end of the semester, students will have strengthened their visual awareness, expanded their artistic toolkit, and created a diverse portfolio that reflects their personal growth

8th Grade Art – Semester Course

In this semester-long art class, students learn creative foundations by sharpening their ability to see like an artist and confidently express their ideas through visual media. Through drawing, painting, mixed media, and clay students develop stronger observational skills—training their eyes to notice subtle details and connections in the world around them. Students learn how to move from observation to personal expression, using the elements of art and principles of design to communicate mood, ideas, and stories. Projects encourage creative risk-taking, problem-solving, and thoughtful artistic decision-making. Along the way, students study a variety of artists and styles to broaden their understanding of how people across cultures express themselves visually. By the end of the semester, students will have a portfolio that demonstrates improved visual perception, growing technical skill, and an artistic voice.

7th or 8th Grade Studio Art – Year Course

This year-long art course guides students from the foundations to more advanced techniques as they explore drawing, painting, and clay. Throughout the year, students build strong technical skills while developing their foundational drawing and painting skills to more advanced focusing on composition . In addition, the course introduces digital drawing and photography. By the end of the year, students will have a diverse and meaningful portfolio that showcases their growth across multiple mediums, increased techniques and an understanding of how artists communicate ideas through traditional and digital media.

PERFORMING ARTS COURSE OFFERINGS

Band

This year-long elective course is for students who wish to develop their performance skills beyond the beginning level. Correct breathing, tonguing, posture, proper care of the instrument and reading musical notation will be learned in a large group setting. Students will encounter a continuation of skills and fundamentals from the beginning band with increasing emphasis on better tone production, good intonation, refinement of muscular coordination, experimentation in small ensembles, and memorization of scales in basic keys. Responsibilities of the individual within the large music ensemble will be stressed. Public performances will be required.

Choir

Choir is an elective option available to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. 6th grade choir introduces singing in two and three parts as well as focusing on basic musicianship. The 7th and 8th grade year-long choirs focus on developing singing and musical skills, with a heavier emphasis on part singing. The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade choirs are open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students regardless of perceived ability. Everyone has a voice and choir will help you develop it. A variety of musical forms, styles, and uses of music are explored as students prepare for four required evening performances.

Ukulele

Ukulele Class is open to 7th and 8th grade students. Within the class students will learn essential skills such as accurate tuning, basic fingerpicking techniques, and fundamental chords. The course includes well-known songs across various genres, cultivating a repertoire that showcases the ukulele's versatility. Enhance your performance and ensemble skills, gaining confidence in playing in front of others. By the end of the semester, not only will you have a solid foundation in ukulele playing, but you'll also be equipped to express yourself musically and enjoy a lifelong appreciation for this charming instrument. This is a semester course and can be taken a maximum of two times.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSE OFFERINGS (8TH GRADE ONLY)

Spanish I High School Class - 1.0 credit (LIMITED SEATS)

Spanish 1 will provide the student with a general introduction to the Spanish language: sound system, pronunciation, functional vocabulary related to everyday life, cultural information and basic grammatical structures. Emphasis will be on the acquisition of four skills: listening, speaking, reading and limited writing. There are two main objectives to the course. Foremost is to give the students the ability to carry on a simple conversation. The second is to provide the students with instruction that teaches a basic understanding of Spanish culture, vocabulary, and grammatical concepts. This course is offered for students who intend to take Spanish 5 in high school.

Note: Teacher recommendation and Spanish 1 Form required. ELA teachers will use similar criteria for Advanced ELA classes to determine eligibility for Spanish 1. Not all students that request this course will be placed in it.

TECHNOLOGY / ENGINEERING COURSE OFFERINGS

6th Grade Gateway - one semester class

CSIM: This unit will allow students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects. Throughout the unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. They will design and develop a physical computing device, interactive art installation, or wearable, and plan and develop code for microcontrollers that bring their physical designs to life.

Physical computing projects will promote student awareness of interactive systems, including Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and broaden their understanding of abstract computer science concepts through meaningful and authentic applications.

Electricity: Through hands-on projects, students explore electricity, the behavior and parts of atoms, and sensing devices. They learn knowledge and skills in basic circuitry design, and examine the impact of electricity on the world around them.

