**North Mercer R-3**

**Junior High and High School**

**Course Description**

**Handbook**

**2017-2018**

**MATH**

**Seventh Grade Math**

**Grade 7**

**1 Unit**

The seventh grade mathematics course will cover the four basic operations of arithmetic, problem-solving strategies, and critical thinking skills. Students will use both written and hands-on projects to evaluate expressions, solve simple equations, and to acquire basic mathematical skills. Geometric, simple statistical and pre-algebraic concepts will prepare students for future math classes.

**Eighth Grade Math**

**Grade 8**

**1 Unit**

The eighth grade mathematics course emphasizes sharpening math skills and introduces basic algebra skills and concepts. Students will continue to practice and develop problem-solving strategies and critical thinking skills, along with geometric and statistical concepts in both written and hands-on projects.

**Algebra I**

**Grade 9-12**

**1 Unit**

The Algebra I course will include polynomial manipulations including factoring, simplifying and evaluating expressions, solving and graphing equations, inequalities, systems, performing real number operations including powers and roots, investigating statistics and probability, and translating the English language into mathematical symbols and vice versa. This course includes major projects assigned each semester, giving students the opportunity to solve problems using the knowledge they have gained.

**Applied Algebra I**

**Grade 9-12**

**1 Unit**

The Applied Algebra I course will include polynomial manipulations including factoring, simplifying and evaluating expressions, solving and graphing equations, inequalities, systems, performing real number operations including powers and roots, investigating statistics and probability, and translating the English language into mathematical symbols and vice versa. This course includes major projects assigned each semester, giving students the opportunity to solve problems using the knowledge they have gained. The emphasis will be on the ability to understand, apply, and communicate mathematics to solve problems in the world of work.

**Algebra II**

**Grade 9-12**

**1 Unit**

Algebra II reviews and builds upon the concepts of Algebra I.  The Algebra II course will also include right triangle trigonometry, complex number operations, variation, quadratic equations and inequalities.  This course includes major projects assigned each semester, giving students the opportunity to solve problems using the knowledge they have gained.

**Applied Algebra II**

**Grade 9-12**

**1 Unit**

Applied Algebra II reviews and builds upon the concepts of Applied Algebra I.  The Applied Algebra II course will also include right triangle trigonometry, complex number operations, variation, quadratic equations and inequalities.  This course includes major projects assigned each semester, giving students the opportunity to solve problems using the knowledge they have gained. The emphasis will be on the ability to understand, apply, and communicate mathematics to solve problems in the world of work.

**Applied Geometry**

**Grade 9-12**

**1Unit**

The Applied Geometry course includes the following: geometric terms, geometric theorems, properties of geometric shapes, logic, three dimensional geometry, coordinate geometry, transformations, and area and volume of geometric shapes.  This course will lead the student to make connections among different representations, allowing them to think or reason flexibly.

**Math Analysis**

**Grade 12**

**1 Unit**

This is a senior level math class designed for seniors who will be going to college in a field requiring College Algebra. This is the same material that is presented in a college algebra course, but taught in full school year instead of an accelerated pace. Topics included in this coursework will start with linear equations, graphing, as well as algebraic solutions of linear functions. Then proceed to non-linear functions where graphing non-linear functions will be demonstrated as well as determining a function from a graph. Trigonometry will be covered in detail.

**Trigonometry**

**Grade 12**

**½ Unit**

Trig is a one semester class for Seniors, or anyone who has completed Math Analysis class. The course is for college bound students who will be entering a field requiring upper level courses of college math. This course will cover the trig relationships of ratios of angles as used in many areas of science, math and engineering.

**Statistics**

**Grade 12**

**½ Unit**

Stats class is a one semester class that is for seniors, or anyone who has finished Math Analysis. This will be an more in depth area of math that deals with probability distributions. This is a good foundation course for students who will be attending college in areas of science, medicine, business and many other analytical areas.

