

# **PROGRAM OF STUDIES**

**2008-2009**

**GRADES 6-8**

**BROWNELL MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**PARCELLS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**PIERCE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Department of Curriculum, Assessment, Instruction and Technology**

**The Grosse Pointe Public School System**

**Grosse Pointe, Michigan 48230**

# **PROGRAM OF STUDIES**

## **2008-2009**

This Program of Studies has been prepared to help middle school students and parents plan the student's program according to his or her particular educational needs and interests. Continuing the strong emphasis on improving basic skills begun in the elementary schools, the middle school program of studies is organized developmentally from grades 6 through 8. The intent of the program is to provide a gradual transition into the high school program of studies and the high school enrollment process.

A hallmark of the middle school experience is program flexibility. In order to accommodate the unique needs of students, differentiation of instruction is emphasized. The middle school principal, after consultation with the student's parents and appropriate staff, has the authority to approve modifications to the middle school program of studies for an individual student. Some electives in grades 7 and 8 may be taken more than once with the permission of the instructor.

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## **MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**

### **BROWNELL MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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## **Non-discrimination Policy**

The Grosse Pointe Public School System is committed to a policy of non-discrimination in relation to race, color, religion, national origin (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964); sex (Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972); height, weight, marital status, political belief or handicap (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973). Policies GAAB and GAAC (August 10, 1992) and Grievance regulations are available for those who believe that this policy has been abused.

Questions, requests for information, and/or complaints relating to discrimination in The Grosse Pointe Public School System should be addressed to the Director of Human Resources, 389 St. Clair, Grosse Pointe, Michigan 48230, telephone 432-3020.

## **In-District Student Transfer Policy**

Board of Education Policy (JBC) amended October 14, 1991, allows for the transfer of students to another attendance area if class size, staffing, student groupings or total enrollment in a particular building are not adversely affected.

If enrollment must be limited, permission will first be granted to siblings of students already at the school requested.

Transfer requests at the high school level will ordinarily only be considered for the beginning of the 9<sup>th</sup> grades and with the understanding that the students will stay at the high school throughout the high school years.

Transportation to and from the new school will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

The Superintendent has established procedures for processing transfer requests, which include an appeal process.

## **Determination of High School Credit Earned by Middle School Students**

Grosse Pointe-approved high school courses successfully completed by a middle school student will appear on the student's high school transcript. Those middle school students taking high school courses have the option to have their grade reflected on their high school transcript and computed in their cumulative high school GPA or to have the credit reflected on their high school transcript with no grade reflected. Such election may be made at any time before entry into high school. If parents do not indicate a preference to have the grade reflected on the high school transcript, only credit without the grade will be reflected. High school courses taken during middle school will be reflected in the student's middle school report card.

## **Dual Enrollment**

Although middle school students are not eligible for formal dual enrollment, it may be useful for students and parents to know about this provision in planning a student's high school career. Legislation amending the Michigan School Code directs school districts, under certain circumstances, to assist students in paying a portion of the tuition and fees for a credit course at a public or independent non-profit college or university when the course is taken by a student who is still in high school. If the conditions are met, the school district is required to pay a specific, limited amount toward a student's tuition. Students who wish to take part in dual enrollment must be high school juniors or seniors who have already taken all high school MEAP's. Information is available from high school counselors and in Policy IHG and Regulation IHG-R.

Although the majority of courses offered in the Middle School Program of Studies will take place exactly as described, parents and students should be aware that modifications may have to be made due to circumstances of enrollment, teacher availability, changes in state or local graduation requirements or modifications in scheduling. In addition, from time to time, changes are made in policies and requirements after approval of the Program of Studies. Key changes are publicized to students and parents via newsletters, the district website, news releases and direct mail.

## **SUMMER SCHOOL**

Numerous summer learning opportunities are offered to middle school students for academic study, arts enrichment, extra skills coaching, and technology. Among the courses usually offered in the district during the summer are:

ART  
WRITING  
DRAMA  
MUSIC  
COMPUTER APPLICATION  
TV PRODUCTION

A summer school brochure is provided on the district web site ([www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org).) Brochures are also available in school offices, counseling centers and Community Education offices. Registration opens in late spring.

Grade 8 students entering high school have the opportunity to take selected high school classes for credit during the summer before 9<sup>th</sup> grade..

### **2008 SUMMER SCHOOL DATES**

The 2008 Summer Learning Program will take place tentatively from:

July 7 – August 13, 2008

Opportunities include reading, writing, math, social studies, computer applications, and TV production.

# **PROGRAM OF STUDIES**

**GRADES 6, 7, 8**

## GRADE SIX

### REQUIRED COURSES

**Students enroll in a total of 6 units.**

<b>COURSE</b>	<b><u>UNITS</u> *</b>
<u>Required Courses:</u>	
English Language Arts: Literature 6	1
English Language Arts: Writing 6	1/2 (every other day)
Mathematics 6	1
Social Studies 6	1
Science 6	1
Computer skills	1/4 (every other day/1 semester)
Required for students who have not yet attained grade level expectations:	
Reading Essentials or Reading Foundations	Every day 2-hour block 1/2 (every other day)
Math Foundations	1/2 (every other day)
<u>Electives:</u>	1 1/4 Total (Unless a Foundation or Essentials course is required)
See list below	

### ELECTIVE COURSES

Full year courses (every other day):	
Foreign Language Introduction (French or Spanish)	1/2
General Music	1/2
Choir – Grade 6	1/2
Select Band – Grade 6	1/2
Orchestra – Grade 6	1/2
Saxophone – Grade 6	1/2
Percussion – Grade 6	1/2
Explorations in Drama	1/2
Semester courses (every other day):	
Art	1/4
Technology Education	1/4
Lifeskills	1/4
Physical Education	1/4

\* A Unit is an every day, full year course

Flexible grouping patterns and/or accelerated /honors sections and multiple learning options (differentiation) provide enrichment, challenge, and acceleration.

