

School Year 2015-2016

This middle school course catalog is designed to explain the basic requirements for a successful and smooth transition into the high school program.

**All** students will sign up for the five core areas of Language Arts, Literature, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Throughout their middle school career, they will also be required to take Art, Physical Education, and Music at some point. The Music credit can be Choir, Band, or General Music. Electives vary depending on the grade level.

**Honors** courses are those courses with specific entry criteria for highly motivated students. A differentiated honors curriculum includes a wider range and greater depth of subject material than that of a regular course. Emphasis will be placed on higher level critical thinking skills, creative, productive thinking, and independent guided research. Students must meet the following criteria for these courses which are:

- 3.5 cumulative GPA
- Score in 85<sup>th</sup> percentile or above on standardized tests
- Results of the Terra NOVA test (nationally named test) and the IOWA test.
- Teacher recommendation
- Attendance/discipline records

**Students eligible for the honors courses will be notified by letter.**

**Elective** courses will be offered based on teacher availability and student interest.

## **SIXTH GRADE**

### **Language Arts**

Sixth grade Language Arts is a required class, and is designed to teach the sixth grade standards for writing, language, speaking, and listening. Students will write narrative, persuasive, and informative texts. In addition, they will continue to learn to recognize and use conventions of Standard English. Students will work independently and collaboratively, and will take part in speaking and listening activities throughout the course.

### **Literature**

Literature is a required course for all students. The students will focus on reading in a variety of ways including independent reading, in-class novels, short stories, and articles. Students will be using the Fountas & Pinnell reading program. Throughout the year students will be reading a variety of genres and identifying literary elements. As students read, they will be working to improve their reading comprehension and fluency skills. Daily journals will be required and kept in their Reader's Notebook.

## **Honors Literature**

6<sup>th</sup> grade Honors Literature will engage in higher-level thinking skills, enabling them to meet the standards of the coursework. Literature, writing, speaking, and listening skills are developed over the course of this class. The content of the course focuses on fiction and nonfiction reading skills and strategies, as well as vocabulary building and comprehension skills. Students will be required to keep a Reader's Notebook to write daily responses to literature. Students are expected to explore various genres for independent reading. These choices should challenge their reading ability.

## **Math**

In grade 6 math, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: 1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; 2) understanding the division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers which includes negative numbers; 3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and 4) developing an understanding of statistical thinking.

## **Honors Math**

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Honors Math course will focus on the skills mentioned above but will require students to utilize higher order thinking skills to complete more rigorous assignments and projects.

## **Science**

This science course integrates Physical, Life, and Earth Sciences that align with the Ohio Academic Content Standards for sixth grade. Students are evaluated through experimentation, assignments, and testing over their use of scientific inquiry and engaging the scientific method. Students are required to keep a science binder to help monitor their progress throughout the year.

## **Honors Science**

The Honors Science course will cover the same course content as in the regular sixth grade science course but allows the students to explore more in-depth. Students will be required to participate in active learning while using Bloom's higher order thinking skills to complete their assignments.

## **Social Studies**

Social Studies is a required course for sixth grade students at OMS. In this class, students will learn about regions and people of the Eastern Hemisphere. Specifically, students will study ancient civilizations, develop map and timeline skills, gain basic economic fluency, and analyze various systems of government. Students will also learn how to apply this knowledge while forming an understanding of cultural characteristics in the eastern hemisphere today.

## **Honors Social Studies**

Honors Social Studies is designed to help students develop higher order thinking skills and learn to offer thoughtful responses to class discussions while completing more rigorous and complex

tasks. Honors students will learn about regions and people of the eastern hemisphere. Specifically, students will study ancient civilizations, develop map and timeline skills, gain basic economic fluency, and analyze various systems of government. Students will also learn how to apply this knowledge while forming an understanding of cultural characteristics in the eastern hemisphere today.

## **Band**

Students will develop and enhance their musical and social skills. Performances include winter and spring concerts.

## **12 week courses**

### **Art**

This course provides an intellectual basis for understanding, appreciating, and interpreting art works of other individuals, societies, and cultures. It provides activities and experiences in which students can discover and develop ways to express themselves through various media including drawing, painting, sculpture, fabric, and collage.

### **Family and Consumer Science**

This course focuses on overall development. Students will examine their personalities, character, and relationships. Emphasis will also be placed on resource and lifestyle management. In the class, students will be introduced to each of the other Family & Consumer Science course offerings which will be available to them in the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades. As a member of this class, students will be part of Ontario FCCLA and the FCCLA activities.