**COMMUNICATION ARTS**

**Seventh Grade Communication Arts**

**Grade 7**

**1 Unit**

The Seventh Grade Communication Arts Course includes expanded knowledge of critical thinking, reading, mechanics of writing, and oral communication skills introduced and developed during the elementary years.  To read well, the students will demonstrate the skills of decoding, word identification, word analysis, and a variable reading rate.  They will receive individual reading analysis and techniques for improving their reading level. The skills of recall, judgment, and analysis will be taught to demonstrate the meaning among sentences, paragraphs and larger units of text. Reading logs will serve as a record for developing reasoning skills.  Reading for both enjoyment and comprehension will be emphasized, and time for free reading will be provided.  The writing program will focus on the process of prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing.  Creative writing and technical writing will be given equal weight.  Journaling will be maintained to develop fluency in the use of language and to explore creative ideas.  The history of the English language will serve as a basis for exploring, word analysis and vocabulary development.  Sentence structure, parts of speech, degrees of usage and grammar will be covered on a formal level.  The oral communications program will include individual speeches, discussion groups, debate, and dramatic (public) performance.  Listening skills are formally taught and assessed in the classroom setting.

**Eighth Grade Communication Arts**

**Grade 8**

**1 Unit**

The Eighth Grade Communication Arts Course includes opportunities to read and analyze a variety of local, state, and national newspapers; general audience and special interest magazines, and other forms of media.  Students will produce both hard news and feature stories for the local paper, a magazine article, and business letters.  They will view television shows and a film before producing a television news show and a student scripted and produced film.  One of the products of this class will be a fine arts magazine, called R-III Reflections, that includes the magazine articles and photos of the class and reflects the art work and writings of the school.

**Communication Arts I**

**Grade 9**

**1 Unit**

The Communication Arts I Course is designed to build on students' development of skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking and critical thinking.  A variety of reading and writing experiences will be offered to challenge students to refine their critical and creative skills.  Students will review grammar, usage skills and build vocabulary.  Major units of study will include grammar, various forms of writing, and various literary genres. Character education will be taught through literature and literature circles.  Students will be responsible for creating narrative and descriptive compositions through a variety of mediums. Major projects will include The Giver and Of Mice and Men novels, Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, Internet research projects, large and small group collaborative projects, oral presentations, and several written projects of various lengths, styles, and purposes.

**Communication Arts II**

**Grade 10**

**1 Unit**

The Communication Arts II Course is designed to build on students' development of skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking and critical thinking.  A variety of reading and writing experiences will be offered to challenge students to refine their critical and creative skills.  Students will review grammar, usage skills and build vocabulary.  Major units of study will include grammar, various forms of writing, and various literary genres.  Students will be responsible for creating persuasive and expository compositions through a variety of theme prompts. Major projects include reading To Kill A Mockingbird novel, (using a character education focus), Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, a large-scale research project, outlines, oral presentations, and several written projects of various lengths, styles, and purposes.       

**Communication Arts III**

**Grade 11**

**1 Unit**

The American Literature Course is designed to build on students' development of skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking and critical thinking.  Starting with early American literature and continuing through present day American literature, students will discover the different time periods. Through a variety of reading and writing experiences, students will be challenged to refine their critical and creative skills.  Major units of study will include an emphasis on various forms of writing, and reading various literary genres, a formal research project, large and small group collaborative projects, year long pen-pal project with elementary students, and the application of literary terms and definitions.



**Creative Writing**

**Grade 9-12**

**1 Unit**

The Creative Writing course is designed to have students demonstrate creativity through responses to assigned writing prompts.  Emphasis will be placed on the writing process, oral discussion during peer review, and collaborative learning.  Students will be assigned a 500 word essay on a weekly basis answering a writing prompt.  Students are encouraged to use voice, correct point of view, correct grammar, and the steps in the writing process.  Primary focus is placed on the portfolio and the organization of the portfolio.  Students are expected to write about their individual strengths and weaknesses and determine how to improve on both.  Students will use Internet for research, Power point, Word, and other mediums to support objectives in this course.

**Mass Media**

**Grade 9-12**

**1 Unit**

The course, Mass Media, is designed to teach students how to publish a 12-page school newspaper once per month. Students us Microsoft Publisher, using an 11x17 inch layout.  Students are responsible for: contacting potential advertisers; selling ads; organizing and writing articles; organizing monthly layout; and managing money for payments and expenses.  Students will build on grammar skills, writing skills, as well as the importance of proofreading and editing.  Students will also learn the significance of maintaining an office typesetting, learning first hand that meeting deadlines are extremely crucial to the success of the newspaper.

**English 101**

**Dual Credit Available**

**½ Unit**

An introduction to expository and argumentative writing; emphasizing reading, critical thinking and analytical writing skills. Several short papers are assigned, with emphasis on the writing process. 3 hours college credit.