## GRADE SEVEN

### REQUIRED COURSES

Students must enroll in six units including these courses:

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>UNITS</u> *
English 7	1
Mathematics 7	1
Social Studies 7	1
Science 7	1

Flexible grouping patterns and/or accelerated/honors sections and multiple learning options (differentiation) provide enrichment, challenge, and acceleration.

For students who have not yet attained grade level expectations:

Reading Foundations	1
Math Foundations	1

### ELECTIVE COURSES

Students enroll in TWO credits of elective units.

Full Year Courses	UNITS	Semester Courses	UNITS
Cadet Band	1	Creative Drama I	1/2
Chorus	1	Creative Drama II	1/2
Orchestra	1	Lifeskills	1/2
		Health	1/2
		Foods**	1/2
		Life Management	1/2
		Intro to Wood/Metal Tech	1/2
<b>Full Year or Semester Courses</b>		Exploration in Technology	1/2
French Introduction	1/2 - 1	Problems in Technology **	1/2
Spanish Introduction	1/2 - 1	Metal Technology **	1/2
Journalism	1/2 or 1	Wood Technology **	1/2
Broadcast Journalism	1/2 or 1	Academic Assistance Program ***	1/2
Physical Education	1/2 or 1	Introduction to CAD	1/2
		Middle School Computer Skills	1/2
		Advanced Middle School Computer	1/2
<b>Semester Courses</b>	<b>UNITS</b>	Digital Presentations	1/2
Exploration in Art	1/2	Programming	1/2
Art 2D **	1/2		
Art 3D **	1/2		
Chinese Introduction (Pending Approval)	1/2	*1 Unit = 1 year course: ** Prerequisites apply	

**GRADE EIGHT  
REQUIRED COURSES**

Students enroll in six units including these courses:

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>UNITS *</u>
English 8	1
Mathematics 8	1
Social Studies 8	1
Science 8	1

Flexible grouping patterns and/or accelerated/honors sections and multiple learning options (differentiation) provide enrichment, challenge, and acceleration.

For students who have not yet attained grade level expectations:

Reading Foundations	1
Math Foundations	1

Full Year Courses	UNITS	Semester Courses	UNITS
Concert Band	1	Creative Drama II	1/2
Choir	1	Health	1/2
Orchestra	1	Chinese Introduction (pending approval)	1/2
French	1	French Introduction	1/2
Spanish	1	Spanish Introduction	1/2
		French Enrichment	1/2
		Spanish Enrichment	1/2
<b>Full Year <u>or</u> Semester Courses</b>		Lifeskills	1/2
Journalism	1/2 or 1	Foods	1/2
Broadcast Journalism	1/2 or 1	Life Management	1/2
Physical Education	1/2 or 1	Intro to Wood/Metal Tech	1/2
		Exploration in Technology	1/2
		Problems in Technology **	1/2
		Metal Technology **	1/2
		Wood Technology **	1/2
		Introduction to CAD	1/2
		Academic Assistance Program	1/2
		Middle School Computer Skills	1/2
		Advanced Middle School Computer	1/2
		Digital Presentations	1/2
		Programming	1/2
Exploration in Art	1/2		
Art 2D	1/2		
Art 3D	1/2		
Creative Drama I	1/2		

\*1 Unit = 1 year course; \*\* Prerequisites apply,

# **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

## ACADEMIC SUPPORT

### Academic Assistance Program 6-7-8

1/2 UNIT

Assigned Semester Elective by Counselor

Academic Assistance is an assigned semester course for struggling learners. It is recommended for students experiencing difficulties with organizational skills, academic challenges and study skills. Students may be recommended for this program by counselors, reading specialists, teachers, parents or administrators. This course may be taken more than once.

## ART

### Exploratory Art

semester elective for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students

Art in the sixth grade continues the study of the basic elements and principles of design. Areas of study include work in drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and crafts. Improved craftsmanship and presentation in the finished product is stressed. Art history, criticism and aesthetics are correlated with projects introduced in class.

### Explorations in Art

1/2 UNIT - Elective in grade 7 and/or grade 8

Recommended prerequisite for eighth graders taking Art 2D or Art 3D

This course is for students that want to explore both 2D or 3D art and it is recommended for seventh and eighth grade students who wish to take Art 2D or Art 3D and did not take Exploratory Art in sixth grade. Students selecting Explorations in Art will work in several different art areas. They will explore art through experiences in drawing, painting, printmaking, clay techniques, sculpting, fibers and art metals. The course combines art production with extended experiences in art history, criticism, and aesthetics.

### Art 2D (2 dimensional)

1/2 UNIT - Elective in grade 7 and/or grade 8

Art 2D may be repeated; students will work at a more advanced level within the curriculum.

Recommended prerequisite for seventh and eighth graders:  
Explorations in Art

This course is for students who seek experiences in drawing, painting, and printmaking. Students will also study the lives and works of selected two-dimensional artists. The course combines art production with extended experiences in art history, criticism, and aesthetics.

### Art 3D (3 dimensional)

1/2 UNIT - Elective in grade 7 and/or grade 8

Art 3D may be repeated; students will work at a more advanced level within the curriculum.

Recommended prerequisite for seventh and eighth graders:  
Explorations in Art

Students in this course will seek experiences in both additive and subtractive sculpture by using a variety of materials such as clay, fibers, plaster, wood, wire, and art metals. The study of selected artists noted for their 3 dimensional works will be included. The course combines art production with extended experiences in art history, criticism, and aesthetics.

## COMPUTER EDUCATION

### Sixth Grade Computer Skills

required semester for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students

This course helps students develop skills that boost productivity and support lifelong learning using technology. The Middle School Computer Curriculum provides the objectives and benchmarks for the course. Students will learn introductory computer skills in the following subject areas: technology awareness, technology systems, databases, desktop publishing, graphics, multimedia, spreadsheets, word processing and information access as well as a review of keyboarding skills. This course is required for all sixth grade students.

