

School District of Mellen

Middle School Course Descriptions 2018-2019



School District of Mellen

420 South Main Street

P.O. Box 500

Mellen, WI 54546

(715) 274-3601

Fax (715) 274-3715

<http://www.mellendiggers.org>

Home of the Granite Diggers

Board approved: August 15, 2018

*Please note: Changes may be made to this document, pending review by Personnel and administration.

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Language Arts/Reading

Language Arts

Grade 6

Language Arts 6 includes study in the following area: grammar, writing, literature, spelling enrichment, creative expression, and speech. Students will explore a variety of literary genres including narrative, expository, imaginative, descriptive, and persuasive writing and speaking.

Grade 7

This class focuses on helping students learn to communicate effectively through writing and speaking. The skills covered include the basics of grammar, mechanics of writing and spelling taught in conjunction with a variety of writing. Students will explore a variety of literary genres including narrative, expository, imaginative, descriptive, and persuasive writing and speaking.

Grade 8

Language Arts 8 consists of basic grammar and articulation of thoughts for creative speaking and writing. This course stresses usage, spelling accuracy, mechanics, and vocabulary through the writing process. Students will explore a variety of literary genres including narrative, expository, imaginative, descriptive, and persuasive writing and speaking.

Reading

Grade 6

The developmental reading classes in the middle school are an extension of the basic reading program in the elementary schools. In addition, more complex reading skills, strategies, and higher order thinking skills are taught with the emphasis placed on the carryover of these skills into content area courses. A wide variety of genres, narrative, and expository materials, and use of writing in response to reading are all used to enhance and insure recreational and informational reading as lifelong pursuits.

Grade 7

Reading classes in the middle school are a continuation of the basic reading program in the elementary schools. More complex reading skills, strategies, and higher order thinking skills are taught with the emphasis placed on the carryover of these skills into content area courses. A variety of genres, narrative, and expository materials, and use of writing in response to reading are all used to enhance and insure recreational and informational reading as life-long pursuits.

Grade 8

The developmental reading classes in the middle school are an extension of the basic reading program in the elementary schools. In addition, more complex reading skills, strategies, and higher order thinking skills are taught with the emphasis placed on the carry-over of these skills into content area courses.

Students will use a wide variety of genres, including narratives, expository materials, and use of writing in response to reading.

Grade 6,7,8

Exploratory Language Arts - Independent Literature courses are conducted with instructors as mentors, enable students to explore topics of interest related to literature. Independent Literature may serve as an opportunity for students to expand their expertise in a particular application, to explore a topic in greater detail, or to develop more advanced skills.

This is a joined class with Exploratory Technical Education taught on A Days.
6th grade 2nd quarter, 7th grade 1st & 4th quarters, 8th grade 3rd quarter

Grade 6,7,8

Language Arts Response to Intervention

This course is designed for middle school students in need of intensive and highly personalized language arts and reading help. For this to be effective, no more than 6 students should be enrolled at a time. Determining factors for students placed in this class are their STAR Reading scores (District Assessment), current class work, and input from their classroom teachers. Due to the nature of most curriculum being based in literacy, students are given time to help decode and process assignments from *all* of their classes - ELA, Social Studies, and Science are very text-heavy subjects which require synthesizing of specialized information. Students are allowed time to work on their assignments as well as have 1:1 conferences with the reading specialist to focus on specific skills such as decoding, comprehension, organization, attitude, and study skills. Students attended RTI as needed during their exploratory rotation.

Mathematics

Grade 6 (Math 6)

Mathematics emphasizes inquiry and the discovery of mathematical ideas through problem situations. This middle-school course is focused on building student understanding of rational number concepts, proportional reasoning, algebraic and geometric understandings, along with the mathematical habits of mind necessary to connect and apply these areas of mathematics.

Grade 7 (Pre-Algebra)

The goals for this course are to solidify the arithmetic the students already know and to prepare them for algebra and geometry. The course is interwoven with the three main content strands: applied mathematics, pre-algebra, and pre-geometry.

