

EMERSON

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Livonia Public Schools

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GRADE 8
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
2015-2016

REQUIRED 8TH GRADE CORE ACADEMIC CLASSES – 40 WEEKS/2 SEMESTERS EACH

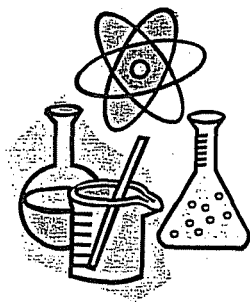
LANGUAGE ARTS: The eighth grade English Language Arts curriculum builds from the continuum of literacy skills established in the seventh grade, with an increased emphasis on higher level thinking skills. As in grade seven, students are engaged regularly with multiple types of authentic reading and writing processes. Units of study continue to follow a carefully sequenced set of building blocks that students mastered in seventh grade en route to mastering the curriculum aim in grade eight in both reading and writing. The units offer students an authentic and predictable structure that helps them live more authentically as readers and writers and provides them with an intentional way to continue teaching themselves after the unit is over. A variety of texts will be read and discussed in a reader's workshop approach, wherein teachers immerse students in close reading and talking about texts, thus helping students to analyze how these texts are written. A writer's workshop approach to teaching writing helps support students' development as writers. This approach provides students with continuous evaluation of their work and the work of other writers. *

INTRO TO ALGEBRA: Our curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. The Common Core places equal emphasis on Mathematical Content and Mathematical Practices. The Mathematical Practices describe various skills mathematically proficient students should exhibit, such as problem solving, reasoning, communication, procedural fluency, and conceptual understanding, to name a few. The eighth grade content standards focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. *

EARTH SCIENCE: This course is an examination of the major components of the Earth system. It will focus on the solid Earth (advanced rock cycle, interior of the Earth, Plate Tectonics Theory, earthquakes and volcanoes), and the fluid Earth (hydrology, oceans, climate and severe weather) as well as the position of the Earth in the universe (Earth in space and time, the sun, stellar evolution, Earth history and geologic time, and climate change). Students will be asked to make observations and ask questions about the natural world; develop and use models; plan and carry out investigations; collect, analyze and interpret data; construct explanations and opinions based on evidence, and evaluate the claims of others; and communicate their ideas both orally and in writing.

U.S. HISTORY: The 8th grade American History course focuses on the time period from 1763 to 1880. Emphasis will be placed on political themes, major events and people who have contributed to shaping our nation into the country it is today. Students are required to use a variety of resources and means to acquire, process, and communicate information. This will include the analysis and application of documents, both primary and secondary, as evidence to answer and address claims related to the content. With these developing skills, students will emerge with an improved civic competency and the knowledge to improve our democratic way of life.

*Students will be placed into Advanced Language Arts and Algebra 1 based test scores, previous grades, and teacher recommendations.



8TH GRADE ELECTIVES - 20 Weeks Each

CHOICE #1 - PHYSICAL EDUCATION Note: All 8th grade students are required to take Physical Education unless two full-year electives of music and world language are chosen.

Physical Education concentrates on skill development, gaining knowledge of rules and strategies of individual and team sports, and improving personal fitness levels. The primary units include basketball, soccer, softball, volleyball, and rhythmic activities. The secondary units include floor hockey, frisbee golf, golf, team handball, touch football, and track and field. The students will also have basic water safety and leave no trace activities.

CHOICE #2

CHOICE #3

CHOICE #4

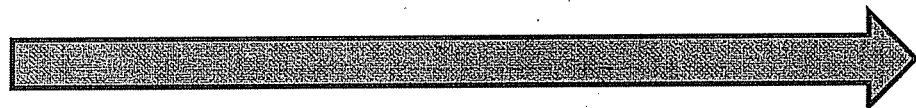
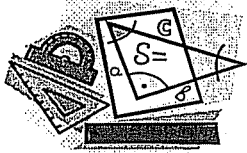
Full Year Classes: 40 Weeks/2 Choices

Half Year Classes: 20 Weeks/1 Choice

French
 Spanish
 German
 Concert Band
 Symphonic Band
 Concert Orchestra
 Chamber Orchestra
 Concert Choir