COMPUTER EDUCATION CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE>

## COMPUTER EDUCATION CONTINUED

### Middle School Computer Skills

1/2 UNIT

This course is required for any student who does not meet the minimum expectations of the Sixth Grade Computer Skills Course or who is new to the district and needs to acquire the necessary computer skills. The Middle School Computer Curriculum provides the objectives and benchmarks for the course. Students will learn introductory computer skills in the following subject areas: technology awareness, technology systems, databases, desktop publishing, graphics, multimedia, spreadsheets, word processing and information access. Keyboarding skills will be reinforced as well. Students will use the skills they learn to produce a final project. The final project will incorporate skills that might be expected of someone working the world of business. This course is required for any student who does not meet the minimum expectations of the Sixth Grade Computer Skills Course.

### Digital Presentations: Combining Multimedia and the World Wide Web

1/2 UNIT

This course teaches students how to harness the information available on the World Wide Web. Students will use the Internet and selected online reference sources to develop thoughtful and creative research based products that are presented using Publisher, PowerPoint and Video creation software. Students will learn the basics of digital photography and editing. They will create clay animations by forming clay characters and using the digital camera to take pictures. The images will be used to animate a children's story. Finally, students will use FrontPage Express, (a web publisher utility) to plan and produce web pages for publication. Students can elect the course a second time with permission of their counselor and will do advance projects. Completed projects will reflect the students' interests and emerging skills.

### Programming

1/2 UNIT

This course teaches students to use programming languages that emphasize higher order thinking and problem solving skills. Students will learn the basic building blocks of three different programming languages: QBASIC, LOGO and HTML. Students will develop the analytical skills necessary to create a successful program. This course will give students a solid foundation in programming techniques that they can use to develop programs in any language. Students will apply their knowledge by creating MadLibs, drawings and music in QBASIC, video games using MicroWorlds (LOGO); Lego robotic devices controlled by the computer and web pages using HTML. Students can elect the course a second time with permission from their counselor. Completed projects will reflect the students' interests and emerging skills.

### Advanced Middle School Computer Skills

1/2 UNIT

Prerequisite: Pass Sixth Grade Computer Skills

This course helps students develop and boost productivity and support lifelong learning using technology. The Middle School Computer Curriculum provides the objective and benchmarks for the course. Students will learn advanced computer skills in the following subject areas: Keyboarding, technology awareness, technology systems, databases, desktop publishing, graphics, multimedia, spreadsheets, word processing and information access. Students will use the skills they learn to produce a variety of integrated projects. These projects will incorporate the skills necessary to create a technology project in the "Real World." This course is available to any seventh or eighth grade student who has passed the sixth grade computer skills curriculum.

## CREATIVE DRAMA

### Explorations in Drama

1/2 UNIT Elective in grade 6

This course is intended for students who wish to learn more about themselves by exploring the arena of stage and theater. Teaching strategies and activities will encourage student self-discovery and social consciousness. Students will explore Mime and how theater elements of script writing, acting, design and directing are included in multi-media as well as how theater is related to other content areas. A school production is not an intended outcome of this class.

CREATIVE DRAMA CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE>

# CREATIVE DRAMA CONTINUED

## Creative Drama I

1/2 UNIT - Elective in grade 7 and 8

This course is intended for students who wish to explore the discipline of theater. Students will develop communication skills, problem solving skills and an understanding of theater. Elements of script writing, acting, design, directing, and understanding context will be included. Students will explore the themes of pantomime and puppetry through improvisation, collaborative teams and teacher directed classroom activities. Students will discuss focus, projection, stage terminology as well as analyzing, critiquing and revising scripts. A school production is not the intended outcome of this class.

## Creative Drama II

1/2 UNIT - Elective in grade 7 and 8

Prerequisite: Creative Drama I

This course is intended for students who seek a more in-depth experience in Theater Arts. Students will explore relationships, conflict and character through scripted work and improvisational exercises. Acting and directing objectives include topics such as blocking, sub-text and audition techniques. Through study of radio shows students will learn to write and perform their own scripts. A school production is not the intended outcome of this class.

# ENGLISH

## English Foundations

1/2 UNIT

English Foundations is additional class time for support of students who need extra help meeting the curriculum goals of their grade-level English course. It is taken in addition to the grade-level course. English Foundations course content is a combination of basic skills instruction and support for the student's ELA: Reading, ELA: Writing, or English class requirements. Taught in a small group setting, English Foundations individualizes instruction to meet student needs.

## Reading Essentials - Grade 6

½ to 1 ½ UNITS

This course takes the place of Grade 6 English Language Arts: Reading (ELA: Reading) and/or Grade 6 English Language Arts: Writing (ELA: Writing) and can be taken for a semester or a whole year depending on the needs of the student. It is a course designed for the struggling readers, that is, one whose reading skills and strategies are well below grade level. The course is taught by a member of the English Department or the building reading specialist. Consideration for placement is based on the following:

- Grade 5 or 6 teacher/language arts specialist recommendation
- Grade 5 standardized test scores
- Holistic data collection conducted by reading specialist

## Grade 6 English Language Arts: Reading (ELA: Reading) 1 UNIT - Requirement

In this everyday course, students will experience the following genre: folk tale, fantasy, adventure, action, research report. Students will read Twenty-One Balloons and two from the following list: The Tales of King Arthur, Wrinkle in Time, Christmas Carol (adaptation), Phantom Tollbooth and Frozen Fire. In addition to reading requirements, students will write in response to reading and will write a research report.

## Grade 6 English Language Arts: Writing (ELA: Writing) ½ UNIT – Requirement

In this every-other-day class, students will write in the following modes: personal narrative, and persuasive essay. The study of grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation and spelling is integrated throughout the course.

ENGLISH CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE>

## ENGLISH CONTINUED

### English Grade 7

1 UNIT - Requirement

Students will read a variety of genre including mystery, poetry, memoir, drama, myth, legend, persuasion, essay, research report, brochure, personal correspondence, autobiography, and biography. Among the titles they will read are The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle and two of the following: The Adventures of Ulysses, Dragonwings; Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry; My Brother, My Sister and I; Live Albom IV; Wolf Rider and The Outsiders. Students will write in the following modes: memoir, drama, legend, mystery, poetry, myth, research report, personal letter, and essay. Grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation and spelling studies are integrated throughout the course.

