



# Chippewa Valley Schools

## Middle School Course Offerings

### SIXTH GRADE

#### Core Classes

Core classes are those in which all students will be enrolled.

#### **ELA**

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

#### **Math**

Mathematics instruction and learning in sixth grade develops students' abilities through age-appropriate problems and investigations related to everyday life. Students focus on the areas specified by the Michigan State Standards for Mathematics as most important for this sixth grade: using ratio and reasoning to solve problems, applying and extending previous understandings of operations to rational numbers, using variable expressions, equations and inequalities to represent quantitative relationships and using various models to solve one-variable equations and inequalities.

#### **Science**

In sixth grade, students will investigate three concepts (phenomena) that occur every day in the real world. In order to learn about these phenomena, they will use the practices that are used in the field by scientists and engineers. Throughout each unit of study, students will also continue to develop their understanding of certain crosscutting concepts that are integral to all science fields.

#### **Social Studies**

The sixth grade social studies curriculum uses a thematic approach to introduce students to world geography and global issues. Students explore the five themes of geography, fundamentals of economics, core democratic values and the purpose of government, factors affecting both population movement and growth, culture, and the ways in which humans interact with the environment.

#### Elective Classes

Elective classes are those in which students may choose to enroll.

#### **Band 6 (Year-long)**

The beginning band class offers instruction on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments with a focus on the performance skills necessary for long-term student success. Instruments (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone and percussion kits) are typically provided by families. Sixth-grade band performs a minimum of two concerts per year. Instruction includes:

- Proper posture and playing position
- Development of characteristic tone quality
- Basic training in music literacy

### **Choir 6** (Year-long)

Students will learn to sing a variety of vocal music styles using proper vocal technique in the context of performance preparation. Essential skills of musicianship will also be explored and practiced including rhythm study, ear training and sight singing. Concerts showcase the talents and efforts of the students.

### **Exploratory Classes**

Exploratory classes are designed to provide students with a range of experiences. Students do not choose which classes they will have, but the school attempts to provide a diverse set of opportunities for each child.

### **Art 6** (Quarter-long)

Sixth grade Art class helps students develop proper use of various art materials as well as how to use tools safely and responsibly. Students will also identify, design, and solve creative problems at a developing level. This class also connects the artwork to art history to help students develop an understanding of historical, social, and cultural contexts of artwork. Students will analyze their own work as well as the work of others through reflection and critiques. Vocabulary is presented with each unit to support cross-curricular learning.

### **Exploring Spanish** (Quarter-long)

Exploratory Spanish provides sixth-grade students with an introduction to the communicative and cultural components of Spanish and the Spanish-speaking world. Students will explore cultural differences, investigate idioms, and compare the Spanish language and culture to their own. This course provides students with exposure to the Spanish language and culture in order to determine which language students may want to pursue in high school.

### **Fantasy** (Quarter-long)

The Fantasy class explores classic, fantasy literature. Through reading, creating, writing, and discussion, students will develop an understanding and appreciation for the fantasy genre. "Fantasy is a work of fiction that contains at least one extraordinary or unreal element. Fairy tales, fables, and science fiction are examples of fantasy." (The Language of Literature; Mcdougal, Littell)

### **\*Forensic Science\*** (Quarter-long)

Forensic Science is a course rich in exploration and lab investigations which applies many disciplines of scientific study such as biology, anatomy, and chemistry to solve crimes. Some topics studied include, fingerprinting, chromatography, hair and fiber analysis, arson investigation, handwriting analysis, blood spatter, and impression evidence investigations.

### **Physical Education 6** (Quarter-long)

The purpose of Physical Education is to expose students to a variety of team sports, individual sports, and the benefits of physical fitness. Students will be given an opportunity to participate in skill development, lead up

games, and team competition. The overall objective is to teach students how to be cooperative learners, utilize problem solving strategies and set personal goals.

### **Poetry** (Quarter-long)

This course is designed to help students experience poetry beyond the basics and will explore, analyze, and interpret various poems from some of the most well-known poets. We will explore symbolism and figurative language to unlock the mysterious meaning(s) behind these sample pieces. In addition, we will write several original poems. Since the message of a poem can be most powerful when read aloud, students will also experiment with the oral reading of poetry.

