

Monroe Junior High School

Course Descriptions

SIGNING UP FOR CLASSES

1. Review the **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS** with an adult at home.
2. Take your **COURSE SELECTION SHEET** to any core teacher for a discussion for any honors course you wish to take.
3. Review your **COURSE SELECTION SHEET** at home and have your legal guardian sign it.
4. Turn in your course selection sheet to your **(Language Arts 6 by 5/10) (Social Studies 7 by 5/6)** teacher.
5. Electronically enter your course selection in **(Language Arts 6 on 5/14) (Social Studies 7 on 5/8)** class.

Required Courses

❖ *7th Grade*

➤ All 7th graders must take the following courses:

■ **Google Basics**

In this course, students will participate in a blended-learning classroom in order to gain experience with the many free, Google-based tools that can be used on any device, anytime and anywhere there is internet access. Through subject-integrated projects, students will learn how to create Google docs, sheets, slides, forms and more, and use their features with efficiency. Students will end the quarter with a culminating project using Google Sites.

■ **Health**

In this course, students will explore various health topics over the course of the quarter. Topics include social, mental, emotional and physical health, health practices and wellness, drug prevention, body systems and development, prevention and control of diseases, nutrition and fitness. Students will focus on the continued skill development of their attitudes and behaviors and have opportunities for analyzing, modeling, and applying skills that will assist in becoming health literate. Students will have instructional opportunities to investigate how health behaviors impact health,

well-being, and disease prevention and to accept personal responsibility for health-related decisions.

➤ **Social Studies**

■ **Social Studies 7**

The overall goal of this course is to help students answer the following essential questions: 1. What does it mean to be civilized? 2. Can abuse of power be avoided? 3. How do maps and globes reflect history, politics, and economics? 4. Has trade been good for society? 5. What is the most significant impact of ancient culture on the modern world? We will answer these questions through our study of Ancient World History through the Age of Exploration.

➤ **Math**

■ **Math 7**

7th grade Math is a transition year for the students. The 5 Common Core areas, Ratios and Proportional Reasoning, The Number System, Expressions/Equations, Geometry, and Statistics/Probability are the focus. The students will transition from an arithmetic model to more abstract mathematics. The students will be expected to keep an organized notebook and should plan on having 25-30 minutes of homework/day.

■ **Honors Math 7**

Students will complete independent and group projects; 2 per quarter, and give an explanation of the project through presentations of their choice. Learning is discovery based. There will be online homework and quizzes with 30-60 minutes of homework each night. Students must be able to create their own notes and comprehend the textbook information. Students must maintain at least a B in the course. ***Placement in this course will be based on grades, teacher recommendation, and qualifying standardized test scores.***

➤ **Language Arts**

■ **Language Arts 7**

We read various forms of literature, including novels, non-fiction articles, informative passages, short stories, and poems. Additionally, students will learn about and complete numerous writing assignments; paragraphs, essays, poems, and creative

projects will be required this year. Assignments and projects will be created by combining areas of study, literary terms, technology, research, and writing skills and strategies. Independent reading will be expected continuously, with pertinent writing assignments being given on a regular basis.

- **Honors Language Arts 7**

Students must have the ability to completely and independently read a book at their personal independent reading level within 3 weeks. Students must have a willingness to spend 2-4 hours per week (or more) on homework outside of class as needed and to access technology outside of school as needed - this can include making arrangements to stay after school to use technology as needed. Students must be able to self-monitor progress and/or willingness to use self-monitoring supports as teacher sees fit. Students must have a willingness to contribute to group/partner projects in an equitable manner. A quarterly average grade below a C during may result in student being removed from the Advanced Language Arts class. ****Placement in this course will be based on grades, teacher recommendation, and qualifying standardized test scores.***

- **Science**

- **Science 7**

Students will learn general science in both Physical and Life science categories. They will learn about topics including weather, ecosystems, space, energy and the periodic table. Students will be expected to read text in and out of class, write and execute labs as well as complete homework outside of class. Homework will be 1-2 assignments per week.