### English Grade 8

1 UNIT - Requirement

Students will read a variety of genre including historical fiction, science fiction, realistic fiction, comparative essays, newspaper writing, technical writing, and persuasive essay. Among the major works, they will read The Diary of Anne Frank (the play version) and "Flowers for Algernon" and two of the following: Light in the Forest, Pigman, No Promises in the Wind, and The Giver, and Night to Remember. Students will write in the following modes: historical fiction, science fiction, realistic fiction, historical expository piece (journal, biography, situated simulated memoir), and research project. Grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation and spelling studies are integrated throughout the course.

## Middle School Honors English Courses

These courses are designed for the talented and serious academic student who is willing to rise to the challenge of intense, independent and in-depth work.

### Honors English Language Arts: Literature Grade 6 1/2 UNIT

Students will read from a wide variety of genre including the following: folk tale, fantasy, adventure, action, research report, how-to articles and essays. Among the titles they will read are Twenty-One Balloons and two from the following list: Proud Taste for Scarlet and Minerver, Swiss Family Robinson and A Christmas Carol (the original).

### Honors English Language Arts: Writing Grade 6 1 UNIT

Students will write personal narrative, adventure, tall tale, folk tale, fantasy, essay (personal, persuasive, comparative). Grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation and spelling studies are integrated throughout the course.

### Honors English Grade 7

1 UNIT

Students will read from a wide variety of genre including the following: mystery, poetry, memoir, drama, myth, legend, persuasion, essay, research report, brochure, personal correspondence, autobiography, and biography. Among the titles they will read are The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle, Reflections on a Gift of Watermelon Pickle and a selection of works by Edgar Allen Poe plus two from the following list: Nothing But the Truth, Homecoming and Summer of My German Soldier. Students will write memoir, drama, legend, mystery, poetry, myth, research report, personal letter, and essay.

# ENGLISH CONTINUED

## Honors English Grade 8

1 UNIT

Students will read from a wide variety of genre including the following: historical fiction, science fiction, realistic fiction, memoir, newspaper writing, technical writing, comparative essay, and persuasive essay. Among the titles they will read are Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl, "Flowers for Algernon" and either Midsummer Night's Dream or As You Like It, plus two of the following: Johnny Tremain, Night, Tuesdays with Morrie and Tale of Two Cities. Students will write a variety of essay forms including the following: historical fiction, science fiction, realistic fiction, historical expository piece (journal, biography, simulated memoir), and research project.

## **Journalism**

### Journalism

1/2 UNIT or 1 UNIT Elective in grade 7 and/or 8

May be taken more than once with teacher approval

Journalism is for students who want to improve their communication skills, both written and oral. Students will also conduct research from a variety of sources and use computer applications in their assignments.

### Broadcast Journalism

1/2 UNIT or 1 UNIT – Elective in grade 7 and grade 8

May be taken more than once with teacher approval

Broadcast Journalism students join the staff of their school's television station. Students explore both television production and journalism fundamentals through video editing, production, news writing and reporting. Students will use various technological tools to gain skills such as project planning, leadership, organization and responsibility.

# LIFESKILLS & HEALTH

## Exploratory Lifeskills

Semester elective 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Exploratory Lifeskills is designed to provide students with introductory experiences in personal care, etiquette and table manners, snack foods and simple hand and machine sewing. Students will have an opportunity to prepare foods from each of the food groups. Students will learn to read recipes and use measuring equipment and kitchen appliances. Additionally, students will participate in activities relating to personal grooming and basic babysitting skills.

## Lifeskills

1/2 UNIT - Elective in grade 7 and/or grade 8

This course is planned to provide students with hands on experiences in these basic areas of study and activity: character development, friends and family relationships, childcare including the Egg Baby Project, food preparation and nutrition, hand and machine sewing skills plus clothing care. This class not only holds the students interest, but provides relevant connections to the core academics.

## Life Management

1/2 UNIT - Elective in grade 7 and/or grade 8

Life Management provides students with an opportunity to explore career paths, consumer skills, housing – including Interior Decorating and design, and money management – including banking and the stock market. Students will integrate problem solving skills in simulated life situations. Students will also use their consumer skills to create a meal for a family of five with \$10 or less. Guest speakers from financial institutions are often brought in to further educate students in money management skills. Content also covers manners and etiquette focusing on proper introductions, formal place setting and social “do’s and don’ts”.

## Foods and Nutrition

1/2 UNIT - Elective in grade 7 and/or grade 8

May be taken more than once with teacher approval

This course is intended for students who are interested in the study of nutrition and food preparation. Students will learn to select and prepare a variety of foods from the Food Guide Pyramid. Students will demonstrate consumer skills and discover the effect of making healthy choices. Other focus areas include multicultural cuisines and the use of technology. Guest speakers are often brought in to expose students to careers in culinary arts.

## Health

1/2 UNIT - Elective in grade 7 or 8

The Health course focuses on essential health education including emotional and mental health, growth and development, personal health, family health, consumer health, safety and first aid, nutrition, substance use and abuse, disease prevention and control, and environmental and community health.

# MATHEMATICS

The three-year Middle School mathematics curriculum includes the objectives of the Michigan Department of Education and the standards of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The program emphasizes mastery of skills basic to these areas of study: computation, measurement, mathematical reasoning, problem solving, number system, estimation, geometry, algebra, statistics, and probability.

## Math Foundations

1/2 UNIT – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
1 UNIT – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Math Foundations is a support class taken in addition to a student's regular math class. The purpose of the class is to provide additional support for students as they work to meet the grade-level curriculum goals. Course content includes additional instruction on the concepts being taught in class, previews of upcoming lessons, homework assistance, and preparation for quizzes and tests. Taught in a small group setting, Math Foundations individualizes instruction to meet student needs.

## Math Grade 6

1 UNIT - Requirement

Sixth grade math class emphasizes work with numbers. Students' knowledge of whole numbers and fractions will extend to integers and rational numbers. The number emphasis is intended to lay a foundation for the algebra expectations that are included in grade six. Students will use variables, write simple expressions and equations, and graph linear relationships. In geometry, students continue to expand their knowledge of shapes and their properties. An advanced sixth grade class is available and generally follows the seventh grade curriculum with additional enrichment.