### **General Music**

Students will study the different types of music and their roots from various cities throughout the country: jazz and ragtime from New Orleans, the blues from Memphis, country music from Nashville, Broadway and rap from New York.

### **Keyboarding**

Students will develop touch typing skills with Microsoft Word and the many components that the program offers. The course stresses accuracy over speed. Students learn home row positioning and then the other keys. They will work from texts as well as online sites. The online site keeps data for each student so they can practice at home by using their personal log-in information. They will take tests online to monitor their progress.

### **Physical Education**

Ohio's Physical Education Academic Content Standards provide clear, rigorous expectations for all students in middle school classes. Physical Education is a critical component of a complete education. Beyond the physical benefits, quality physical education has been linked to cognitive, affective, and quality of life benefits for students at the middle school level.

Students will strive for success in meeting the benchmarks contained in the Ohio Physical Education Academic Content Standards. They include the following:

**Standard 1** – Demonstrates competency in motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities

**Standard 2** – Demonstrates understanding of movement concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics as they apply to learning and performance of physical activities

**Standard 3** – Participates regularly in physical activity

**Standard 4** – Achieves and maintains a health-enhancing level of physical fitness

**Standard 5** – Exhibits responsible personal behavior and social behavior that respects self and others in physical activity

**Standard 6** – Values physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and/or social interaction.

The tasks contained in the assessments will be designed to be incorporated within the curriculum of our physical education lessons.

## **SEVENTH GRADE**

**All** seventh grade students will sign up for the five core areas of Language Arts, Literature, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. They will also be required to take Art, Physical Education, and Music. The music credit can be band, choir, or general music.

### **Language Arts**

Seventh grade language arts is a required class. The course will follow the seventh grade standards for writing, language, speaking and listening. An emphasis will be placed on writing in the persuasive, narrative, and informative genres. Students will be introduced to research skills as well as citing sources properly and using online tools to assist in the process. Along with the written skills, there will be an emphasis on the spoken word as students will be expected to complete four oral presentations throughout the year. Students will also study the basic parts of words and vocabulary development with proper word usage emphasized.

### **Literature**

Seventh grade literature is a required course for all students. The focus will be on reading. The Fountas & Pinnell reading program framework will be used and Common Core reading standards will be met. Students will read a variety of genres in literature including classical and modern literature works. As students read, they will be working to improve their reading comprehension and fluency skills. Students will be required to keep a Reader's Notebook for journaling and notes.

## **Honors Literature**

The Honors Literature class follows the same structure as stated above but will move at a faster pace and include more rigorous classical and modern literature.

## **Math**

The seventh grade math course teaches mastery of the state assessment objectives. The following is a listing of key conceptual areas covered in this course:

1. Ratios and Proportional Relationships
2. The Number System
3. Expressions and Equations
4. Geometry
5. Statistics and Probability

## **Honors Math**

Honors Math is an advanced course and should only be taken by the serious and organized student who is ready to learn math rigorously. This course will provide the student with a strong foundation in Algebra, while preparing them for the future study of geometry, probability, and data analysis. Students will review already mastered concepts and will be reacquainted with variables, expressions, angle relationships, triangles, areas, volumes, and order of operations. Students will develop techniques to solve multi-step equations. The student will learn concepts to prepare for the Ohio Graduation Test. Finally, students will be required to take detailed notes and organize notebooks.

## **Science**

This seventh grade course integrates the physical, life, and earth sciences through activity-based instruction. A variety of topics based on state standards are covered employing the scientific method and utilizing laboratory skills. Students are responsible for maintaining a science notebook which is used to evaluate student progress along with traditional tests and quizzes.

## **Honors Science**

Students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade Honors Science will be given more in-depth and challenging laboratory investigations related to the state standards. Students will also be expected to design and carry out their own investigations based on anomalies or individual curiosities related to the whole class investigations.

## **Social Studies**

This course is required for all seventh grade students. Ancient Civilizations through the First Global Age (1000 B.C. to 1750) will be covered. The student will gain knowledge of this period through readings, research, and projects.

## **Honors Social Studies**

The Honors Social Studies course will require students to utilize higher order thinking skills such as evaluation, analysis, and synthesis while completing more rigorous assignments. The students will be learning the same content covered in 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies, but with more emphasis placed on independent assignments, additional readings, and research projects. This will allow the students to explore the topics in depth.