Robotics and Automation- one semester class (7th or 8th grade class)

Project Lead The Way Gateway (Middle school) units empower students to lead their own discovery. The hands-on program boosts classroom engagement and excitement, drives collaboration, and inspires “aha! moments” and deep comprehension. As students engage in PLTW’s activities in computer science and engineering, they will see a range of paths and possibilities they can look forward to in high school and beyond.

Automation and Robotics (All Semester)

Students are given the opportunity to combine mechanisms with input and output devices to automate the mechanisms. Construction and programming skills are layered, and projects and the problem provide students the opportunity to connect their learning throughout the lessons in the unit. Students take on the role of interns, and work in teams to identify design requirements and create prototypes to meet the needs of clients. They also explore different aspects of automation and robotics, and experience how solving real-life problems involves the teamwork of mechanical engineers, software developers, and electrical engineers. (Projects include mechanism builds, pulltoys, maze robot, line following robot, programming a robot to a controller, drag race robot, assembly line)

Design and Architecture- one semester class (7th or 8th grade class)

Project Lead The Way Gateway II (Middle school) units empower students to lead their own discovery. The hands-on program boosts classroom engagement and excitement, drives collaboration, and inspires “aha! moments” and deep comprehension. As students engage in PLTW’s activities in computer science and engineering, they will see a range of paths and possibilities they can look forward to in high school and beyond.

Design and Modeling (first quarter)

Students discover the engineering design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they have learned throughout the unit to complete several design challenges using the engineering design process and to develop technical skills in CAD using Autodesk Inventor.

Architecture (second quarter)

Today’s students have grown up in an age of “green” choices. In this unit, students learn how to apply this concept to the fields of architecture and construction by exploring dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability as they design affordable housing units using Autodesk’s® 3D architectural design software, build mock walls, and model homes. (projects include shipping container home, mock wall builds, model home build)

Medical Detectives and App Creators- one semester class (7th or 8th grade class)

Project Lead The Way Gateway (Middle school) units empower students to lead their own discovery. The hands-on program boosts classroom engagement and excitement, drives collaboration, and inspires “aha! moments” and deep comprehension. As students engage in PLTW’s activities in computer science and engineering, they will see a range of paths and possibilities they can look forward to in high school and beyond.

Medical Detectives (first quarter)

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, and investigate disease outbreaks along with exploration of medical careers. (projects include, sheep brain dissection, disease outbreak detection through lab analysis, creating a breaking news video)

App Creators (second quarter)

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

Students will customize their experience by choosing a problem that interests them from the areas of health, environment, emergency preparedness, education, community service, and school culture. Because problems in the real world involve more than one discipline, the unit will introduce students to biomedical science concepts as they work on solutions for the specific problems they choose to tackle. (projects include a variety of app games builds, and a final app build of students own choice.)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE OFFERINGS

PE-6th, 7th (required) and 8th grade

Middle school physical education class is a semester course (6th grade 9 weeks) that includes a variety of activities that are aligned with the ODE Physical Education Standards. Activities include: Team activities, individual activities, lifetime recreational activities, cooperative activities, physical fitness activities, and fitness testing. Each day, the student is expected to wear athletic clothes and wear the proper laced up athletic shoes.

LIFE SKILLS COURSE OFFERINGS

Student Development - 8th grade

In this semester course, students will be introduced to interests, aptitudes, and personality tests to explore themselves and the many career paths available to them. An emphasis will also be placed on work ethics, team building, communication, community service, and leadership skills. Additional topics will include necessary life-long skills for everyday life such as decision-making, self-esteem, and conflict resolutions. Technology etiquette will be highlighted throughout the entire semester class. Guest speakers, weekly lectures, and activities will help students to learn about themselves and how to apply this information in everyday life and career decision making for the future.

Health- 7th grade required

This semester course is designed to assist students in obtaining accurate information, developing lifelong positive attitudes and behaviors, and making wise decisions related to their personal health. Study will include personal and community health; mental, emotional, and social health; injury prevention and safety; nutrition and physical activity; alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; growth, development. Central themes are the acceptance of personal responsibility for lifelong health, respect for and promotion of the health of others, an understanding of the process of growth and development, and informed use of health-related information, products, and services.

Future Ready - 6th grade required

Future Ready classes empower students with essential 21st-century skills, focusing on career exploration, financial literacy, and technological proficiency (e.g., AI, digital citizenship). Through hands-on, student-centered, and project-based learning, this course prepares students to navigate dynamic workforce skills, and personalized, goal-oriented skill development. (Full year class)