**English 102**

**Dual Credit Available**

**½ Unit**

A continuation of English 101, emphasizing longer and more impersonal and critical writing forms. Organizational skills are developed through the outline and summary units; analytical reading and critical thinking are stressed. A thorough use of library and online resources is required for the bibliography unit and the final research paper. 3 hours college credit.

**Speech Communications**

**Dual Credit Available**

**½ Unit**

Learn how to better think and act as a public speaker by preparing and presenting speeches. Application of content and self-assessment are principle learning strategies in this introductory course. The message creation process stresses thinking broadly and deeply about the subject. The delivery approach emphasizes interactive skills and attitudes. 3 hours college credit.

**SCIENCE**

**Seventh Grade Science**

**Grade 7**

**1 Unit**

This course is designed to give the student a background in the study of living things. The course is divided into the following categories: introduction to life science, characteristics of life, cell structure and functions, plants, animals, human body systems, and environment.

During this course, the student will be given the opportunity to:

* Express an understanding of the process of life science
* Demonstrate an understanding of scientific method by explanation and laboratory activity
* Handle and manipulate science equipment in a safe and productive manner
* Use metric measurement instructions to obtain reliable data
* Recognize plant and animal cell parts and state their functions
* Recognize the structure of flowering plants and state their functions
* Compare the characteristics of the five classes of vertebrates
* Express the relationships between the producers, consumers, and decomposers in an ecosystem

**Eighth Grade Science**

**Grade 8**

**1 Unit**

This course is designed to give the student a background in the study of the planet we live on, its composition, history, and relationship to all other heavenly bodies in the universe. The course will be divided into the following categories: the universe and its components, earth’s matter and origin, earth’s crust, the atmosphere and hydrosphere, the environment, and the metric system.

During this course, the student will be given the opportunity to:

        Think critically and use the scientific methods of Earth Science effectively

        Make wise and effective use of this planet’s natural resources as well as products of science and technology

        State effects and changes which occur as natural phenomenon here on Earth

        Compare the Earth’s relation with other naturally occurring heavenly bodies in the universe

        Relate possible occupational positions available in science and other related fields

**Biology**

**Grade 9-12**

**1 Unit**

Biology is an introductory course in which the nature and requirements of life are investigated. The types of organisms and their methods of coping with their environment are discussed. The student will be expected to do homework assignments to aid their comprehension of biological concepts and language. These assignments will be given weekly. Dissection of animals is one of the more interesting units of this course.

**College Biology**

**1 Unit**

**Dual Credit Available**

This course focuses on the general principles of biology, including ecology, cell biology, biochemistry, genetics, microbiology, botany, and zoology. Structure, function, and life application are stressed as components of each unit of study.

**Chemistry**

**Grade 9-12**

**1 Unit**

Chemistry is the study of the composition of matter in which the student learns about the structure of atoms and how they combine to form compounds which make up the world in which we live. Students will learn how to rearrange these atoms to form new and better materials.

Within the course of study, the student will investigate gases, learn to apply mathematics, and acquire the symbolic language of chemistry. The course includes lab work where the student develops techniques used by chemists as well as reinforcing the theoretical concepts learned. Homework assignments are mostly reading the text, reviewing class notes, and some written work. Grades are determined by chapter tests, in class exercises, and lab performance.

Chemistry is strongly recommended for students interested in economics, medicine, nursing, and engineering.

**Physical Science**

**Grade 9-12**

**1 Unit**

The class is a practical study of the relationships between matter and energy. The class offers an important introduction to physical laws and chemical processes. Concepts and principles are presented in this course along with information that is useful in the everyday lives of the student. Future careers in photography, lasers, optical fibers, radio, television, computers, music, and many more are related to successful understanding of physical science.

**Zoology**

**Grade 9-12**

**1 Unit**

This course is offered to students as another option to their third science credit. Zoology will focus on the various classes of animals. In this course the students will learn how to identify the structures that are used to classify animals.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

**Seventh Grade Social Studies**

**Grade 7**

**1 Unit**

Seventh grade social studies is divided into two separate units.

Geography - Geography is a course designed to acquaint the student with a physical and cultural approach to world geography.  The course will provide students with concepts, principles, and factual data necessary to understand the impact of geography upon the lives of people.  Each unit will describe the regions land, climate, and cultural development.  Emphasis will be placed on the interpretation and analysis of maps, graphs, charts, and diagrams.

Missouri History - Missouri History students will examine the Missouri Constitution including the history that shaped it and the main principles expressed in the document.   Students will also compare the Missouri government to the United States government.  This course will prepare them for future active and productive participation as a citizen of this state.  Projects may include reports on famous Missourians, maps of Missouri, and letters expressing concerns to elected officials.

