Gull Lake Middle School

Curriculum Guide

2026– 2027

GLMS: Growing Learners, Becoming Leaders

Making Sense of Middle School Curriculum

Education continues to change at an accelerated rate. As we gather information on changes, we generate and implement ideas to improve the education of our students. These changes stem from various places, including district, state, and federal guidelines. To stay compliant with the guidelines, we review our curriculum each year and make changes that we believe will help our students be college and career-ready. Here is some information that we believe will assist you as your child takes courses at Gull Lake Middle School.

The Michigan Department of Education, with assistance from many educational organizations, developed a system of learning goals for students from kindergarten through twelfth grade in many subject areas. The state of Michigan requires learning standards to be taught in public schools, with an assessment administered to measure the students' level of attainment. Not only do we make sure that we follow the state and federal guidelines for education, but we also give our students opportunities to explore various topics that may inspire them to pursue a field of interest. We also provide a middle school curriculum designed to fully prepare our students to meet the academic rigor at the high school.

Core Classes

All students must take English/Language Arts (ELA), math, science, and social studies throughout their time at GLMS.

Encore Classes

All students will have the opportunity to take encore classes. Our goal is for students to experience fine arts (i.e., visual art or music), physical education, health, STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics), writing, and Spanish for at least a trimester sometime in their 6th or 7th grade experience. 8th grade allows for more individual, specialized encore options that expand on the skills learned in the foundational courses experienced in the first two grades at Gull Lake Middle School.

Interventions

We gather data on all students, including grades, state and local assessment scores, to determine their academic progress. When students show the need for support, we offer interventions to help them improve in the areas of math, literacy, and resiliency, which are the foundational skills in our curriculum.

Accelerated Classes

Students who meet certain requirements are eligible to take additional challenging courses in ELA and math through our Academically Talented Youth Program, offered through a partnership with Western Michigan University or accelerated classes at the middle school. Some math, Spanish, and STEM classes will allow eighth graders to receive a high school credit. Additionally, we are able to offer virtual course opportunities for particular student needs or interests on an individual basis.

This guide provides a list of courses that we offer at the middle school. Our courses are reviewed and revised each year to ensure that our students get the best possible education at Gull Lake.

Gull Lake Middle School Class Offerings

GLMS provides all students with an encore experience in the following categories:
Physical Education, Fine Arts, STEM, and Foreign Language classes

Encore combinations will be based on enrollment and teacher availability & certification.

Lab/intervention classes will be offered to students qualifying for those courses and will serve as encore classes.

6th Grade ~ 2026-2027

Required Core Classes:
ELA 6, Math 6 or Math 6/7, Science 6

Required Encore:
Spanish A, Author's Workshop, and Physical Education

Option A:	Option B BAND ROTATION:	Option C CHOIR ROTATION:
● Art ● Design & Modeling ● Fitness & Sports ● Spanish A ● Author's Workshop ● Physical Education	● Band *(3 trimesters)* ● Spanish A ● Author's Workshop ● Physical Education	● Choir *(3 trimesters)* ● Spanish A ● Author's Workshop ● Physical Education

7th Grade ~ 2026-2027

Required Core Classes:
ELA or ELA 7/8, Math or Math 7/8, Science, Social Studies

Required Encore:
Health

Option A

For this option, your student will have band or choir for the entire school year. In addition, your student will have ***Design & Modeling and Health*** for 1 trimester each. Lastly, your student will select ***one additional trimester elective.***

Select <u>one</u> of the following <u>all-year</u> electives:

- ☐ Band *(3 trimesters)*
- ☐ Choir *(3 trimesters)*

Select <u>one</u> of the following one-trimester electives:

- ☐ 3-Dimensional Art
- ☐ App Creator
- ☐ Books and Movies
- ☐ Career Readiness
- ☐ Creative Music Lab
- ☐ Drama
- ☐ Financial Literacy
- ☐ Flight and Space
- ☐ Intro to Guitar
- ☐ Green Architecture/Outdoor Ed
- ☐ Medical Detectives
- ☐ Musical Theater
- ☐ Physical Education
- ☐ Podcasting
- ☐ Robotics
- ☐ STEM Extensions
- ☐ Studio Art
- ☐ Virtual*