### **Robotics** (Quarter-long)

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to programming through the use of Lego robotics. Students will learn how to create programs to complete robotic behavior problems/challenges. Lego Mindstorms NXT Education enables students to build and program real-life robotic solutions. Our goal is to provide cross-curricular opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math, to allow for creativity in design.

### **Speech** (Quarter-long)

Speech class will introduce students to the elements of speech and principles of effective public speaking. Students will be asked to prepare and perform numerous public speeches throughout the quarter.

### **Science Exploration** (Quarter-long)

In the Science Exploration class, students will explore a variety of science topics including measurement, engineering, and the environment through informational text, mini-lessons, educational videos, hands-on activities, collaborative work, and inquiry labs. Additionally, students will be actively reading an informational text of their choice.

### **Success 101** (Quarter-long)

Success 101 is designed to teach students strategies, expected behaviors and practices that will assist in fostering independence and providing a successful middle school experience. Success 101 is divided into three units – Success in School, Success with Others, and Success within Me.

### **Tech Ed 6** (Quarter-long)

Technology education at the middle school level will provide students with the opportunity to explore the latest in communication, transportation, and manufacturing/construction technology. This will include 10-day modular activities in these basic areas of technology. Students will also become familiar with tools and machines through various activities constructing real products to solve practical problems in the processing lab.

## **Selective Classes**

Selective classes are designed to provide each child with the support he or she requires for success. Students are scheduled into these classes based upon need.

### **English Success/English Immersion**

The EL program supports students' acquisition of the English language for both academic and social purposes. Instruction focuses on the skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening across core academic content

areas. Students placed in this program meet one of the following criteria: was born outside of the United States, whose native language is a language other than English, whose home environment uses a language other than English, or who have not reached proficiency on the WIDA assessment as defined by the State of Michigan. The goal of the program is for students to be proficient in all aspects of the English language.

### **ELA Block**

READ 180 is an intensive, research-based reading intervention program for students. This program includes individual instructional software, differentiated small-group instruction, and modeled and independent reading.

### **Math Success**

MATH 180 is a math intervention program for grades 6+. It is designed to address the needs of struggling students. The program combines classroom support and adaptive software, which provides students with personalized instruction and practice. By allowing students to learn, practice and review at their own pace, each student receives instruction which reflects their strengths and weaknesses.

### **\*Reading Rewards\***

Reading Rewards is a class designed to help foster reading skills and give students the confidence they need to become better readers and increase success in their regular ELA class, Science and Social Studies. The class will include the following: reading strategies practice, StudySync & IXL skills and practice, guided reading, spelling, keyboarding, writing and success skills support such as organization, time management and studying methods.

## **SEVENTH GRADE**

### **Core Classes**

Core classes are those in which all students will be enrolled.

### **ELA**

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

### **Math**

Mathematics instruction and learning in seventh grade develops students' abilities through age-appropriate problems and investigations related to everyday life. Students focus on the areas specified by the Michigan State Standards for Mathematics as most important for seventh grade: analyzing proportional relationships and using them to solve mathematical problems, modeling and solving real-world problems using equations and inequalities, understanding and using properties of geometric figures and analyzing data using probability models and concepts

### **Science**

In seventh grade, students will investigate three concepts (phenomena) that occur every day in the real world. In order to learn about these phenomena, they will use the practices that are used in the field by scientists and engineers. Throughout each unit of study, students will also continue to develop their understanding of certain crosscutting concepts that are integral to all science fields.

The Real-World Phenomena (Content) includes: Why do some things stop while others keep going? What makes the weather change? What is going on inside of me?

### **Social Studies**

The seventh grade social studies curriculum focuses on early world history and geography from early man through 1500 AD/CE. Students begin their exploration into world history with a focus on historical thinking. They explore major themes and significant changes in each era through a chronological organization. During this year of study, students will visit the Detroit Institute of Arts, to see up close, the treasures of many of the ancient places. The trip includes a guided tour focused on the ancient river valley civilizations and a self-guided piece where students can connect to an early artifact or culture of choice.