Art & Design
 Choir
 Creative Writing
 DigiTech
 Drafting: Intro to Engineering & Architecture
 Food, Food & More Food
 Fun in the Kitchen
 Musical Theater Workshop
 Robotics
 Shop: Tools & Materials Processing
 Visual Art
 World Language Adventures

Course Descriptions



Full Year Electives (40 weeks/2 semesters)

Please note: All Michigan students will need to successfully complete two years of a World Language in order to meet graduation requirements. 8th grade students have the opportunity to begin high school coursework in middle school. Students who successfully complete French, Spanish or German 1 in middle school will earn one high school credit towards the completion of the required Michigan Merit Curriculum.

FRENCH 1: French 1 consists of an in-depth study of the language. Students will learn to understand, speak, read, and write in French through a variety of activities, including the use of video and audio equipment, textbook, workbook, games, projects, etc. Cultural aspects of many French-speaking countries will be explored. Studying and homework on a regular basis are required and expected to ensure a successful experience for the language student. Successful completion of this course will enable the student to continue with French 2 in high school.

SPANISH 1: Spanish 1 consists of an in-depth study of the language. Students will learn to understand, speak, read, and write in Spanish through a variety of activities including the use of video and audio equipment, textbook, workbook, games, projects, etc. Cultural aspects of many Spanish-speaking countries will be explored. Studying and homework on a regular basis are required and expected to ensure a successful experience for the language student. Successful completion of this course will enable the student to continue with Spanish 2 in high school.

GERMAN 1: German 1 consists of an in-depth study of the language. Students will learn to understand, speak, read, and write in German through a variety of activities including the use of video and audio equipment, textbook, workbook, games, projects etc. Cultural aspects of many German-speaking countries will be explored. Studying and homework on a regular basis are required and expected to ensure a successful experience for the language student. Successful completion of this course will enable the student to continue with German 2 in high school.

CONCERT BAND: Students who were not enrolled in Concert Band in the 7th grade can enroll in this course as 8th graders. The Concert Band performs music from movies, marches, jazz, rock, pop, and concert band literature. They perform at all band concerts at Emerson, Band-o-Rama, and the Wilson Barn Concert. Students may also perform as soloists or in small groups for special awards at the District Solo and Ensemble Festival.

SYMPHONIC BAND: *Eighth grade students who successfully completed Concert Band should register for Symphonic Band.* The Symphonic Band performs music from movies, marches, jazz, rock, pop, and concert band literature. They perform at all band concerts at Emerson, at District Band Festival, Band-O-Rama, and the Wilson Barn Concert. Students may also perform as soloists or in small groups for special awards at the District Solo and Ensemble Festival.

CONCERT ORCHESTRA: Students who were not enrolled in Concert Orchestra in the 7th grade can enroll as an 8th grader. The Concert Orchestra performs music from movies, dances, jazz, classical, pop, and concert orchestral literature. They perform at all orchestra concerts at Emerson and the String Fling. Students may also perform as soloists or in small groups for special awards at the District Solo and Ensemble Festival.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: *Eighth grade students who successfully completed Concert Orchestra should register for Chamber Orchestra.* The Chamber Orchestra performs music from movies, marches, jazz, rock, pop, and concert orchestra literature. They perform at all orchestra concerts at Emerson, at District Band Festival, and the String Fling. Students may also perform as soloists or in small groups for special awards at the District Solo and Ensemble Festival.

CONCERT CHOIR: This is a large performing group that will perform at assemblies and at least three concerts throughout the year. Emphasis will be on performance, but a student will be required to learn basic music theory and history, the concept of a quality vocal sound, and the techniques necessary to produce good choral singing. The student will be expected to be at all rehearsals and concerts. *(This course may be selected for the entire year or 1 semester)*

Half- Year Electives (20 weeks/1 semester)

VISUAL ART: Unleash the artist within! Come and discover new ways to showcase creativity and self-expression. This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to work with a wide variety of media and produce 2 and 3 dimensional works of Art. Drawing, painting and sculpture will be explored with emphasis on the Principles and Elements of Art. Media may include: pencil, colored pencil, scratchboard, paint, clay, and paper mache. Art fosters creativity and problem solving techniques that are beneficial in other classes and essential in life.