Option B

- ☐ For this option, your student will have ***Health*** for 1 trimester (and **Design and Modeling** if they did not take it in 6th grade). In addition, your student will select ***five additional trimester electives.***
- ☐
- ☐ **Select <u>five</u> of the following one-trimester electives:**
- ☐

- ☐ 3-Dimensional Art
- ☐ App Creator
- ☐ Books and Movies
- ☐ Career Readiness
- ☐ Creative Music Lab
- ☐ Design and Modeling**
- ☐ Drama
- ☐ Financial Literacy
- ☐ Flight and Space
- ☐ Green Architecture /Outdoor Ed
- ☐ Intro to Guitar
- ☐ Medical Detectives
- ☐ Musical Theater
- ☐ Physical Education
- ☐ Podcasting
- ☐ Robotics
- ☐ STEM Extensions
- ☐ Studio Art
- ☐ Virtual* (can check up to 2 trimesters)
- ☐ Virtual* (can check up to 2 trimesters)

8th Grade ~ 2026-2027

Required Core Classes:
ELA or ELA 9, Math or Algebra, Science, Social Studies

Select six of the following trimester encores:

- ☐ 3-Dimensional Art (1 trimester only)
- ☐ App Creator (1 trimester only)
- ☐ Band* (**must** check all 3 trimesters)
- ☐ Band* (**must** check all 3 trimesters)
- ☐ Band* (**must** check all 3 trimesters)
- ☐ Books and Movies (1 trimester only)
- ☐ Career Readiness (1 trimester only)
- ☐ Choir* (**must** check all 3 trimesters)
- ☐ Choir*(**must** check all 3 trimesters)
- ☐ Choir* (**must** check all 3 trimesters)
- ☐ Creative Music Lab (1 trimester only)
- ☐ Drama (can check up to 2 trimesters)
- ☐ Drama (can check up to 2 trimesters)
- ☐ Financial Literacy (1 trimester only)
- ☐ Flight and Space (1 trimester only)
- ☐ Intro to Guitar (1 trimester only)
- ☐ Green Architecture /Outdoor Ed (1 trimester only)
- ☐ Jazz Band** (can check up to 3 trimesters)
- ☐ Jazz Band** (can check up to 3 trimesters)
- ☐ Jazz Band** (can check up to 3 trimesters)
- ☐ Medical Detectives (1 trimester only)
- ☐ Musical Theater (can check up to 2 trimesters)
- ☐ Musical Theater (can check up to 2 trimesters)
- ☐ Physical Education 7/8*** (can check up to 3 trimesters)
- ☐ Physical Education 7/8*** (can check up to 3 trimesters)
- ☐ Physical Education 7/8*** (can check up to 3 trimesters)
- ☐ Podcasting (1 trimester only)
- ☐ Robotics (1 trimester only)
- ☐ Spanish 1*[1] (**must** check all 3 trimesters)
- ☐ Spanish 1*[1] (**must** check all 3 trimesters)
- ☐ Spanish 1*[1] (**must** check all 3 trimesters)
- ☐ STEM Extensions (1 trimester only)
- ☐ Strength & Conditioning (1 trimester only)
- ☐ Studio Art (1 trimester only)
- ☐ Virtual*** (can check up to 2 trimesters)
- ☐ Virtual*** (can check up to 2 trimesters)

PLEASE NOTE:

***Band, Choir, and Spanish 1** are full-year courses and **MUST** be checked for all 3 trimesters.
****Jazz Band** - you must sign up for band to take Jazz Band
*****Drama, Musical Theater, PE, and Virtual** can be taken for more than one trimester.
[1]**Spanish 1** - Is not guaranteed; acceptance into this class requires a minimum average MAP test score. Spaces are limited.