**Eighth Grade Social Studies**

**Grade 8**

**1 Unit**

Eighth Grade American History I will center on the political and social history of the United States from colonization through the Civil War.  Students will investigate insights into how historians arrive at their conclusions and how individuals can evaluate historical research.  Students will be guided to inspect cause and effect and why some aspects change while others stay the same.  Students will learn that values fundamental to American democratic ideals keep resurfacing.  Finally, retelling history is also a retelling of the relationships of geography, economics, culture, belief systems, as well as social and political structures.

**American Government**

**Grade 9-12**

**1 Unit**

American Government will cover the historical background of the local, state, and national government, with an emphasis on the duties, powers, and responsibilities of the three main branches.  This course encourages students to develop the ability to think critically and identify and understand civic-mindedness and respect for the law.  It also deals with contemporary issues such as foreign relations.  Projects for this class may include participating in a mock government, writing letters to elected officials, and analyzing historical documents.

**World History**

**Grade 9-12**

**1 Unit**

This course emphasizes the study of major world events and of the world’s social, intellectual, religious, political and economic institutions. It also studies the traditions developed by groups of people who first lived in the Eastern Hemisphere and branched out into Europe and the Western Hemisphere. The student will gain an understanding of the development and changes of various civilizations and their impact on our world. The time space of the course is from the pre-historic period to the present day.

**US History II**

**Grade 9-12**

**1 Unit**

American History II will center on the political and social history of the United States from the Civil War to the present. Students will investigate insights into how historians arrive at their conclusions and how individuals can evaluate historical research. Students will be guided to inspect cause and effect and why some aspects change while others stay the same. Students will learn that values fundamental to American democratic ideals keep resurfacing. Finally, retelling history is also a retelling of the relationships of geography, economic, culture, belief systems, as well as social and political structures.

**Western Civilization**

**Grade 9-12**

**1 Unit**

This class is an in-depth look into Western Civilization from the Renaissance to the present time. Western Civilization is designed to look at the people, events, cultures and ideas that have shaped our society in past and present times in the West. The course will cover not only the impact the West had on the rest of the world but also those cultures, beliefs and morals that helped shape the West.

**Contemporary Issues**

**Grades 9-12**

**½ Unit**

Contemporary Issues is a high school-level course designed to teach students the importance of events as they take place.  Students will analyze and discuss events at the local, state, national, and international levels to determine how the events affect themselves individually, the state of Missouri, and the United States.  Students will access various media outlets to gather information needed to discuss events.

**International Relations**

**Grades 9-12**

**½ Unit**

International Relations is a high school-level course designed to teach students how nations interact with each other.  Various aspects of international relations will be discussed during the course including economics and trade, military alliances, international sport, and diplomacy.  Major units covered in the course include international business and law, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), international sport, and general diplomacy.

**Geography**

**Grades 9-12**

**½ Unit**

Geography is a high school-level course designed to teach students geography and how it affects our world.  Various aspects of geography will be discussed including locations of countries on maps, physical characteristics of the geography of countries, natural resources of countries, and how geography affects weather and climate.

**US History I**

**Dual Credit Available**

**½ Unit**

US History to 1877 is a dual-credit course which discusses the history of the United States through 1877.  The purpose of the course is to provide students with knowledge about the United States from colonial times through the Civil War and Reconstruction.  This is a survey course involving lecture, note taking, and a student project. This course is a semester course.  The student will earn 3 college credits from NCMC of Trenton as well as high school credit.

**US History II**

**Dual Credit Available**

**½ Unit**

US History from 1877 is a dual-credit class is which a student earns high school and college credit from NCMC. The course is designed for juniors and seniors in high school.  The course covers American history from the Reconstruction period through current times.  Major units covered during the course include the Spanish-American War, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War (including Korea and Vietnam), and the War on Terrorism (including Iraq). This course is a semester course.  The student will earn 3 college credits from NCMC of Trenton as well as high school credit.

**American Government**

**Dual Credit Available**

**½ Unit**

US National Government is a dual-credit course which discusses the foundations of US government.  The purpose of the course is to provide students with knowledge about the history and backgrounds of the documents that have governed the United States.  Discussions of the branches of government and people that influence the US government are included in the course.  This is a survey course involving lecture, note taking, and a student project. This course is a semester course.  The student will earn 3 college credits from NCMC of Trenton as well as high school credit.