## **Art (semester)**

Art is a required course for the seventh grade. The course provides an intellectual basis for understanding, appreciating, and interpreting art works of other individuals, societies, and cultures. It provides activities and experiences in which students can discover and develop ways to express themselves through various media, including drawing, painting, sculpture, fabric, and collage.

## **Music**

In seventh grade, students must choose one music course.

## **Full Year Course**

### **Band**

Students must have successfully completed sixth grade band to enroll. There will be continued development and enhancement of musical and social skills. Performances include fall, winter, and spring concerts as well as a large group contest. In the fall, this band will combine with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade band to form the Ontario Middle School Marching Band which participates in area parades and festivals. Students may also participate in solo and ensemble contest.

### **Choir**

This course is for students who enjoy singing and want to improve their performing skills. The choir presents a minimum of three concerts per year and competes in two choral competitions. Lessons will focus on reading music, listening skills, singing, and movement. Students will also study the different performing arts with applications to theater productions with settings and props. Anyone can join choir for their music credit.

## **Semester courses**

### **Physical Education**

Ohio's Physical Education Academic Content Standards provide clear, rigorous expectations for all students in middle school classes. Physical Education is a critical component of a complete education.

Beyond the physical benefit, quality physical education has been linked to cognitive, affective, and quality of life benefits for students at the middle school level. Ontario Local Schools will be measuring student success in meeting the benchmarks contained in the Ohio Physical Education Academic Content Standards. They include the following:

**Standard 1** – Demonstrates competency in motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities

**Standard 2** – Demonstrates understanding of movement concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics as they apply to learning and performance of physical activities

**Standard 3** – Participates regularly in physical activity

**Standard 4** – Achieves and maintains a health-enhancing level of physical fitness

**Standard 5** – Exhibits responsible personal behavior and social behavior that respects self and others in physical activity

**Standard 6** – Values physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and/or social interaction.

The tasks contained in our assessments will be designed to be incorporated within the curriculum of our physical education lessons.

### **Elective Course Offerings**

#### **Design**

This class is structured to inspire student creativity. Students will learn design skills in the areas of construction and architecture, interior decorating, landscaping, and fashion. The activities and content are career oriented.

#### **General Music (semester)**

This general music course is required of any seventh grade student **NOT** enrolled in Choir and Band. Listening activities as well as the study of various time periods and musical styles will be covered throughout the semester.

#### **Microprocessors (semester)**

This class will focus on microprocessors and how they are being used in today's society. Students will gain an understanding of how they can be used for simple tasks such as motion detected light switches and automated doors. Students will learn more complex applications and mirror the precise measurements used in industry. Students will be introduced to the Arduino microprocessor and it's circuitry.

Criteria for the class include:

- Scored in the 85% percentile or higher on the math and science portions of the state assessments
- Results of the Terra Nova and IOWA tests
- Teacher recommendations

### **Nutrition and Wellness (semester)**

This seventh grade Family and Consumer Sciences course focuses on nutrition and wellness. Students gain knowledge and skills in acquiring and practicing a healthy lifestyle using dietary guidelines that will reduce the risks of chronic disease and unsafe habits. Students also examine the impact of stress and exercise on overall health. This class includes many cooking labs. It is recommended that students are open to trying new foods. Curriculum is subject to change.

### **Robotics- (semester)**

Using Lego Mindset kits, students build, design, and take apart robots. Skills include solving problems, improving designs and improvising. Students will be working with tools, materials, and computers.

Criteria for the class include:

- Scored in the 85% percentile or above on the math portion of the standardized tests
- Results of the Terra Nova and IOWA tests
- Teacher recommendations

### **Webpage Design (semester)**

Students will be introduced to the many components of web design such as: hyperlinking, image resolution, background and border design, and rollover images. They will explore website design programs and create a personal website. Students are applying language arts skills as they create concise, eye-catching pages.

Criteria for the class include:

- Scored in the 85% percentile or above on the ELA, math and science standardized tests
- Results of the Terra Nova and IOWA tests
- Teacher recommendations

## **EIGHTH GRADE**

**All** eighth grade students will sign up for the five core areas of Language Arts, Literature, Mathematics (Pre-Algebra), Science, and Social Studies. They will also be required to take Health and Physical Education. Elective course offerings will be Industrial Technology, Career & Transitions, Money Management, FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America), Band, Choir, and Spanish.