ART & DESIGN: Did you realize that art is all around us? Behind the images and objects in our everyday world is an artist who turned an idea into reality. You can be that artist. In this imaginative course students will use drawing, painting, sculpture and other techniques to create art with a purpose. In addition, graphic design, cartooning and photography may be explored. An emphasis will be placed on the elements and principles of design to create eye-catching and well-crafted works of art.

DigiTech: DIGITAL CREATION & EXPLORATION - The world has gone DIGITAL! DigiTech is designed for ALL students, who want a technology course in addition to the 7th Grade Computer Tech requirement. With an emphasis on SAFETY, students will utilize the Internet, computers, and other digital devices to create, gather, display, and share information. It will also explore the ever growing world of digital and social media. The course will employ Google's 80/20 principle where students will be given 20% of the time to research/design/create a project based on their technological interest, approved, monitored, and assessed by teacher. Everyone is creating a digital footprint everyday...learn how to make it the RIGHT one!

SHOP: TOOLS & MATERIALS PROCESSING – This activity-based "hands-on" shop class will give students knowledge of various hand and power tools as well as an overview into working with woods, plastics, and metals that are commonly used in industry today. Students will apply what they learn into building various hands-on class projects such as making aluminum rings, jigsaw puzzle, wood airplane, metal candle holder, belt buckle or paper weight, hockey board, etc (projects are subject to change). Emphasis is placed on safety, organization, time management, and responsibility. This is an excellent life-skills class for all students and will give insight toward related technologies and skilled-trade careers. This intro class can be continued into various high school programs

DRAFTING: INTRO TO ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE – This drafting course is for students interested in exploring various areas of engineering or architecture. The class will have a hands-on content, working with basic drafting tools and materials. Students will apply what they learn into creating 3D sketches, multi-view drawings, computer 3D drawings, designing & building a CO2 car, learning about interior & exterior home design, and creating a house floor plan (projects subject to change). Emphasis will be placed on learning terminology, basic drawing skills, graphic lettering, measurement & scale sizing, and traditional and computer drafting. This entry-level class will give insight toward related career pathways and can be continued into several related high-school or career center programs.

ROBOTICS – Students will complete several LEGO Mindstorms robots requiring the application of physics, computer sciences, engineering and mathematics in order to demonstrate a variety of engineering concepts. Using their newly acquired problem-solving, building and programming skills, students will compete with their classmates in a robotics tournament within the classroom. Student teams will use Mindstorm models to complete a series of challenges, based on national robotics tournament guidelines.

WORLD LANGUAGE ADVENTURES – Fasten your seat belts, adventurers! Take on the role of a world explorer as you journey through four different languages and cultures: French, German, Japanese and Spanish. Earn passports as you learn basic words and phrases while engaging in games and projects. Interact with your classmates in other languages, while having the time of your life! This course will introduce the four world language options while providing the essential building blocks for success to meet the two-year world language graduation requirement. Discover the traveler in you in this exciting exploration of world languages and cultures.

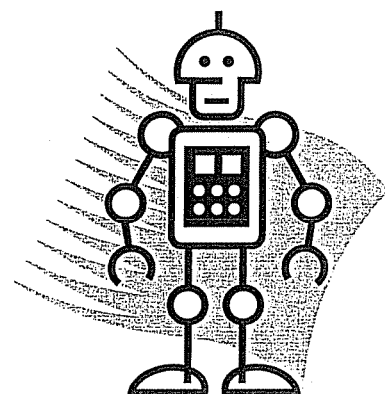
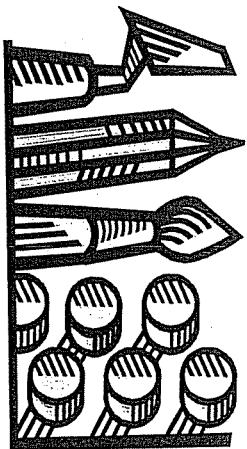
CREATIVE WRITING – Creative Writing is a semester-long elective, open only to eighth grade students. This dynamic elective creates a positive writing experience for students interested in creative writing. Students will experiment with various literary forms including personal narratives, short fiction and poetry. The class is a fun, safe community of writers who honor each others' attempt to capture their creativity in words. The end product is a personal portfolio of writing samples each student will develop over the semester.