**Psychology**

**Dual Credit Available**

**½ Unit**

Psychology is a dual-credit course in which a student may receive high school credit, college credit, or both.  College credit is earned through NCMC.  The course is designed for juniors and seniors in high school.  The course discusses various aspects of psychology including the make-up of the brain, how the brain functions, and psychological stages of humans.  The course includes lecture, discussion, note-taking, and a semester project. The course is one semester in length.

**Sociology**

**Dual Credit Available**

**½ Unit**

Sociology is a dual-credit course in which a student may receive high school credit, college credit, or both.  College credit is earned through NCMC.  The course is designed for juniors and seniors in high school.  The course discusses various aspects of sociology including the study of society (ours and other societies) and discusses social issues such as aging, gender issues, and racial issues.  Sociological development of humans is also discussed.  The course includes lecture, discussion, note-taking, and a semester project.  The course is one semester in length.

**Missouri History**

**½ Unit**

Missouri History is a high school-level course developed to help students understand the history of the state they live in and how that affects the present. Topics of discussion while taking this course are, but not limited to: Early Missouri-who was here first, who came later, Missouri and the American West, Missouri in the Civil War, Missouri in World War I, Missouri economic history, modern-day Missouri, famous Missourians, and Mercer County history.

**Legislative Processes Course Description**

**½ Unit**

Legislative Processes is a high school level course designed to proved instruction to the student on how bodies of the government function. Areas of discussion include, but not limited to: state government including the Missouri Constitution, the three branches of Missouri government, and voting processes for the state; County government including positions within the government, the election process, and the functions of various groups within county government; city government including positions with the government, the election process, and the functions of various groups within the city government; school boards of education including the election process and the functions of a school board; parliamentary procedure, and the Missouri Sunshine Law

**Contemporary US History:**

**½ Unit**

This course surveys the changes in the United States since the end of World War II. Key concepts in this course include changes in domestic and foreign policy of the United States, the rights movements, and the growing influence of the United States throughout the world today.

**World Religions:**

**½ Unit**

This course explores the academic study of religions throughout the world to help students better understand the role of religion in society and how different religions have help other societies grow into what they are today. Religions discussed may include, but are not limited to: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Shinto, Taoism/Daoism, Sikhism, and Bahi'i.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

**Spanish I**

**Grades 9-12**

**1 Unit**

Spanish I is designed as a basic introduction to the language and culture. Vocabulary, grammar, and cultural information are taught to the students. The course will enable the student to communicate in Spanish on a basic level and prepare the student for further study of Spanish. Spanish I will contain vocabulary such as greeting, polite expressions, time, foods, school items, the family, diversions, and personal descriptions. Grammar such as correct use of present tense Spanish verbs, use of adjectives, and Spanish pronouns will be covered.

**Spanish II**

**Grades 9-12**

**1 Unit**

Spanish II is a continuation of Spanish I. This course builds on skills learned in Spanish I to further assist the student in communicating in Spanish. Vocabulary, grammar, and cultural information is taught to the student. The course will enable the student to communicate in Spanish at a higher level than in Spanish I and prepare the student for further study in Spanish.

**BUSINESS**

**Accounting I**

**Grade 9-12**

**1 Unit**

Every student who plans to major in any field of business or computer in college and who wants to know more about managing their money should take this course. It will be especially helpful to the people who may someday want to run their own business. Students will learn to plan, summarize, analyze, and interpret financial information. Students will learn the accounting cycle from journalizing business transactions to preparing financial statements. The students then apply accounting theories to business situations through the use of business simulations and computer programs. The will also develop traits such as neatness, accuracy, perseverance, responsibility, logical thinking, and the ability to follow directions in solving problems. Students who will be majoring in business in college should plan to take this course during their sophomore year and then take Accounting II their junior year.

With 90% accuracy, students will be able to:

* + - Apply the accounting equation
    - Classify accounts
    - Analyze transactions
    - Journalize transactions using various journal formats
    - Prove cash
    - Prepare and analyze an income statement for a service business and a merchandising business
    - Prepare a balance sheet for the three forms of ownership
    - Reconcile a bank statement
    - Calculate gross earnings (e.g., hourly rate, piece rate, salary/commission)
    - Calculate net earnings (e.g., FICA, federal withholding, insurance)

Assessments will be written tests.