## Math Grade 7

1 UNIT - Requirement

The main focus in grade seven is the algebra concept of linear relationships, including proportional relationship concepts. Students should understand the relationship of equations to their graphs, as well as to tables and the contextual situations for linear functions. Work in algebra also extends into simplifying and solving simple expressions and equations. In Geometry, students explore the similarity of polygons, which draws on ideas about proportions. Students will apply their understanding of ratio in data-based situations. An advanced seventh grade class is available and generally follows the eighth grade curriculum with additional enrichment.

## Math Grade 8

1 UNIT - Requirement

The main areas of emphasis for eighth grade are algebra, geometry and data. In Algebra, students explore non-linear functions with a concentration on quadratic functions. Functions are studied through various representations: symbolic, graphical, tabular, and verbal. In Geometry, students consolidate their knowledge of two- and three-dimensional shapes and their properties, and apply this knowledge to perimeter, area, volume, and visualization problems. In Data and Probability, students make decisions and perform basic analyses of data sets. Common probability misconceptions and bias in data presentation are addressed. Throughout this study, students use their understanding of number and measurement, developed prior to eighth grade, to solve more complex problems.

## Honors Algebra I

1 UNIT

This course is for qualified accelerated students. It is a rigorous high school level Algebra I course for which the student earns high school credit. Algebra I builds on the study of functions and representations begun in the middle school grades. The main area of emphasis for Algebra I is functions and their representations. Students will learn to simplify and factor expressions, solve linear equations, quadratic equations, and systems of equations. Students will study families of functions and their graphs including linear, quadratic, polynomial, power, exponential, and logarithmic. Using these functions, students will model real-world situations with data and solve related problems. A scientific and/or graphing calculator will be used to supplement topics. The next course in this sequence is Honors Accelerated Geometry, which is typically offered at the high schools.

# MODERN LANGUAGES

## Exploratory French and Spanish

1/4 UNIT – 1 Semester EOD – Elective in grade 6

The Exploratory language unit is designed to give students an opportunity to experience the study of French and Spanish. This rotation helps them make informed decisions about future language study. Students are introduced to two of the languages taught in the Grosse Pointe Public Schools Modern and Classical Languages Department and their related peoples and cultures. Exploratory students gain some practical experience in French and Spanish, study elementary sounds and expressions in those languages, and learn some basic vocabulary within a conversational setting. Students further their language skills through interactions with diverse technologies that may include videos, slides, audio materials, Internet sites in French/Spanish, language-learning software, and other technology-infused projects.

## French Introduction 6

1/2 UNIT - 1 year Every Other Day – Elective in grade 6  
Prerequisite for French I

This seventh/eighth grade course is available in sixth grade for students who want the option of an accelerated language-learning experience. It mirrors the content of the French Introduction class within the context of the sixth grade schedule via instruction appropriate for those learners. This course is planned for students who wish to begin the formal study of French prior to entering high school. It will cover approximately one-third of the basic high school French I course. Middle school students, who successfully complete French Introduction, have the option of continuing their accelerated pace to complete both French I and French II while in middle school. Students also have the option to continue their study via the Enrichment and/or French I course. Students further their language skills through interactions with videos, slides, audio materials, Internet sites in French, language-learning software, and other technology-infused projects.

## Spanish Introduction 6

1/2 UNIT - 1 year Every Other Day – Elective in grade 6  
Prerequisite for Spanish I

This seventh/eighth grade course is available in sixth grade for students who want the option of an accelerated language-learning experience. It mirrors the content of the Spanish Introduction class within the context of the sixth grade schedule via instruction appropriate for those learners. This course is planned for students who wish to begin the formal study of Spanish prior to entering high school. It will cover approximately one-third of the basic high school Spanish I course. Middle school students, who successfully complete Spanish Introduction, have the option of continuing their accelerated pace to complete both Spanish I and Spanish II while in middle school. Students also have the option to continue their study via the Enrichment and/or Spanish I course. Students further their language skills through interactions with videos, slides, audio materials, Internet sites in Spanish, language-learning software, and other technology-infused projects.

Chinese Introduction (Pending Approval) ½ UNIT – 1 Semester Elective in grade 7 or 8  
Prerequisite for Chinese I

**This course is being proposed by a district study committee and may run pending Board approval and sufficient student interest. Parents and students will be notified when the decision is made. Interested students should select both this course and the foreign language or other elective that they would take if the course is not offered.**

This course is planned for students who wish to begin the formal study of Chinese prior to entering high school. It will cover approximately one-third of the basic high school Chinese I course. Middle school students, who successfully complete both Chinese Introduction and Chinese I, may enroll directly in Chinese II in high school. Students also have the option of expanding their study via the Enrichment class. Students further their language skills through interactions with videos, slides, audio materials, Internet sites in Chinese, language-learning software, and other technology-infused projects. If there is insufficient enrollment for Chinese I at the middle school, students may be able to enroll in Chinese I at one of the high schools.

Due to scheduling complexities, it is strongly suggested that students who elect this course make a full semester commitment and attend a spring orientation.

### French Introduction

1/2 UNIT - 1 semester – Elective in grade 7 or 8  
Prerequisite for French I

This course is planned for students who wish to begin the formal study of French prior to entering high school. It will cover approximately one-third of the basic high school French I course. Middle school students, who successfully complete both French Introduction and French I, may enroll directly in French II in high school. Students also have the option of expanding their study via the Enrichment class. Students further their language skills through interactions with videos, slides, audio materials, Internet sites in French, language-learning software, and other technology-infused projects.

### Spanish Introduction

1/2 UNIT - Elective in grade 7 or grade 8  
Prerequisite for Spanish I

This course is planned for students who wish to begin the formal study of Spanish prior to entering high school. It will cover approximately one-third of the basic high school Spanish I course. Middle school students who successfully complete both Spanish Introduction and Spanish I, may enroll directly in Spanish II in high school. Students also have the option of expanding their study via the Enrichment class. Student further their language skills through interactions with videos, slides, audio materials, Internet sites in Spanish, language-learning software, and other technology-infused projects.