- ❖ **8th Grade**

- **Social Studies**

- **Social Studies 8**

The overall goal of this course is to study early American History from the explorers of the late 1400's to the late 1800's and the Civil War. While studying these we focus on the following questions: 1) Can government enforce freedom and liberty? 2) Which has a

greater impact on history: individual political choices or individual economic choices? 3) What makes a government effective? 4) In what way did westward expansion most effect American history? 5) Which causes more conflict: ideologies or technologies?

➤ **Math**

■ **Math 8**

Math 8 focuses on pre-algebra topics. The 5 Common Core areas, The Number System, Expressions and Equations, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability are the focus. The student will be expected to keep an organized notebook and should plan on having 25-30 minutes of homework/day.

■ **Honors Math 8**

This course will cover the same content as Math 8. Students will complete guided notes completed on their own and participate in group work. There will be online homework/quizzes and 30-60 minutes of homework each night. Students must be able to comprehend the textbook in order to fill out guided notes. Students must maintain at least a C average in the course. ****Placement in this course will be based on grades, attendance, teacher recommendation, and qualifying AIR test scores.***

■ **Accelerated Algebra I**

The skills developed in this class are needed for physics, chemistry, and geometry. It is the first step in mathematics beyond arithmetic and furnishes the language and mechanics for all higher mathematics. This course covers basic topics including linear equations and systems of equations, integer exponents, polynomial products, factoring quadratic equations, together with the analysis and solution of word problems. Students will complete independent and group projects; 2 per quarter, and give an explanation of the project through presentations of their choice. Learning is discovery based. There will be online homework and quizzes with 30-60 minutes of homework each night. Students must be able to create their own notes and comprehend the textbook information. Students must maintain at least a B in the course. **This course is for 1 high school credit. **Placement in this course will be based on grades, teacher recommendation, and qualifying AIR and IOWA Algebra readiness test scores.***

➤ **Language Arts**

- **Language Arts 8**

We read various forms of literature, including novels, non-fiction articles, informative passages, short stories, and poems. Additionally, students will complete numerous writing assignments; paragraphs, essays, and creative projects will be required. Assignments and projects will be created using the Common Core curriculum and Text Exemplars as a guide. Independent reading will be expected, with pertinent writing assignments being given on a regular basis.

- **Honors Language Arts 8**

Students must have the ability to completely and independently read a book at their personal independent reading level within 3 weeks. Students must have a willingness to spend 2-4 hours per week (or more) on homework outside of class as needed and to access technology outside of school as needed - this can include making arrangements to stay after school to use technology as needed. Students must be able to self-monitor progress and/or willingness to use self-monitoring supports as teacher sees fit. Students must have a willingness to contribute to group/partner projects in an equitable manner. A quarterly average grade below a C during may result in student being removed from the Advanced Language Arts class. ****Placement in this course will be based on grades, teacher recommendation, and qualifying standardized test scores.***

➤ **Science**

- **Science 8**

Students will learn general science standards including Earth Science, Physical Science and Life science categories. Earth Science topics focus on composition of the Earth, plate tectonics, constructive and destructive processes and geologic time. Physical Science topics focus on motion and types of potential energy. Life science focuses on reproduction and genetics. Students will be expected to read text in and out of class, write and execute labs as well as complete homework outside of class. Homework will be 1-2 assignments per week.

Elective Courses

➤ **Band 7**

Students in 7th Grade Band will continue to learn the basic fundamentals of their instrument and musical notation. Students will become more independent with their playing abilities and will develop more refined techniques as they are presented with more challenging material.

➤ **Band 8**

Students in 8th Grade Band will be introduced to more advanced musical techniques on their instrument and a wide variety of musical notation. Students will be introduced to more refined pieces of music, in addition to a wide range of musical genres and styles.

➤ **Piano (8th)**

This course is for beginners (those who have never played piano before). Students will work as a class for the first nine weeks. Then students will begin to work independently and progressing at their own pace.