**Accounting II**

**Grade 10-12**

**1 Unit**

Accounting II is a one-year advanced course. Accounting allows the student to build on basic math skills while learning more advanced concepts, principles, and automated procedures. This course covers an accounting cycle for a departmentalized merchandising business organized as a corporation. It also touches on management and cost accounting.

**Accounting III**

**Grade 10-12**

**1/2 Unit**

**Dual Credit Available**

Dual enrollment accounting is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills to advance into the field of accounting and related areas. The course includes a broad basic study of all types of accounting including, but not limited to stocks, bonds, income tax, and corporate accounting.

**Accounting IV**

**Grade 11-12**

**½ Unit**

**Dual Credit Available**

Dual enrollment accounting is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills to advance into the field of accounting and related areas. The course includes a broad basic study of all types of accounting including, but not limited to stocks, bonds, income tax, and corporate accounting.

**Keyboarding**

**Grade 9-12**

**½ Unit**

Keyboarding is a course designed to teach students to type according to the Touch Keyboarding Method. Students will type using a prescribed technique to optimize speed, accuracy, and to minimize effort and physical stress. Students will learn to keyboard on typewriters and computers, to care for machines, and to process documents correctly with minimal error.

**Business Tech I**

**Grade 10-12**

**½ Unit**

Business technology is a course based upon hands-on experience and production. Students will utilize several software programs to create, edit, and analyze information related to business and personal decision making. Basic knowledge gained from this course will be transferable to other software programs and useful in other areas of the students’ education.

**Business Tech II**

**Grade 10-12**

**½ Unit**

Business technology is a course based upon hands-on experience and production. Students will utilize several software programs to create, edit, and analyze information related to business and personal decision making. Basic knowledge gained from this course will be transferable to other software programs and useful in other areas of the students’ education.

**MicroApplications**

**1 Unit**

**Dual Credit Available**

This course is designed to introduce students to software in the Windows environment, using current word processing, graphics presentation, spreadsheet and database software programs.

**Multimedia**

**Grade 11-12**

**1 Unit**

This course addresses the technological skills required of students to create effective electronic presentations for the companies employing them. The demand for multimedia knowledge and ability to apply it will continue to expand as businesses utilize multimedia functions including graphics, audio, video, web page design, and electronic presentation skills.

Students will work with multimedia software to develop electronic presentations. They will learn how to manipulate text, art and graphics, photography, animation, audio, and video for presentations. The use of Dreamweaver MX, Flash MX, Publisher XP, Adobe Photoshop, and Paint Shop Pro will help students with their required presentations.

With 80% accuracy, students will be able to: create web pages using Dreamweaver and Flash, as well as implement audio and video within each design. Also, students will be able to create informational pieces with Publisher and Photoshop.

**FINE ARTS**

**Art**

**Music**

**Seventh Grade Art Exploration**

**Grade 7**

**¼ Unit**

Art at the junior high level provides the students with opportunities to experience the process of creating art. Learning the proper use of tools and materials will enable students to relate their ideas with the ideas of artists. The students will also learn about the significance of art in history and the cultural development of mankind. Relating creative solutions to visual problems will provide opportunities for individual expressions.

**Eighth Grade Art Exploration**

**Grade 8**

**¼ Unit**

Art at the junior high level provides the students with opportunities to experience the process of creating art. Learning the proper use of tools and materials will enable students to relate their ideas with the ideas of artists. The students will also learn about the significance of art in history and the cultural development of mankind. Relating creative solutions to visual problems will provide opportunities for individual expressions.

**Art Appreciation and History**

**Grade 9-12**

**1 Unit**

Students will learn about a variety of artists and their art, both two-dimensional and three-dimensional, and understand that people have visually recorded experiences and expressed ideas throughout time.  Students will gain knowledge of artists and art periods both past and present beginning with the Stone Age.  Text will be used as the foundation of study with visually enhanced art identification and oral and written assessments.  Production of student artwork will also enhance the course.

**Ceramics**

**Grade 9-12**

**½ Unit**

Students will develop and improve skills in hand building and wheel thrown ceramics.  The students will be able to identify and describe classic Greek forms and aesthetics through the development of their own individual style of pottery.  The students will develop visual awareness, aesthetic sensitivity, and the ability to make choices in everyday life that reflect knowledge in the arts.

**Design I**

**Grade 9-12**

**1 Unit**

This is an entry level art class that provides students with opportunities to experience the process of creating art in a variety of media with emphasis on art history.  The course concentrates on the chronological progression of techniques and the evolving styles of artistic expression.  Students develop projects in period and contemporary styles which allow them to apply the concepts they've learned to make personal choices for individual expression.  A strong basic vocabulary of techniques, terms, and materials is instilled upon which students may build further studies.