CORE CLASSES

ENGLISH

English Language Arts 6

English Language Arts 6 This course will target students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, and reflection. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary building comprise the main elements of reading instruction. Through fiction and non fiction reading, students will practice reading strategies and comprehension skills. Students will read short stories from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH), and novels including *The Westing Game*, and *Inside Out and Back Again*.The focus of writing will be on narrative, informational, and argumentative writing. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy, writing ability, active listening, and critical thinking of all students.

English Language Arts 7

Seventh grade English Language Arts students will be involved in a year of activities centered on reading, writing, speaking, and listening at a more complex level. Students will read short stories from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH): Mirror Image, Rogue Wave, Dark They Were and Golden-Eyed, and Sometimes a Dream Needs a Push. We will incorporate novel studies such as, *Love That Dog* by Sharon Creech, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, and *The Cage* by Ruth Minsky Sender. The research process and writing are also a major focus. Narrative writing and poetry will also be included throughout the year. As students share their reading and writing, they will have the opportunity to present to a partner, a small group, or to the whole class. In addition, the course will emphasize the continued development of lifelong skills, such as active listening and critical thinking.

English Language Arts 7/8

English 7/8 is an accelerated course that combines the skills, strategies, and essential components of 7th- and 8th-grade language arts. Students will be expected to master basic material faster, with more independence to develop a higher level of application and evaluation of key concepts. We will use the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) literature to read various short stories from both the seventh- and eighth-grade resources. We will include novels such as *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, and *The Boy in the Wooden Box* by Leon Leyson. Developing stronger writing skills is a large focus throughout the year. Students may write up to four formal essays focusing on theme, use of evidence, and research. Students may also give numerous formal and informal presentations, both collaboratively and independently. This course is designed for ambitious, self-motivated, high-achieving English students who want to be challenged in this condensed format of thought, interpretation, and creation, equivalent to the 7th and 8th grade curricula. Prerequisite: Qualifying MAP test scores and grade average in ELA 6 (both 1st and 2nd trimester)

Prerequisite: Qualifying MAP test scores and grade average in ELA 6 (both 1st and 2nd trimester).

English Language Arts 8

Eighth Grade English Language Arts students are expected to strengthen their academic writing, public speaking presentation skills, and collaborative communication. Students will read a variety of short stories from Scholastic Scope Magazine and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH), and novels, including *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness, *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park, *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, and *Playing with Fire* by April Henry. Over the course of the year, students will be expected to write two formal essays, give one formal speech, write a personal narrative memoir, participate in a media literacy

unit focused on analyzing advertisements, as well as complete various projects and assignments to show their understanding of and connection to the literature we read. Most units include a focus on vocabulary improvement as well as connecting to a variety of literary elements. Oral communication skills are strengthened as students read, respond, and evaluate through both self and peer feedback techniques in both discussions and writing. In addition, the eighth grade student will work to develop independence of thought and action, while gaining maturity in communication skills.

English Language Arts 9 (For High School Credit)

This course will meet the state requirement for an English 9 high school credit. This course has rigorous homework and an in-class workload. The expectation is high for quality work. This course will include reading, vocabulary study, and writing assignments and projects related to literature. In this course, students will read various short stories, a novel of their choice, as well as *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare, and *The Odyssey* by Homer. Other texts may include *Bad Boy* by Walter Dean Myers, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, *Farewell to Manzanar* by James D. Houston, and *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank. In addition, there will be an emphasis on the continued development of lifelong skills, such as active listening, critical thinking, and public speaking. A student must maintain a 78% C+ average across the three trimesters to move successfully into English 10.
Prerequisite: Qualifying MAP test scores and grade average in ELA 7/8 (both 1st and 2nd trimester).

ELA Lab

ELA Lab students will work as a whole group, in small groups, and independently, while focusing on reading and/or ELA skills. Each student has the opportunity to enhance fluency and comprehension skills through the research-based intervention program, Read 180 from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH). All strategies are modeled and practiced in a variety of ways. As the strategies become habits, the students are then encouraged to use them in other classes when reading or writing in order to find more success with the content in core subjects. Prerequisite: Students who qualify for the class have demonstrated the need for additional assistance based on reading scores on the M-STEP or MAP standardized tests, fluency and comprehension assessments, and grades/progress in current and prior ELA classes.