### French Enrichment

1/2 UNIT - 1 semester – Elective in grade 7 or 8  
Prerequisite: French Introduction

This course is planned for students who wish to expand their study of French. Students will explore additional topics via thematic units inspired by interdisciplinary study and cultural connections. Grammar from French Introduction will be reinforced. This is an opportunity for further language study and is an optional addition to either traditional or accelerated language study at the middle school. (French I would be the next course in which students would enroll.) Students further their language skills through interactions with videos, slides, audio materials, Internet sites in French, language-learning software, and other technology-infused projects.

### Spanish Enrichment

1/2 UNIT - 1 semester – Elective in grade 7 or 8  
Prerequisite: Spanish Introduction

This course is planned for students who wish to expand their study of Spanish. Students will explore additional topics via thematic units inspired by interdisciplinary study and cultural connections. Grammar from Spanish Introduction will be reinforced. This is an opportunity for further language study and is an optional addition to either traditional or accelerated language study at the middle school. (Spanish I would be the next course in which students would enroll.) Students further their language skills through interactions with videos, slides, audio materials, Internet sites in Spanish, language-learning software, and other technology-infused projects.

### French I

1 UNIT – 1 Year Elective in grade 7 or 8  
Prerequisite: Introductory French or permission of the teacher

This course is planned for students who wish to earn one year of high school credit in French prior to entering high school. Students who successfully complete French I in middle school may enroll in French II at the high school. The course is designed to help students develop basic skills in each of the four areas of language: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Pronunciation and grammatical pattern and structures are emphasized in developing these skills. In addition, students explore the cultures of French speaking peoples. Students further their language skills through interactions with videos, slides, audio materials, Internet sites in French, language-learning software, and other technology-infused projects.

### Spanish I

1 UNIT – 1 Year Elective in grade 7 or 8  
Prerequisite: Introductory Spanish or permission of the teacher

This course is planned for students who wish to earn one year of high school credit in Spanish prior to entering high school. Students who successfully complete Spanish I in middle school may enroll in Spanish II at the high school. This course is designed to help students develop basic skills in each of the four areas of language: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Pronunciation and grammatical patterns and structures are emphasized in developing these skills. In addition, students explore the cultures of Spanish speaking peoples. Students further their language skills through interactions with videos, slides, audio materials, Internet sites in Spanish, language-learning software, and other technology-infused projects.

# MUSIC

## VOCAL MUSIC

### Choir – Grade 6

1/2 UNIT - Elective in grade 6

This course is designed for students who are interested in developing excellence in vocal performance in a variety of musical styles. The objectives focus on vocal technique, music literacy, musical theater performance and movement. Basic choral and musical theater literature will be taught. Numerous performance opportunities will be available. Participation in scheduled concert rehearsals and performances is required as part of this course. A limited number of before or after school rehearsals may be required.

### Chorus

1/2 UNIT - Elective in grade 7, normally elected for full year  
Teacher approval required if taken for one semester only

Chorus is planned for students who have a sincere interest in vocal music, who wish to participate in special performances, and who wish to improve their ability to sing. Participation in concert rehearsals and performances is required as part of the course. A limited number of before or after school rehearsals may be required.

### Choir

1 UNIT - Elective in grade 8

Choir includes advanced training in vocal music instruction. Students will refine their skills in vocal technique, sight-reading, and ear training. The choir performs often during the year and students develop strong teamwork skills and confidence on stage. Participation in concert rehearsals and performances is required as part of the course. A limited number of before or after school rehearsals may be required.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

### Select Band - Grade 6

1/2 UNIT - Elective

This course is designed for students who participated in instrumental music in grade five and wish to continue their study of flute, clarinet, cornet, trumpet, trombone, or baritone. Students will learn the skills necessary for success in the large group rehearsal setting, while differentiated instruction will encourage each student to progress according to their own ability level. Participation in scheduled concert rehearsals and performances is required as part of this course.

### Orchestra – Grade 6

1/2 UNIT - Elective

This course is designed for students who participated in instrumental music in grade five, and wish to continue their study of violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students will learn the skills necessary for success in the large group rehearsal setting, while differentiated instruction will encourage each student to progress according to their own ability level. Participation in scheduled concert rehearsals and performances is required as part of this course.

### Saxophone – Grade 6

1/2 Unit – Elective

This course is designed to assist students with instrumental music study on saxophone with prior experience on clarinet. Students will learn the skills necessary for success in an ensemble setting, while differentiated instruction will encourage each student to progress according to their own ability level. Participation in scheduled concert rehearsals and performances is required as part of this course.

### Percussion – Grade 6

1/2 Unit - Elective

This course is designed to assist students with instrumental music study on percussion with no prior experience or with prior experience on a different instrument. Students will learn the skills necessary for success in an ensemble setting, while differentiated instruction will encourage each student to progress according to their own ability level. Participation in scheduled concert rehearsals and performances is required as part of this course.

MUSIC CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE >

## MUSIC (CONTINUED)

### Cadet Band

1 UNIT - Elective in grade 7

In Cadet Band students will experience regular playing in a large ensemble. Instruction includes tone, production, rhythm and counting, the technical skills associated with fingering and articulation, scales, the fundamentals of music theory, and sight-reading. Participation in concert rehearsals and performances is required as part of the course. Participation in festivals involving the entire band or individual ensembles is optional, and is determined by student interest and the teacher.

### Concert Band

1 UNIT - Elective in grade 8

Concert Band instruction includes advanced training in the same fundamentals listed in Cadet Band. Participation in concert rehearsals and performances is required as part of the course. Participation in festivals involving the entire band or individual ensembles is optional, and is determined by student interest and the teacher. Seventh grade students who demonstrate advanced instrumental skills in grade six, may enroll with teacher recommendation.