### **Elective Classes**

Elective classes are those in which students may choose to enroll.

#### **Band 7 (Year-long)**

The intermediate band class is for students who have a foundation of basic music literacy, instrument assembly and maintenance, proper playing position, and sound production. Instruction continues to focus on the refinement of tone quality, technique, aural skills, and music literacy. Students may have the opportunity to transition to instruments that were not offered in sixth grade. These instruments include oboe, bassoon, French horn, euphonium, and tuba. Seventh-grade students will participate in a minimum of 3 performances. Skill development includes:

- Concert F, Bb, Eb & Ab major scales
- Basic chromatic scale
- Understanding of whole, half, quarter, eighth and dotted half rhythms
- Understanding of 4/4, 2/4, 3/4, and 2/2 time signatures
- Sight-reading

#### **Choir 7 (Year-long)**

Students will learn to sing a variety of vocal music styles using proper vocal technique in the context of performance preparation. Essential skills of musicianship will also be explored and practiced including rhythm study, ear training, and sight singing. Concerts showcase the talents and efforts of the students.

### **Exploratory Classes**

Exploratory classes are designed to provide students with a range of experiences. Students do not choose which classes they will have, but the school attempts to provide a diverse set of opportunities for each child.

#### **Autobiography/Biography (Quarter-long)**

In this literacy enhancement class, we will be taking an in-depth look at the autobiography/biography genre of literature. We will do this through using various methods and resources including short stories and interactive activities that help students further understand others and themselves.

**Art 7 (Quarter-long)**

Seventh grade Art students will understand varying qualities of various materials, techniques and processes at an emerging level. Students will initiate new ideas by utilizing inventiveness and innovation with increasing independence. Students will have the opportunity to explore creative problem solving through various stages of planning and designing of an artwork. By being introduced to artistic masters and their artwork, students will also be asked to interpret as well as analyze artworks, including their own and those created by their peers.

**Drama (Quarter-long)**

The Drama class will provide students with an introduction to the essential elements of drama while giving students an opportunity to sharpen some of the essential skills needed to be a good actor and communicator.

**Exploring French (Quarter-long)**

Exploratory French provides 7<sup>th</sup> grade students with an introduction to the communicative and cultural components of French culture and the countries with French as their native language. Students will explore cultural differences, investigate idioms, and compare the French language and culture to their own. This course provides students with exposure to the French language and culture to determine which language students may want to pursue in high school.

**Health (Quarter-long)**

Topics discussed in Health class include: social and emotional health, nutrition and physical activity, safety, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, personal health and wellness, and reproductive health education. In covering these topics, the goal is to provide students with the skills necessary to make smart and healthy decisions on their own. Students will have the chance to take part in lessons designed to develop life-long health habits.

**\*Making Meaning\* (Quarter-long)**

Being a young adult in today's society is TOUGH. Every day, it seems, young adults are faced with difficult choices and decisions which can have lasting consequences. It can be difficult to navigate the (often) choppy waters of adulthood if you aren't equipped with the skills and values to make positive decisions for yourself. The Making Meaning class will develop your character and socio-emotional skills, both of which are critical for success in school and in life. Topics may include honesty, self-respect, empathy, tolerance, self-esteem, leadership, values, compassion, resilience, and respect.

**Media Explorer (Quarter-long)**

Students will explore the various types of media past and present. Students will have the opportunity to create various examples of media. Students will also explore how the presence of media affects their daily lives.

**Mysteries (Quarter-long)**

Through reading, creating, writing, and discussion, students will develop an understanding and appreciation for the genre of mysteries.

**Myths and Legends (Quarter-long)**

In the Myths/Legends class, students will explore myths and legends with a focus on story elements and reading strategies. The course encompasses literacy skills of reading, speaking, and listening. The mythology portion of the class will focus predominately on ancient Greek culture and tales.

### **Physical Education** (Quarter-long)

The purpose of Physical Education is to expose students to a variety of team sports, individual sports, and the benefits of physical fitness. Students will be given an opportunity to participate in skill development, lead up games, and team competition. The overall objective is to teach students how to be cooperative learners, utilize problem solving strategies and set personal goals.