FUN IN THE KITCHEN – Are you interested in learning to cook and prepare many types of foods? Students will learn safety and sanitation, how to use kitchen tools, how to work as a team, and how to prepare several types of foods such as: breads, vegetables, fruits and sweets. Nutritional skills will be incorporated throughout. Creative food labs offer students a means to select and specialize their own cooking. No previous experience is necessary.

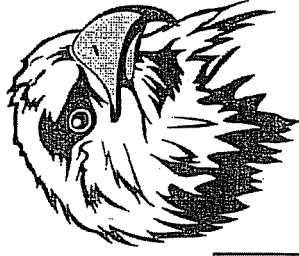
FOOD, FOOD & MORE FOOD – Do you like to prepare all kinds of foods? Students learn several types of food preparation in this class. Students will learn safety and sanitation, how to use kitchen tools correctly, how to prepare several types of food, and how to develop teamwork. Nutritional background will be incorporated. Food labs will include menu items: Different Versions of "Old Favorites", Foods From Around the World, Scratch vs. Package, and Sweet Treats/Healthy Snacks. Creative food labs will allow students to choose and plan their own menus. No previous experience is necessary.

MUSICAL THEATER WORKSHOP -Students will explore the different genres of the performing arts world, including acting, singing, and dancing, as well as set design, theater makeup and stage combat. Students in the class will have the opportunity to perform in a semester production. Students' active participation in class as well as attendance at outside rehearsals/performances are required.

CONCERT CHOIR - This is a large performing group that will perform at assemblies and at least three concerts throughout the year. Emphasis will be on performance, but a student will be required to learn basic music theory and history, the concept of a quality vocal sound, and the techniques necessary to produce good choral singing. The student will be expected to be at all rehearsals and concerts. *(This course may be selected for the entire year or 1 semester)*



EMERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL 2015-2016 COURSE SELECTION SHEET – GRADE 8



Name: _____ ID#: _____

GRADE 8 REQUIRED COURSES (20 WEEKS) Semester 1		GRADE 8 REQUIRED COURSES (20 WEEKS) Semester 2	
Course number	Language Arts	Course number	Language Arts
1182	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2182	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1282	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2282	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1382	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2382	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1482	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2482	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Science	0981	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			*Physical Education

*Physical Education requirement may be waived if a 40 Week Language AND a 40 Week music/choir class are chosen. In this case, electives will add up to 80 weeks.

Band/Orchestra Primary Instrument: _____

**If your first World Language Choice is not available, would you be willing to take another language? YES/NO if Yes, which language would you like?

ELECTIVE COURSES	
Circle elective choices. Must equal 60 weeks	
1873	Concert Band 40 Weeks
1883	Symphonic Band 40 Weeks
1875	Concert Orchestra 40 Weeks
1885	Chamber Orchestra 40 Weeks
1881	Concert Choir 20/40 Wks
1791	**French 1 40 Weeks
1792	**Spanish 1 40 Weeks
1793	**German 1 40 Weeks
0669	Visual Art 20 Weeks
0670	Art & Design 20 Weeks
0574	DigiTech: Digital Creat & Expl 20 Weeks
0191	Creative Writing 20 Weeks
0579	Drafting: Intro to Eng & Arch 20 Weeks
0569	Shop: Tools & Materials Proc 20 Weeks
0578	Robotics 20 Weeks
0678	Fun in the Kitchen 20 Weeks
0679	Food, Food & More Food 20 Weeks
0882	Musical Theater Workshop 20 Weeks
0469	World Language Adventures 20 Weeks

If one of your electives is not available, choose two DIFFERENT courses that you would be willing to take instead.

① _____ Course # _____ Course Name _____ Course # _____ Course Name _____
 Student Signature: _____
 Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Daytime Phone No: _____