### **Language Arts**

Eighth grade Language Arts is a continuation of the development of basic skills learned in the seventh grade in both oral and written language acquisition and practice. Students will further develop their

writing abilities with emphasis on paragraph and essay development. They will also continue to improve their grammar skills.

### **Literature**

Eighth grade literature will focus primarily on developing the reading and analyzing skills needed to be successful as eighth grade students and to transition into high school. Throughout the year, students will read a variety of classic literature as well as contemporary literature, nonfiction, poetry, and plays. Students will evaluate informational text, analyze how literature reflects ideas, background and attitudes of authors. They will analyze entire novels including plot, setting, theme, characterizations, point of view, and many other literary elements. Students will also choose independent reading books each nine weeks and respond to their class and independent reading in their Reader's Notebooks. The goal is to create a love, appreciation, and understanding of literature.

### **Honors Literature**

In the honors level course in Literature, students will be exposed to a variety of materials, methods, and techniques used by the accomplished reader to interpret, predict, and evaluate reading material. Students will be taught to generate questions during reading, which will be used in personally discovering conclusions and relationships. Students will work on improvement of vocabulary and comprehension through reading experiences from a wide variety of authors and genres. Course work will be challenging and rewarding for the accomplished reader.

### **Math (Pre- Algebra)**

Pre-Algebra continues to stress fundamentals in math as well as bridging the gap into Algebra. The students learn to compute with whole numbers, integers, decimals, and fractions. They also learn to compare numbers, round all types of numbers, and solve problems using various problem solving techniques. Emphasis is placed on graphing, percents, measurement, area, volume, and averages. The student is introduced to inequalities as well as equations. The student is expected to master basic operations and be able to solve word problems. Attention is given to higher order thinking problems and weekly discussions will occur to model discover of solutions to these problems. Finally, Pre-Algebra is covered to ensure that students are ready for any and all freshmen high school courses.

### **Algebra I (High School Course)**

Algebra I introduces the students to the real number system and its concepts building a foundation for more advanced courses. The student will perform basic operations on real numbers, learn the use of variables, and solve equations that are an important part of math. The student will work with various types of polynomials with emphasis on simplifying, solving and

graphing solutions. Throughout the course a strong emphasis will be placed on developing techniques and strategies for understanding concepts through problem solving approaches.

**Algebra I should only be taken by serious students who are ready for the rigors of an advanced math class.**

Algebra I will count toward graduation unit requirements and for college admission purposes but does not count toward a student's accumulative grade point average (GPA) at the high school.

### **Integrated Science 3**

Integrated Science 3 covers Ohio Academic Content Standards for Grade 8. The course content contains Earth and Space, Life, Physical Science, along with Science and Technology with the major focus on the Universe and Earth Systems. Students are evaluated through assignments, experimentation, and testing over their use of scientific inquiry and scientific ways of knowing. Quizzes and tests parallel the state assessments.

### **Honors Physical Science (High School Course)**

The honors level course in Physical Science will require students to utilize higher order thinking skills such as evaluation, analysis, and synthesis while completing more rigorous assignments. While the content covers the same areas in the regular Integrated Science 3, this course will have more independent assignments and other opportunities to explore these areas in depth.

Honors Physical Science will count toward graduation unit requirements and for college admission purposes but does not count toward a student's accumulative grade point average (GPA) at the high school.

### **Social Studies**

In this required course for eighth graders, students will complete a chronological study of American History from the Colonization Period to the Reconstruction Period following the Civil War. Students will be exposed to the historical, geographic, political, and economic events which influenced the development of the United States. The course is designed to provide an understanding of and appreciation for our national heritage. Furthermore, thinking skills such as problem solving, cause and effect, and analysis are a focus of this course. Students will also begin to make connections to current events and the world around them.

### **Honors Social Studies**

The honors level course will require students to utilize higher order thinking skills such as evaluation, analysis, and synthesis, while completing more rigorous assignments. In addition, more emphasis is placed on out of class assignments, reading, and research. Students will be expected to complete research

projects and make presentations of their findings to the class. Through a chronological study of American History from Colonization to Reconstruction, students will be exposed to the historical, geographical, political, and economical events which influenced the development of the United States. Students will practice thinking skills such as problem solving, cause and effect, and analysis while making connections to current events and the world around them.