### **Science Exploration** (Quarter-long)

In the Science Exploration class, students will explore a variety of science topics including measurement, engineering, and the environment through informational text, mini-lessons, educational videos, hands-on activities, collaborative work, and inquiry labs.

### **Tech Ed 7** (Quarter-long)

Technology education at the middle school level will provide students with the opportunity to explore the latest in communication, transportation, and manufacturing/construction technology. This will include 10-day modular activities in these basic areas of technology. Students will also become familiar with tools and machines through various activities constructing real products to solve practical problems in the processing lab.

### **Selective Classes**

Selective classes are designed to provide each child with the support he or she requires for success. Students are scheduled into these classes based upon need.

### **English Success/English Immersion**

The EL program supports students' acquisition of the English language for both academic and social purposes. Instruction focuses on the skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening across core academic content areas. Students placed in this program meet one of the following criteria: was born outside of the United States, whose native language is a language other than English, whose home environment uses a language other than English, or who have not reached proficiency on the WIDA assessment as defined by the State of Michigan. The goal of the program is for students to be proficient in all aspects of the English language.

### **ELA Block**

READ 180 is an intensive, research-based reading intervention program for students. This program includes individual instructional software, differentiated small-group instruction, and modeled and independent reading.

### **Math Success**

MATH 180 is a math intervention program for grades 6+. It is designed to address the needs of struggling students. The

program combines classroom support and adaptive software, which provides students with personalized instruction and practice. By allowing students to learn, practice and review at their own pace, each student receives instruction which reflects their strengths and weaknesses.

### **\*Reading Rewards\***

Reading Rewards is a class designed to help foster reading skills and give students the confidence they need to become better readers and more successful in their regular ELA class, Science and Social Studies. The class will include the following: reading strategies practice, StudySync & IXL skills and practice, guided reading, spelling, keyboarding, writing and success skills support such as organization, time management and studying methods.

## **EIGHTH GRADE**

### **Core Classes**

Core classes are those in which all students will be enrolled.

### **ELA**

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

### **Math**

Mathematics instruction and learning in eighth grade develops students' abilities through age-appropriate problems and investigations related to everyday life. Students focus on the areas specified by the Michigan State Standards for Mathematics as most important for eighth grade: understanding models of and comparing linear and exponential relationships, analyzing systems of linear relationships, understanding and applying the relationships used within the Pythagorean Theorem, and using transformations to justify congruence and similarity of two-dimensional figures

### **Science**

In eighth grade, students will investigate three concepts (phenomena) that occur everyday in the real world. In order to learn about these phenomena, they will use the practices that are used in the field by scientists and engineers. Throughout each unit of study, students will also continue to develop their understanding of certain crosscutting concepts that are integral to all science fields.

The Real-World Phenomena (Content) includes: How is the Earth changing? Why do organisms look the way they do? How will it move?

### **Social Studies**

This course introduces students to the history of the United States from the colonies under British rule through Reconstruction. Students review the ideas and principles that form the basis of our constitutional republic, study the United States Constitution, explore the challenges faced by the new nation, analyze the

nature and effect of territorial, demographic, and economic growth in the 19th century, and study the Civil War and Reconstruction.

### **Elective Classes**

Elective classes are those in which students may choose to enroll.

#### **Band 8 (Year-long)**

The advanced band class is for students who want to expand their performance skills on their chosen instrument. Instruction continues to focus on the refinement of tone quality, technique, aural skills, and music literacy. Eighth grade students will participate in a minimum of 3 performances. Skill development will focus on:

- Concert C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db Major Scales (2 octaves where appropriate)
- Introduction of minor scales
- Full-range chromatic scale
- Understanding of whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth and dotted rhythms
- Understanding of simple and compound time signatures
- Sight-reading
- Private lessons are encouraged, but not required.

#### **Choir 8 (Year-long)**

Students will learn to sing a variety of vocal music styles using proper vocal technique in the context of performance preparation. Essential skills of musicianship will also be explored and practiced including rhythm study, ear training, and sight singing. Concerts showcase the talents and efforts of the students.