Built-in study and note taking strategies help students develop their learning skills. Challenging problem-solving practice, in context, and clear presentation of key concepts prepare students for algebra courses. Note taking strategies, vocabulary review, and margin notes guide students to develop study skills and conceptual understanding. Practice with test-taking strategies and varied question formats builds the confidence and problem-solving skills needed to achieve success.

Grade 8 (Algebra)

DPI Course Description: Algebra I courses include the study of properties and operations of the real number system; evaluating rational algebraic expressions; solving and graphing first degree equations and inequalities; translating word problems into equations; operations with and factoring of polynomials; and

solving simple quadratic equations.

Mellen Course Description: Students will explore the language of algebra in verbal, tabular, graphical and symbolic forms. Geometry, probability, statistics and exponential growth will be integrated through problem-solving activities and applications. Graphing calculators are incorporated for discovery, problem solving and modeling. Scientific calculators are required.

Physical Education

Grades 6, 7, 8

The main goal with the Mellen Middle School is to provide the opportunity for the development of interpersonal relationships, social growth, and challenging activities. Teamwork is very important in the following activities: volleyball, pickle ball, bowling, floor hockey, tumbling, badminton, soccer, track and field, and softball.

Science

Grade 6

Unified Science

Students will improve their science inquiry skills with consistent use of the scientific method. They will increase their awareness of the environment and the surrounding world by exploring introductory science concepts and the subsequent actions that resulted from these inquiries. Students will engage in a variety of activities and laboratory experiments that will delve mainly in the realm of physical science. Specific topics include understanding the scientific method, basic measuring skills, matter, motions and forces, and transfer of energy.

Grade 7-8

Earth Science

The course focuses on the structure of the earth system, earth's history, and earth in the solar system. Students enrolled in this course are required to maintain a portfolio.

Grades 7-8

Life Science

The course focuses on the structure and function of living things, reproduction and heredity, homeostasis and behavior, populations and ecosystems, diversity and adaptations of organisms. Scientific inquiry and the school forest are integral parts in the learning process. Students in this course are required to maintain a portfolio and are encouraged.

Social Studies

Grade 6

Course enables students to study a group of related subjects addressing the elements and structures of human society that may include economics, geography, history, citizenship, and other social studies-related disciplines.

Grade 7

Explores the physical and human geography of the Eastern Hemisphere using the themes of geography to explain and explore their observations. Student will discuss reading assignments from the textbook, practice reading a variety of maps, graphs, charts and diagrams, learn and use vocabulary words, complete many map activities, take quizzes, unit reviews, and tests.

Grade 8

8th grade Social Studies examines American history beginning with the early European explorers and forward to the American Civil War. We will explore the time period where America gains its independence, establishes the Federal System of government, writes the US Constitution and builds a strong nation that has world influence. Through reading assignments, group work, projects, instructional media, discussion, and varied assessments (worksheets, quizzes, tests) students will have a strong base of American History knowledge.

Band

Grades 6, 7, 8

Band - The Intermediate Instrumental Program is designed to continue the development of general musicianship. The class consists of rehearsal techniques that include choral techniques, ensemble skills, improvisation, composition, music literacy, listening, and critical analysis. Class M literature, from the Wisconsin School Music Association list, is introduced along with band for young concert bands. The Middle School Band performs in two concerts presented to the Mellen community. The Middle School Band also joins the High School Band in a trip to Ashland and Bayfield for parade marching.

Grades 6,7,8

Music History Appreciation - Music History/Appreciation courses survey different musical styles and periods with the intent of increasing students' enjoyment of musical styles and/or developing their artistic or technical judgment. Music History/Appreciation courses may also focus on developing an understanding of a particular style or period. For students who are not in band.