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Author's Workshop

Author's Workshop Sixth graders will take a trimester writing course in addition to their year long ELA course. The goal of the course is to enhance student writing skills in order to produce concise, coherent, and fluent writing. A variety of writing opportunities, including expository, narrative, persuasive, and creative, are employed to showcase standard English writing skills of organization, use of effective transitions, and precise word choice. Time is allocated for cross-curricular writing with math, science, and social studies in addition to content area writing. Brief periods of discussion are interspersed at appropriate times throughout the writing process in order to facilitate launching and analyzing student work. Time dedicated to writing followed by collaboration with peers and teachers supports the further development of writing growth.

MATH

Math 6

This course focuses on proportional reasoning, the number system, expressions & equations, and geometry. Students will understand and use ratio concepts to solve problems. They will compute

multi-digit numbers and apply their understanding of numbers to fractions and decimals. Students will explore algebraic expressions and solve one-variable equations and inequalities. They will solve real-world problems involving area, surface area, and volume, and will begin to develop an understanding of statistical variability.

Math 6/7

This course covers all of the Common Core 6th Grade Math Curriculum, in addition to parts of the 7th Grade Common Core Curriculum. This course will extend understanding of proportional reasoning to solve real-world mathematical problems. Students will also increase their understanding of fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers. Students will also study algebraic expressions and solve problems using algebraic equations. This class moves at an accelerated pace.
Prerequisite: Qualifying MAP test scores

Math 7

This course allows students the opportunity to explore the concepts of numbers & operations, algebra, measurement, geometry, and data & probability. Specific attention will be given to topics such as understanding all operations of rational numbers (both positive and negative) and developing an understanding of and applying proportionality, including similarity. Students will also be analyzing and representing linear functions, including solving linear equations.

Math 7/8

This course covers all of the Common Core 7th Grade Math Curriculum not covered in Math 6/7, in addition to the majority of the 8th Grade Common Core Curriculum. Topics will include transformations, solving equations and inequalities, linear functions, Pythagorean Theorem, and Volume. This class moves at an accelerated pace.
Prerequisite: Qualifying MAP test scores and grade average in Math 6/7 (both 1st and 2nd trimester)

Math 8

This course focuses on the number system, expressions & equations, functions, geometry, and statistics & probability. Students will relate rational numbers to irrational numbers. They will explore integer exponents, understand connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations, analyze and solve linear equations, and evaluate functions. Students will understand congruence & similarity, the Pythagorean Theorem, and will solve real-world problems involving volume.

Algebra (For High School Credit)

This course will meet the state requirement for an Algebra I credit. Topics will include linear functions, exponential functions, quadratic functions, power and polynomial functions, and other topics to meet the state requirements.
Prerequisite: Qualifying MAP test scores and grade average in Math 7/8 (both 1st and 2nd trimester)

Math Lab

Math Foundations is a Title 1-funded program. It is a class that focuses on building basic math skills, vocabulary, and problem-solving skills. This is a supplemental math class for students designed to allow for increased small-group instruction as well as one-on-one support. Each grade level has specific learning targets based on individual student data, in addition to studying current grade level topics.
These targets include:

- 6th Grade: Evaluating expressions, multiplying & dividing multi-digit whole numbers, and all fraction operations.
- 7th Grade: Evaluating & simplifying expressions, translating expressions, solving one-step equations, finding coordinate points on a plane, and multiplying & dividing fractions.
- 8th Grade: All operations involving negative numbers, expanding & factoring expressions, adding & subtracting expressions, solving multi-step equations, and calculating slope from a given graph.

Prerequisite: Students who qualify for math foundations have demonstrated the need for additional assistance based on M-STEP scores, math screening scores (MobyMax), and overall trimester math grades.