### Orchestra

1 UNIT - Elective in grades 7 and 8

The Orchestra class provides instruction in playing stringed instruments and is planned for students with some previous skills associated with bowing, fingering, tone production, rhythm, and expression. It also includes scales, the fundamentals of theory, and sight-reading. At teacher discretion, orchestra students meet periodically with selected wind students before the regular school day to form a full orchestra. Participation in concert rehearsals and performances is required as part of the course. Participation in festivals involving the entire orchestra or individual ensembles is optional, and is determined by student interest and the teacher.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### Physical Education Grade 6

1/4 UNIT - Elective

This course is designed to promote physical fitness and to provide students an opportunity to develop basic skills in a planned program of physical activity including individual and team sports, swimming and cooperative games.

### Physical Education Grade 7

1/2 UNIT - Elective This course is designed to promote students growth in developing their skills in a planned program of physical activities in both individual and team sports, as well as swimming. Units covered include volleyball, soccer, floor hockey, softball, badminton, swimming and boating safety certification. Emphasis is placed on the promotion of physical fitness and lifetime activities.

1 UNIT – Elective This course is designed to increase and maintain personal fitness and develop skills in a broad range of activities. Units included are: speed-a-way, volleyball, softball, pickle ball, badminton, floor hockey, swimming, water games, flag football, soccer and other games.

### Physical Education Grade 8

1/2 UNIT - Elective This course is designed to promote the students' growth in individual activities (badminton, pickle ball, and fitness), team sports (volleyball, basketball, and softball), and swimming. Students will have an opportunity to advance their skills in lifetime activities, swimming, games and personal fitness.

1 UNIT – Elective This course is planned to provide daily activity. Students will be encouraged to develop their personal fitness, and experience lifetime activities. Individual activities included are: pickle ball, badminton, swimming, and fitness. Team sports included are: basketball, flag football, floor hockey, various other games, and softball, volleyball, and water games.

# SCIENCE

**Curriculum is currently under review. Parents and students will be notified of any changes that occur.**

## Science Grade 6

1 UNIT - Requirement

Come explore the role of science in the management of the planet! The daily decisions made by each person will impact how humans live on this planet in the future. This course provides the basis for learning earth science principles and skills. Students will develop and apply basic science literacy when studying interrelationships of humans with the geosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere. The year's exploration will culminate in the integrated unit on ecosystems.

## Science Grade 7

1 UNIT - Requirement

Examine living things! Function like real scientists as you explore why one person can roll her tongue and another cannot, how forces and the laws of motion impact human movement, why many living things are made up of specialized cells, how the environment affects populations of organisms, and why diversity is important to the survival of a species. This course provides the basis for learning biological principles and skills in the areas of cells, heredity and adaptation, and organization of living things. The end of the year discovery features an integrated unit, BioMechanics. Lessons utilizing computer skills are incorporated into the Science curriculum at each grade level.

## Science Grade 8

1 UNIT - Requirement

Survey the exciting world of science! Learn the basic scientific laws and models by which the physical universe is understood. Physical science concepts are encountered daily—motion and forces, waves and vibrations, electricity and magnetism, the relationship of matter and energy. This course serves as a foundation for understanding physics and chemistry through interactive, hands-on physical science experiences. Lessons utilizing computer skills are incorporated into the Science curriculum at each grade level.

## **Middle School Honors Science**

The following courses are designed for the serious academic student who is willing to rise to the challenge of intense, independent and in-depth work. Due to the rigor of this program, students must have parental approval and fulfill the eligibility requirements. Summer independent study activities in preparation for this course may be assigned prior to the beginning of the school year. Students will be expected to achieve and maintain a B- or higher grade.

### Honors Science Grade 7

1 UNIT

The course is designed to parallel the Grade 7 Science curriculum which provides the basis for learning biological principles and skills in the areas of cells, heredity and adaptation, organization of living things, and biomechanics. Qualified accelerated students in this course will study these topics in greater depth which would include having experiences in reading high school level scientific texts, increased opportunities in scientific writing, advanced lab skills, experience in note-taking and increased expectations to analyze relationships and trends in scientific data. Although this course is not required for enrollment in Honors Science courses in high school, it provides excellent preparation.

### Honors Science Grade 8

1 UNIT

This course is designed to parallel the Grade 8 Science curriculum which provides the basis for understanding the physical universe. The key content areas which include motion and forces, waves and vibrations, electricity and magnetism, and relationship of matter and energy, will be taught at a more rigorous level for qualified accelerated students. The Honors course will provide for experiences in reading high school level scientific texts, increased opportunities in scientific writing, advanced lab skills, experience in note-taking and more integration of higher order thinking skills and strategies for seeing relationships and trends in data. Although this course is not required for enrollment in Honors Science courses in high school, it provides excellent preparation.

# SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies has been locally designed within the solid, meaningful conceptual framework endorsed by the National Council for the Social Studies. Factual content is studied as it illuminates the following key social studies concepts:

- Global Interdependence
- Conflict
- Technological Development: Industrialization and Urbanization
- Human Dignity and Human Rights
- Culture
- Societal Change
- Power Relationships and Governments
- Morality and Choice
- World Economic Systems Principles
- The Interaction of People and Geographic Environment

The units, topics and concepts are an outgrowth of the elementary school social studies curriculum, and student mastery of this material should provide a sound background for the social studies courses of the high school.

Lessons utilizing computer skills are incorporated into the Social Studies curriculum at each grade level.

## Social Studies Grade 6

1 UNIT - Requirement

The sixth grade course will provide understanding about the Western World so that students can analyze relationships between Canada, Middle America (Mexico and Central America), the Caribbean Basin, South America, and Europe. Units expand the students' knowledge of the Western World geographically by examining regions, place, location, movement, and human/environment interactions. Students will discover the role of the United States in a global society, and understand the significant stages in the development of money and international commerce. Students will apply American democratic values and examine them in relation to world issues and western political systems.

## Social Studies Grade 7

1 UNIT - Requirement

The seventh grade course centers on the study of the Eastern World. The following areas will be included: Asia, Africa and Oceania. Units expand the students' knowledge of the Eastern World geographically by examining regions, place, location, movement, and human/environment interactions. Students will analyze the role of the United States in the global society and understand different types of economic systems and how they interact. Students will examine a variety of governmental structures and analyze their relationships to American democratic values and constitutional principles. Students will examine significant people and events that have affected life in the Eastern Hemisphere.