Business

Exploratory Business 6th grade

3rd Quarter - Word Processing: The word processing course provides Middle School students with an introduction to the keyboard (letters, numbers, and symbols), basic machine operation, and proper keystroke technique. As students' progress, they improve their speed and accuracy and produce increasingly complex documents. The word processing course helps students develop keyboard proficiency, document production skills, and problem-solving skills. Teacher lead instruction will be coupled with computerized software drills and instructional strategies. In addition, a large emphasis will be on students learning basic formatting in Google's Office Suite information processing software. Students will apply their new skills by working on class projects utilizing Google Docs, Sheets, Drawing and Slides assigned to them at various intervals throughout the course.

Exploratory Business 7th grade

2nd Quarter -Introduction to Business: The Introduction to Business course will survey an array of topics and concepts related to the field of business and information technology. This course will introduce business concepts such as banking and finance, the role of government in business, consumerism, credit, investment, and management. Introductory Business also provides a brief overview of the American economic system, corporate organization, and business information technology. Introductory Business exposes students to the varied opportunities in office administration, accounting, management, and related fields. In addition to gaining exposure to a variety of business concepts, Middle School students will advance their 21st Century Skills as they participate in activities and team projects

that will give them a sampling of Business Education course opportunities they may wish to explore in the future.

Exploratory Business 8th grade:

1st and 4th Quarter - The Consumer Economics/Personal Finance course provides students with an understanding of the concepts and principles involved in managing one's personal finances. Topics include savings and investing, credit, insurance, taxes, and social security, spending patterns and budget planning, contracts, consumer protection, and an overview of the American economy. More specifically, this course will deliver the following Wisconsin State Personal Financial Literacy Standards to middle school students such that students will understand the relationship between income and education; develop effective money management skills and strategies; identify and evaluate credit and debt management sources; apply strategies for effective planning, saving and investing for their future; examine methods that will help them become critical consumers; understand the importance of community and financial responsibility; and integrate and apply concepts related to personal financial risk, protection from loss, and financial planning.

1st Quarter-During the first quarter, we focus on budget planning, savings, spending patterns, relationship between education and income and money management skills.

4th Quarter -Fourth quarter, we dig deeper into taxes, credit, insurance, investing and financial planning. We also look at financing homes, cars and education.

Introduction to Technology

Exploratory Technical Education - Grades 6,7,8

This course will introduce students to the technological world surrounding them. While most of the time will be spent in the classroom learning about technological systems we encounter on a daily basis, there will be a unit at the end of the year to prepare students for classes that will be available to them throughout high school. Students will have the opportunity to build a simple wood project using hand tools.

This course is joined with Exploratory Language Arts on B days.

Taught 6th grade 2nd quarter, 7th grade 1st & 4th quarters, 8th grade 3rd quarter

Visual Arts & Design

Grade 6

Students will begin to explore a variety of ways to express their creativity through various mediums. Students will be introduced to the Principles & Elements of Design during studio projects as well as Art History, Art Appreciation, Aesthetics, and Art Critiques. Students will experience: clay, sculpture, pencil, oil pastels, pastel, acrylic painting, collage and watercolor painting.

Grade 7

Students will continue to explore a variety of mediums. Students will continue to develop the use the Principles & Elements of Design during studio projects. Students will continue to go in their understanding of Art History, Art Appreciation, Aesthetics, and Art Critiques. Students will further their experience with clay, sculpture, pencil, oil pastels, acrylic painting, collage and watercolor painting.

Grade 8

Students will build on their past studio experiences using a variety of mediums. Students will focus on using the Principles & Elements of Design in sophisticated ways during studio projects.

Students will further their Art History, Art Appreciation, Aesthetics, and Art Critiques through selected projects. Students will use clay, sculpture, pencil, oil pastels, pastel, acrylic painting, collage and watercolor painting to create solid well thought out projects.

Grades 6,7,8 Exploratory Visual Art and Design

Taught 6th Quarter 1 and 4, 7th Grade Quarter 2, 8th Grade Quarter 3