**Drawing and Painting**

**Grade 9-12**

**½ Unit**

The students will be required to make a series of drawings using various media and techniques.  They will be asked to evaluate the technical quality and creative expressiveness of their original work. Students will be required to analyze their own drawings and reproductions of other art and provide an analysis of how the form and content convey message(s), theme(s), or moods(s).

**Junior High Music**

**Grade 7 and 8**

**½ Unit**

The students will work both individually and as a group to develop their musical knowledge.  This will be done by singing basic vocal literature, reading musical notation, developing their musical vocabulary, sight singing, discussing a wide variety of music and above all working to develop a positive attitude toward music.  This is a performance-based class where most learned objectives are demonstrated through public performance.  Optional enrichment experiences are available to those students who wish to devote the extra time and training needed.  Extra training will be done under the direct supervision and instruction of the teacher.

**Band**

**Grade 7-12**

**1 Unit**

Students will further develop their knowledge of the benefits of playing a musical instrument both in a group setting and as an individual.  Their public performance experience will be continued and expanded upon.  The group will perform at numerous home athletic events in addition to at least two concerts.  The students enrolled in high school band will be encouraged to perform at district music contest in small ensembles, as a soloist, or both. Students learn marching fundamentals and participate in at least two marching events.

**High School Choir**

**Grade 9-12**

**1 Unit**

This is a performance-oriented class where all learned objectives are demonstrated through public performance. Concerts and public performances will be given throughout the school year as scheduled.  Optional enrichment experiences are available to those who wish to devote the extra time and training needed.  The course of study will include choral literature from a wide variety of historical periods and styles.  Reinforcement study will be given in the fundamentals of singing and music notation.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Seventh Grade Health**

**Grade 7**

**¼ Unit**

This course covers many different topics including understanding health and wellness, making healthy decisions and goal sitting, conflict resolution, and relationships they develop through the teen years. Students also learn more about body systems and human sexuality.

**Eighth Grade Health**

**Grade 8**

**¼ Unit**

This course covers many different topics including consumer health, nutrition, physical activity and fitness, and body image. Students also gain knowledge about how to make safe and drug-free decisions, communicable and non-communicable diseases, and safety and emergencies; which includes first aid and environmental health.

**Junior High Physical Education**

**Grade 7-8**

**1 Unit**

This year-long physical education course is for the student who is interested in the concepts of total physical fitness, lifetime sports, team sports, and wants to develop skills and techniques of a variety of sports and activities.  Students are provided a sampling of different physical activities that they may want to continue throughout their lives.  Students are also engaged in fitness activities and are monitored throughout the year on their progress through fitness testing.

**High School Health**

**Grade 9-12**

**½ Unit**

The goal of health education at the high school level is to help establish patterns of behavior that will assist a person in achieving complete health.  Complete health is accomplished by having a balance of physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being.  This course is designed to offer students the opportunity to acquire knowledge, incorporate process and life skills, and develop positive attitudes about life and their health. Development of a healthy body and a healthy mind will assist young people in living active, productive, and successful lives.

Topics covered in the high school health course include living a healthy life, building health skills and character, being a health-literate consumer, and physical active for life.  Students also learn more in-depth about nutrition, managing weight and body composition, achieving good mental health and stress management skills. Body systems are addressed and students learn about how to promote safe and healthy relationships as well as growth and development.  Students review the importance of abstinence from all harmful activities and review diseases and disorders.  Injury prevention, first aid, emergencies, and environmental health are also all covered during the course.

**High School Physical Education**

**Grade 9-12**

**1 Unit**

This year-long physical education course is for the student who is interested in the concepts of total physical fitness, lifetime sports, team sports, and wants to develop skills and techniques of a variety of sports and activities.  Students are provided a sampling of different physical activities that they may want to continue throughout their lives.  Students learn that physical activity can and should be fun, making it more likely that they will become and remain active throughout their lives.  During this course, students will learn fitness concepts and keys to adopting and maintaining healthy behaviors.  Students are also engaged in fitness activities and are monitored throughout the year on their progress through fitness testing.

**AGRICULTURE**

**Junior High Agriculture Exploratory**

**Grade 7 and 8**

**¼ Unit**

A general literacy course designed to introduce and apply life skills related to one of America’s basic industries – agriculture. Units of instruction will be selected from Introduction to Agriculture, Plant Science, Animals in Society, Products from Agriculture, Natural Resources and Conservation, Leadership and Personal Development, and Basic Home and Farmstead Safety and Maintenance.