## **Semester Courses**

### **Health**

This is a required semester course which provides an opportunity for students to obtain and understand factual information contributing to their physical, mental, social, and emotional growth and well-being. Students will be able to communicate accurate health information and ideas to enhance personal, family, and community health.

### **Physical Education**

Ohio's Physical Education Academic Content Standards provide clear, rigorous expectations for all students in middle school classes. Physical Education is a critical component of a complete education. Beyond the physical benefit, quality physical education has been linked to cognitive, affective, and quality of life benefits for students at the middle school level. Ontario Local Schools will be measuring student success in meeting the benchmarks contained in the Ohio Physical Education Academic Content Standards. They include the following:

**Standard 1** – Demonstrates competency in motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities

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## **Elective Course Offerings**

### **Industrial Technology (full year)**

The Industrial Technology course is designed to give students experiences with Autosketch (a computer - aided drafting program), Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, and Rhinoceros. This course is taught with a hands-on approach with safety being the major focus.

Autosketch: used to make multi-view and isometric prints. Skills will then be applied to complete and draw their own personal CO2 dragster. Skills gained with wood working machines and tools bring their designs to life.

Adobe Photoshop: used to manipulate pictures, make collages, composite images, clone stamps, blemish repair, and magnetic lasso.

Adobe Illustrator: to create vectorized designs that will be cut on a vinyl cutter, then weeded, applied, and etched onto mirrors.

Rhinoceros: a 3-D modeling program used along with Bongo, an animator and Flamingo, a rendering plug-in which give designs movement.

Students will also learn electrical concepts as they apply to basic household wiring. They will learn to calculate amperage, voltage, and ohms of resistance. Students will gain skills in locating and mounting electrical boxes to stud walls, stripping wires, and making a variety of connections. They will use multi-meters in a variety of testing situations. This unit will culminate with the students mounting boxes, wiring a single-pole switched receptacle, and a light fixture controlled by two 3-way switches.

### **Band (full year)**

Students must have successfully completed seventh grade band to enroll. There will be continued development and enhancement of musical and social skills. Performances include fall, winter, and spring concerts as well as a large group contest. In the fall, this band will combine with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade band to form the Ontario Middle School Marching Band which participates in area parades and festivals. Students may also participate in solo and ensemble contest.

### **Choir (full year)**

This course is for students who enjoy singing and want to improve their performing skills. The choir presents a minimum of three concerts per year and competes in two choral competitions. Lessons will focus on reading music, listening skills, singing, and movement. Students will also study the different performing arts with applications to theater productions with settings and props.

### **FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) 24 Students based on FCCLA requirements (full year)**

This course focuses on leadership and community service. National membership (including dues) is required in FCCLA. These dues are \$45 at the time of this publication. The dues include textbook, t-shirt, sweatshirt, and membership. There are other optional expenses for various organization activities.

Skills in resource management, planning process, parliamentary procedure, money management, and personal development will be emphasized. This is a year-long project based course. Curriculum is subject to change. Applications and interviews may be required for acceptance into FCCLA.

### **Spanish I (High School Course)**

Spanish I is an introduction to the Spanish language and various facets of life in Spanish speaking countries. Basics of the language will be presented in a situational context through the study of culture and Spanish speaking countries.

Criteria for the class include:

- Scored in the 85% percentile or above on the reading & writing sections of the state standardized tests
- Results of the Terra Nova and IOWA tests
- Teacher recommendations

Spanish will count toward graduation unit requirements and for college admission purposes but does not count toward a student's accumulative grade point average (GPA) at the high school.

### **Semester Courses**

The two classes listed below are part of the FCCLA program. Students will participate in activities both inside and potentially outside of class,

### **Career & Transitions**

This Family and Consumer Science course focuses on career exploration. Students examine techniques that contribute to building healthy families, interactions with their peers and adults, establishing friendships, preparing for marriage, and building relationships that make a productive workplace. Students will develop, implement, and periodically review and revise a career blueprint and employability skills. Students will create a resume, go through a mock interview, and develop people skills among other activities. Curriculum is subject to change.

### **Money Management**

This Family and Consumer Sciences course focuses on financial literacy. Students will develop attitudes and skills to achieve personal financial wellness. They will learn the implications of smart financial decision making, appropriate use of credit, adequate insurance, and their input on personal and workplace financial wellness. Students will learn the inter-relationships between values, spending decisions, income, and education. Real world activities will be used to increase the level of learning. Curriculum is subject to change.