SCIENCE

Science 6

Students will investigate physical, earth, and life sciences. Students will develop questioning techniques and use the scientific method to conduct experiments. Through the activities, students will develop solutions to problems through reasoning and observations. The topics are aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Topics studied in this course include weathering and erosion, plate tectonics and earthquakes, minerals, rocks, force and motion, ecology, and environmental issues. As part of the course, students will have the opportunity to raise and release salmon.

Science 7

Seventh-grade science begins with reinforcing understanding of the scientific method and practicing scientific inquiry methods which seamlessly leads into a chemistry unit that explores the dynamics of matter: how to classify matter, how matter changes, and how changes in matter relate to students' lives and other areas of scientific study. In the second and third trimesters, students will learn concepts of life science through inquiry-based activities and investigations. Coursework emphasizes a complex understanding of relationships in the living world, cellular organization, and chemical reactions such as cellular respiration and photosynthesis. The year will wrap-up with a focus on ecology and human impact on our environment. Throughout the course, students will develop inquiry skills that include organization and mathematical analysis of data, manipulating experimental variables, and identifying sources of experimental error. Science process skills and experimentation are a significant focus of the curriculum.

Science 8

Students will investigate science topics, including basic Science Processes, Matter and Energy, Astronomy, Heredity and Genetics. Students will continue to refine their skills in questioning, observing, and problem-solving through hands-on experiments and the scientific investigation process. Students are expected to embrace the struggle of solving complex real-world problems. This class will provide a heavy emphasis on the application of both quantitative and qualitative data in order to prepare students for the Gull Lake High School science curriculum.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 7

Gull Lake utilizes TCI's online *History Alive! Ancient World Program* to transform the middle school social studies class into a multi-faceted learning experience. Lessons start with a big idea — Essential Question — and incorporate graphic note-taking, group work, and step-by-step discovery. Students are the center of instruction that taps a variety of learning styles, allowing students of all abilities to learn and succeed. We introduce students to the beginnings of the human story. As they explore the great early civilizations of Egypt and the Near East, India, China, Greece, and Rome, students discover the secrets of these ancient cultures that continue to influence the modern world. We will also look at the geography of North and South America, as well as a small economics unit.

Social Studies 8

Gull Lake utilizes TCI's online *History Alive! The United States, through the Industrialism Program* to transform the middle school social studies class into a multi-faceted learning experience. Lessons start with a big idea — Essential Question — and incorporate graphic note-taking, group work, and step-by-step discovery. Students are the center of instruction that taps a variety of learning styles,

allowing students of all abilities to learn and succeed. This interactive program immerses students in a powerful journey through the history of the United States from its earliest foundations to the age of industrialism. Students will explore how the Founding Fathers continue to have an impact on America today.

ENCORE CLASSES

MUSIC

Band 6

This is a beginning band class where the basics of learning how to play an instrument and read music are taught. This class is a performance-based class that lasts for the entire school year. Students will meet every day and will study music theory, music history, and instrumental technique. In addition, they will learn team building, leadership, listening, and creative thinking skills; etiquette of working together to create a finished project; confidence, perseverance, and high work ethic skills. The skills gained from this class will guide students to become leaders in the workforce. Each student will have the opportunity to perform in an ensemble and as a soloist. The class requires to attend all performances.

Band 7

This is the second year of band and is a performance-based class that lasts for the entire school year. The band meets every day and is composed of those students wishing to further their ability in, and knowledge of, instrumental music. Students will study music theory, music history, and instrumental technique. In addition, they will learn team building, leadership, listening, and creative thinking skills; etiquette of working together to create a finished project; confidence, perseverance, and high work ethic skills. The skills gained from this class will guide students to become leaders in the workforce. Each student will have the opportunity to perform in an ensemble and as a soloist through our home concerts, District Solo & Ensemble Festival, and District and/or State Band Festival competition. The class requires to attend all performances.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of 6th-grade band and/or performance audition.