## Social Studies Grade 8

1 UNIT - Requirement

The eighth grade course emphasizes selected studies in United States History and includes highlights in the development of American democratic ideals through industrialization. Students examine interdependent relationships between communication, innovations, and transportation as meaningful events both in America and beyond national boundaries. The influence of values and issues upon the Constitution and evolution of the federal republic are analyzed in depth. The American market economy is studied in relationship to the role of government with regards to taxation, public services, regulation and productivity. Students learn to examine events and people from multiple perspectives and viewpoints, discovering that history is tentative and subject to change as new data comes to light. Lessons utilizing the computer skills of desktop publishing (Publisher) are incorporated into the eighth grade Social Studies curriculum.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HONORS SOCIAL STUDIES CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE >

# HONORS SOCIAL STUDIES (continued)

## Middle School Honors Social Studies

The following courses are designed for the serious academic student who is willing to rise to the challenge of in-depth work. Due to the rigor of this program, students must have parental approval and fulfill the eligibility requirements. Students will be expected to achieve and maintain a B- or higher grade.

Honors Social Studies Grade 7                      1 UNIT

This course is designed to parallel the Grade 7 Social Studies curriculum which focuses on the Eastern World. Qualified honors students will experience an enriched curriculum of greater depth involving high school level reading and writing experiences, including note-taking. Higher order thinking activities requiring analysis and synthesis of information will be expected. Although this course is not required for enrollment in Honors Social Studies courses in high school, it provides excellent preparation.

Honors Social Studies Grade 8                      1 UNIT

This course is designed to parallel the Grade 8 Social Studies curriculum which focuses on U. S. History. Qualified honors students will experience an enriched curriculum of greater depth involving high school level reading and writing experiences, as well as note-taking. Higher order thinking activities requiring analysis and synthesis of information will be expected. When possible, original source documents and biographical readings will be used. Although this course is not required for enrollment in Honors Social Studies courses in high school, it provides excellent preparation. .

## INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Exploratory Technology                              Semester elective 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Introduction to Technology helps beginning students understand the meaning of technology. Students will learn communication skills through the introduction of computer drafting, measurement, sketching and will use CADKEY Computer-Aided Design software. Transportation technology will be taught through building and testing of various vehicles. Depending on the individual building's availability to lab space, manufacturing (through the use of hand and power tools) of a wood product may be taught. Students will also use computers in interactive problem solving experiences with software such as West Point Bridge Designer to design and test a truss bridge, and to collect data and graph results from other projects. Problem-solving activities may include building towers from simple materials to get a taste of construction and its economics, producing flying air-powered crafts to study the design process and develop a prototype. Students also research a technology of their choosing looking at it both past and present and create a presentation to predict the future of that technology.

Introduction to Woods and Metal Technology

1/2 UNIT - Elective in grade 7 and/or grade 8  
Prerequisite for Wood Technology or Teacher consent  
Prerequisite for Metal Technology or Teacher consent

This course is for students who are interested in experiencing manufacturing technology in an active, hands-on lab setting. Safe working habits, a basic knowledge of machine operations, and the use of sequential processes are emphasized. Problem solving and teamwork are stressed as students design and construct useful products to meet the goals of the course. Technology learning activities are employed in the manufacturing and construction areas.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE >

# INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY (continued)

## Wood Technology

1/2 UNIT - Elective in Grade 7 and/or grade 8

Prerequisite: Introduction to Woods & Metal Technology  
or Teacher consent  
May be taken more than once

Students continue to develop technical skills in design, planning and production of products. The practical application of technical information coupled with advanced hands-on skills results in a wide range of laboratory experiences with soft materials.

## Metal Technology

1/2 UNIT - Elective in grade 7 and/or grade 8

Prerequisite: Introduction to Woods & Metal Technology  
or Teacher consent  
May be taken more than once

Students enrolling in this course will continue to develop problem-solving techniques as related to the metal processing industry. Welding, hammer-forming, brazing, designing and shaping skills will be developed through the technology activities designed for the course.

## Introduction to Computer Aided Drafting

1/2 UNIT - Elective in grade 7 or grade 8

Computer Aided Drafting is a semester course that builds on the short introduction to CADKEY students received in grade six. Students will learn basic drafting/drawing techniques and principals using CADKEY 3D modeling software. This is the same software used at the high school level. The course will also include architectural drawing using 3D Home Architect, model house building, and CAD related career exploration. Students completing this course will have a major advantage when they enter the high school level CAD Engineering classes.

## Explorations in Technology

1/2 UNIT - Elective in grade 7 or grade 8

Explorations in Technology examines the major units of technology through a selection of problem solving activities. Computer aided drafting, electricity, bridge building/engineering, land transportation and air transportation are a few examples of the units that are covered in this semester course. From operating solo to up to groups of five, students work to complete challenging tasks and hands on problems presented by instructors. Students also research a technology of their choosing looking at it both past and present and create a presentation to predict the future of that technology.

## Problems in Technology

1/2 UNIT - Elective in grade 7 or grade 8

Prerequisite: Explorations in Technology or Teacher permission  
May be taken more than once

Magnetic Levitation, Air/Water Powered Rockets, Marble Coasters, Eggs-Cargo, Toy Dissection, Electric Cars are a few of the Technology Learning Activities with which this hands-on problem solving oriented course will challenge students. Using the tools and machinery found in each buildings' Technology or Manufacturing labs, teams of students will engineer and construct prototypes of their solutions and test them in a variety of situations. Students also research a technology of their choosing, looking at it both past and present and create a presentation to predict the future of that technology.

## VISION

Excellence in Education: Learning and Leading for Today and Tomorrow

## MISSION

The Grosse Pointe Public School System, in partnership with students, staff, parents and community, will be at the forefront of education. An evolving curriculum and the highest standards of instruction and learning in every class, every day, will ensure that each student is challenged to fully develop individual abilities, skills and character to succeed in life. We are committed to creating an environment that cultivates knowledgeable, responsible, and caring citizens who embrace life's possibilities with a passion for continuous learning.