### **Exploratory Classes**

Exploratory classes are designed to provide students with a range of experiences. Students do not choose which classes they will have, but the school attempts to provide a diverse set of opportunities for each child.

#### **Art 8 (Quarter-long)**

Eighth grade Art students will develop and apply critical thinking strategies through the art-making process. Students will use reflective thinking skills for the purpose of improving technical quality. Through the use of various methods and materials students will apply preliminaries, possibilities and drafts in the creative solving process. They will produce a final product that demonstrates, quality, craftsmanship and technique appropriate to each individual's abilities. Written and oral critiques will enhance the student's ability to observe, describe, and analyze visual characteristics within works of art, including their own.

#### **Careers (Quarter-long)**

Students will explore various careers through individual surveys and research and develop their Educational Development Plans (EDPs).

### **CULTURAL LITERACY** (Quarter-long)

In Cultural Lit, students explore the importance of diversity in our society, as well as how cultures are connected politically and socially. The course integrates cultural texts and global current events in order to

understand how cultural background and stereotypes impact society.

### **Drama** (Quarter-long)

The Drama class will provide students with an introduction to the essential elements of drama while giving students an opportunity to sharpen some of the essential skills needed to be a good actor and communicator.

### **Exploring German** (Quarter-long)

Exploratory German provides 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with an introduction to the communicative and cultural components of German culture and the countries with German as their native language. Students will explore cultural differences, investigate idioms, and compare the German language and culture to their own. This course provides students with exposure to the German language and culture to determine which language students may want to pursue in high school.

### **Information Literacy** (Quarter-long)

Students will be exposed to the features and structures of informational text. Students will be exposed to a variety of activities so that they can better understand the genre. This class consists of lectures, class discussions, and practical exercises on how to effectively locate and use information. Students will conduct Internet research and use computer technologies.

### **\*Leadership\*** (Quarter-long)

The purpose of this class is to share essential life skills that will prepare all students to be successful leaders. Within 10 weeks, students will explore the qualities of influential leaders as they build their own character. Students will set worthy goals and create a game plan to achieve them, while considering possible challenges along the way. Students will engage in inspiring stories and relate them to their own lives. Finally, students will culminate with a project that displays our newfound understandings of what it takes to be a positive leader.

### **Personal Finance** (Quarter-long)

The primary objective in Personal Finance is to provide students with basic financial tools and knowledge that will enable them to plan for their future. This course will cover financial responsibilities, budgets, income and careers, spending, credit, saving and investing. The main focus is to understand how to plan for the future by planning for today.

### **Physical Education** (Quarter-long)

The purpose of Physical Education is to expose students to a variety of team sports, individual sports and the benefits of physical fitness. Students will be given an opportunity to participate in skill development, lead up games, and team competition. The overall objective is to teach students how to be cooperative learners, utilize problem solving strategies and set personal goals.

### **Realistic Fiction** (Quarter-long)

In this Literacy Enhancement class, we will focus on the Realistic Fiction genre. The stories we read will not be true, but the characters, setting, plot, etc. are realistic enough that they could happen. This course is made-up of a variety of activities including reviewing story elements through children's literature and reading short stories. The bulk of the class will be spent reading and analyzing realistic fiction in literature circles.

### **Science Exploration** (Quarter-long)

In the Science Exploration class, students will explore a variety of science topics including measurement, engineering, and the environment through informational text, mini-lessons, educational videos, hands-on activities, collaborative work, and inquiry labs.

### **Science Fiction (Quarter-long)**

Science Fiction focuses on the genre of Science Fiction literature. Stories explored may include, Zathura, Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, War of the Worlds, and Flowers for Algernon. Class time each day will include time given for students to silently read a novel of their choice. The rest of class time will be spent doing a whole-class story/book study.

### **Tech Ed 8 (Quarter-long)**

Technology education at the middle school level will provide students with the opportunity to explore the latest in communication, transportation, and manufacturing/construction technology. This will include 10-day modular activities in these basic areas of technology. Students will also become familiar with tools and machines through various activities constructing real products to solve practical problems in the processing lab.

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