Band 8

This is the third year of band and is a performance-based class that lasts for the entire school year. The band meets every day and is composed of those students wishing to further their ability in, and knowledge of, instrumental music. Students will study music theory, music history, and instrumental technique. In addition, they will learn team building, leadership, listening, and creative thinking skills; etiquette of working together to create a finished project; confidence, perseverance, and high work ethic skills. The skills gained from this class will guide students to become leaders in the workforce. Each student will have the opportunity to perform in an ensemble and as a soloist through our home concerts, District Solo & Ensemble Festival, and District and/or State Band Festival competition. The class requires to attend all performances.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7th-grade band and/or performance audition.

Jazz Band (8th Grade)

This is an accelerated instrumental music class designed for 8th-grade band students who have an interest in pursuing jazz studies. Students will learn basic jazz scales, styles, chord structures, and improvisational skills. In addition, they will learn team building, leadership, listening, and creative thinking skills; etiquette of working together to create a finished project; confidence, perseverance, and high work ethic skills. The skills gained from this class will guide students to become leaders in the workforce. Each student will have the opportunity to perform in an ensemble and as a soloist. The class requires to attend all performances.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7th-grade band and/or performance audition and participation in 8th-grade band. Students must be proficient on their instrument and able to successfully play through their Bb, Eb, Ab, F, C, and Chromatic scales at the end of their 7th-grade band year.

Choir 6-8
This is an all-year class focused on experiencing music and developing musical skills necessary to perform in a vocal music ensemble. Includes understanding of basic music terms and symbols and their use, and more advanced vocal technique and health. Preparation for performances is a key element, and students are required to perform in both in-school and evening events. Learning basic team etiquette and mutual effort, perseverance and continued focus on a learning task, and confidence and social awareness are all major aspects of this course.

Creative Music Lab

This course is a one-trimester general music encore class designed for 7th and 8th-grade students, particularly those who are not enrolled in performance-based music ensembles (choir or band), and students requiring a foundational approach to the arts. The curriculum focuses on the basics of rhythm, pitch, playing technique, and experiential music through theory, percussion, circle songs, kinesthetic movement, and the use of music for healthy self-regulation. It prioritizes hands-on experience and differentiated instruction.

Beginning Guitar
This class is an introductory class in learning and playing guitar. We focus on a folk and rhythm style of playing, but also cover the basics of lead guitar and melody playing. We learn the basics of musical rhythm reading to apply to song arrangement and composition for a solo performer or group setting. Working as a team, we will study play, and sing music from different time periods and styles of popular music, including the Beatles, Jason Mraz, and Bob Marley, just to name a few. Guitar will help a student to build confidence in performing, perseverance in learning a new physical skill, and social team building.

Musical Theater

This course is a one-trimester encore class designed for middle school students to explore the fundamentals of musical theater: acting, singing, and dancing. This class will have a specific focus on singing. Students will develop these foundational skills through a project-based approach, culminating in a showcase performance. The curriculum integrates the artistic processes and state standards of creating, performing, analyzing, and making connections, providing a holistic and engaging introduction to musical theater. The class aims to foster collaboration, confidence, and creative expression in a supportive ensemble environment. Aligns with district goals of Reading, Writing, and Speaking with Purpose.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Spanish A
Spanish A is a twelve-week course that immerses students in the Spanish language and culture. The course uses acquisition-based instruction to help students build a strong foundation in Spanish. Through songs, cultural texts, graphic novels, and TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling), students develop their language skills. Lessons include writing, speaking, listening, and reading to enhance communication abilities. Students will learn to introduce and describe themselves and others, analyze cultural events, explore Latin America's diversity through music and food, respond to authority figures, express time, and understand Hispanic cultural values.

Spanish I (For High School Credit)
The purpose of this class is to familiarize the student with Hispanic culture and to help students gain mastery of the fundamental building blocks of the Spanish language. In Spanish 1, students will learn to read, write, speak, and comprehend the present tense. Frequent speaking opportunities and assessments are incorporated so that students can confidently hold conversations in predictable situations. Spanish culture is introduced in each lesson and is further emphasized through various media

and student projects. Spanish 1 is a high school course and a full-year commitment. Students will be delivered the same content that a high school student is given.
Prerequisite: Qualifying MAP test scores and 80% or higher grade average for Spanish A and 7th-grade ELA or equivalent.