➤ **Men's Choir (7th Grade males or 1st year choir members)**

This course is designed to enhance the musical, creative and expressive qualities of all students. Musical opportunities are provided for every male to learn the basic skills of singing, playing and reading music, developing the male voice, exposure to a variety of song repertoire, broadening listening skills and experiencing the interrelated nature of music with other cultures and content areas. Performs 3 concerts a year. Music ranges everywhere from classical to pop. Open to all 7th grade males or 8th graders that did not participate in 7th grade choir.

➤ **Women's Choir (7th grade females or 1st year choir members)**

This course is designed to enhance the musical, creative and expressive qualities of all students. Musical opportunities are provided for every female to learn the basic skills of singing, playing and reading music, developing the female voice, exposure to a variety of song repertoire, broadening listening skills and experiencing the interrelated nature of music with other cultures and content areas. Performs 3 concerts a year. Music ranges everywhere from classical to pop. Open to all 7th grade females or 8th graders that did not participate in 7th grade choir.

➤ **Mixed Choir (8th)**

■ **Prerequisite: Men's Choir or Women's Choir**

This class is designed for students to apply musical skills as they continue to create and experience music as a musical ensemble. Students will continue developing mastery of solfege, major and minor scales, and 4 part harmonies. Students will convey musical interpretation with the use of dynamics and phrasing, while incorporating facial expression and movement for refined presentation. Performs 3 concerts a year. Music ranges everywhere from classical to pop. **This group is audition only.**

➤ **Spanish I (8th)**

The emphasis is on Spanish as a spoken language. The students develop skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing Spanish. The student is also given an opportunity to acquire some knowledge and understanding of the cultures and civilizations of the Spanish-speaking world. **This course is for 1 high school credit. **Placement in this course will be based on student interest, grades, and teacher recommendation.***

➤ **Art 8**

In 8th grade Art we will focus on strengthening their knowledge of art basics and developing their own personal style by learning about famous artists and techniques. The students will be expected to use higher level thinking skills when creating projects and they will need to ensure that they are using their best effort when completing assigned projects. They will learn to look at art and discuss art using correct vocabulary. We will create 2D and 3D projects as we work through this semester course.

➤ **Physical Education (7th, 8th)**

In this course, students will develop an understanding on the impact an active lifestyle can have on lifetime health and wellness. Students will be exposed to individual, team and lifetime activities that can be achieved through physical activity. They will develop basic skills, game strategies and greater understanding of health concepts through active hands on learning.

❖ **Zulama**

➤ **Evolution of Games (7th, 8th)**

Today's professional game designers re-use dynamics from many different types of games in their blockbuster hits. This course gives you

the chance to explore ancient cultures, their games, and find out how they designed games using available technology and resources. You will prototype and play games as well as get hands-on experience creating your own original game.

➤ **Mobile Game Design I (8th)**

It seems as if everyone has an idea for an “app” these days! In this course, you will use professional game design techniques to create playable mobile games that you can add to your game design portfolio. Using GameSalad, you will learn the fundamentals of game balance, apply competition and playfulness, demonstrate a working knowledge of triangularity, and debug using iterative game design.

➤ **Mobile Game Design II (8th)**

■ **Prerequisite: Mobile Game Design I**

This course develops computer science skills in students by allowing them to rapidly and easily build mobile games, even without knowing how to code. Additionally, this course will continue to build upon the programming concepts, game design, and digital media creation begun in Mobile Game Design. Each game will follow a specific genre, and focus on building real-world computer skills. This differs from Mobile Game Design I, where students are given pre-made templates and learn Game Sala basics by “modding” specific elements of that game.

❖ **Project Lead The Way**

➤ **Design & Modeling (7th, 8th)**

Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They work in teams to design a playground and furniture, capturing research and ideas in their engineering notebooks. Using Autodesk® design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions.

➤ **Automation & Robotics (7th, 8th)**

Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

★ **Note about courses offered for High School credit:**

- Two courses offer high school credit: Accelerated Algebra I and Spanish I
- Your high school transcript will show that you received 1 credit for each of these courses.
- Your high school transcript will show your end of year grade for these courses. However, your grade will not be calculated in your high school GPA.