**Agriculture Science I**

**Grade 9-12**

**1 Unit**

A course designed for instruction in animal science, agricultural mechanics, career exploration, leadership and personal development, and supervised agricultural experience, Units may include agribusiness, natural resources, and food science.

**Agriculture Science II  
Grades 10-12**

**1 Unit**

**Agriculture Construction**

**Grade 10-12**

**½ Units**

This course teaches students the safe, proper procedures to utilize welding and wood work. The end result of the class will be either a major welding or wood work project made in the proper way regarding safety and accuracy.

**Landscaping**

**Grade 10-12**

**½ Unit**

This course teaches students the basic techniques of landscape design, landscape construction, installation, and maintenance. The students will be required to keep up the landscape of the school, including grass and floral aspects.

**Animal Science**

**Grade 10-12**

**1 Unit**

Advanced study in animal production, management, marketing, nutrition, breeding, production records, selection, animal health, waste management, and biotechnology may be included in this course.

**Agricultural Communications and Leadership**

**Grade 10-12**

**½ Unit**

This course will give students the opportunity to learn and demonstrate proper leadership abilities. Students will focus on public speaking, extemporaneous speaking, speech writing, impromptu speaking, first impressions, mock interviews, team work and personal goals. This class is meant to prepare students for receiving the career they want by taking small steps to achieve goals.

**Crop Science**

**Graded 11-12**

**Floriculture**

**Grades 11-12**

**Turf Management**

**Grade 12**

**Conservation Natural Resources**

**Grades 10-12**

**Forestry Management**

**Grade 10-12**

**Food Science & Technology**

**Grades 11-12**

**Agriculture Structures**

**Grades 10-12**

**Agriculture Power**

**Grades 11-12**

**Agriculture Mechanics**

**Grades 11-12**

**OTHER**

**Seventh Grade Study Skills**

**Grade 7**

**1 Unit**

Students will have the opportunity to fine tune many basic skills needed to achieve academically. Units will include idea time management, test taking , note taking, organization, research and writing skills. During the year students will also be completing a basic keyboarding curriculum.

**Eighth Grade Study Skills**

**Grade 8**

**1 Unit**

Students will have the opportunity to fine tune basic skills needed to achieve academically. Students will complete a keyboarding curriculum, as well as fundamentals of Word and Excel.  They will also complete units on goal setting, critical thinking, memory, reading for meaning, research, and resource citation.

**Junior High Life Skills**

**Grade 7 & 8**

**¼ Unit**

This is a one quarter only class for 7th and 8th grade. Students will be scheduled for 1 quarter each year. We will be focusing on different areas of life skills based on the current needs of the groups. Areas of focus might be chosen from a variety of skills including Geography, Math, Desktop publishing, or others.

**Junior High Career**

**Grade 7 & 8**

**½ Unit**

This is a class designed to help students learn their interests, learning style, and look at a variety of career options. The course will also focus on learning to build a resume, fill out an application and have multiple practice interviews. The students will come out of this class with a better understanding of who they are and how to present themselves in business situations.

Contemporary Issues

**Junior High Research**

**Grade 7 & 8**

**½ Unit**

Projects completed in this course will help develop research skills. Using a variety of resource formats students will follow an inquiry process, make decisions on information needed, evaluate information found, and then use the information effectively and creatively.

**Yearbook**

**Grades 9-12**

**1 Unit**

Yearbook is a high school-level course designed to produce the school's annual yearbook.  Various aspects of publishing, including article writing and photography, are covered in this class.   Some marketing items are also covered in this class including selling of advertisements, selling of yearbooks, and accounting for funds from items sold.  This course can help prepare students for careers in publishing, photography, and marketing.

**Personal Finance**

**Grade 10-12**

**½ Unit**

This course is a state required course for high school graduation. The class will cover topics to include income, money management, spending and credit, and savings and investment. Other themes include, banking, career research and development, consumer rights and responsibilities.

**Work Study**

**Grade 12**

**4 Units**

Work Study is a career and technical education program based on the cooperative education method of instruction. Academic study is combined with supervised employment in a career area of interest. A formalized agreement between all cooperating parties specifies the role each is to play as part of the program. Credit is awarded for the classroom instruction and for on-the-job experience in compliance with established policies.