HEALTH & PE

Health

Students will learn skills and information needed to apply the decision-making process to make choices that promote health and improve communication in and outside of the classroom. This course focuses on the different aspects of physical, mental, and social health and how they affect each person's overall well-being. Units of study are designed to increase student knowledge and skills in the areas of overall health and wellness, healthy relationships, hygiene, values, making healthy choices, decision making, growth and reproduction, BSE/TSE, HIV/AIDS education, alcohol, tobacco and drugs, safety, refusal skills, CPR, body image, eating disorders, and nutrition

PE

In this class, students will be taught the rules, techniques, and strategies of various sports and physical activities. Upon completion of this course, the student will be equipped to be physically active as part of a healthy lifestyle. Most units cover approximately one week of class and are concluded with a skills test and a written quiz. Units may include: volleyball, soccer, basketball, football, recreational games, frisbee, floor hockey, track and field, pickleball, badminton, and lifetime fitness activities. Most units cover approximately one week of class and are concluded with a skills test and a written quiz.

Strength and Conditioning (1 to 2 trimesters)

This class provides a foundational understanding of the principles, techniques, and safety practices involved in designing and implementing strength training programs, focusing on proper exercise form, the anatomy of major muscle groups, and how to apply these concepts to enhance overall student health and wellness. For students involved in athletics, they will also benefit from enhanced athletic performance while prioritizing injury prevention through appropriate weightlifting techniques and progressive overload.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Physical Education 7/8

6th Fitness & Sports

6th Grade Fitness and Sport will focus on grade-appropriate fitness knowledge and health-based fitness improvement. This will be an activity class that will also allow students to learn, practice, and refine sport skills and strategies.

STUDIO ART

3-Dimensional Art

This course is an introduction to 3-dimensional art and sculpture. Students will experience a wide variety of materials and techniques that move beyond 2-dimensional art in order to explore the art elements of volume, form, space, and texture. The course emphasizes creative problem solving, skill development, and making connections between both historical and contemporary 3-dimensional art. Projects may include (but are not limited to) working with ceramics, paper mache, wearables, fiber, and recycled/found materials.

Studio Art

Middle School art classes offer two and three-dimensional projects that encourage creativity, exploration, and skill-building. With projects in drawing, painting, printmaking, digital art, clay, mixed media, and

design, students learn how the visual arts are an effective form of personal expression. The Elements & Principles of Art, Color Theory, and connecting to other artists will be applied throughout the course.

Art A

Middle School art classes offer two and three-dimensional projects that encourage creativity, exploration, and skill building. With projects in drawing, painting, printmaking, digital art, clay, mixed media, and design, students learn how the visual arts are an effective form of personal expression. The Elements & Principles of Art, Color Theory, and connecting to other artists will be applied throughout the course.

STEM/PLTW

App Creators

App Creators introduces students to the field of computer science and the concepts of computational thinking through the creation of mobile apps. Students are challenged to be creative and innovative, as they collaboratively design and develop mobile solutions to engaging, authentic problems. Students experience the positive impact of the application of computer science to society as well as other disciplines, particularly biomedical science. The course will provide students with opportunities for self-expression. Teams identify a personal or community problem of interest to them that can be solved with a mobile app solution. The problem can address issues such as health and wellness, the environment, school culture, emergency preparedness, education, and community service—the options are endless!
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Design & Modeling

Design & Modeling

Students will explore engineering skills while completing a variety of hands-on projects. They will discover a Design Thinking Process used by engineers and problem-solvers to meet needs and improve lives. Students will use what they have learned to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

Robotics

Students will trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, gear mechanisms, and computer control systems. Students will use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects. Students will learn how to create a design brief and matrix in order to vote on projects using their own criteria. Students will learn to code and program motors using the RobotC program.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Design & Modeling

Flight and Space

Students will use creative thinking and problem-solving to explore how scientists and engineers make traveling around the globe and beyond possible. Students practice engineering skills as they design, prototype, and test models to learn about the science of flight and what it takes to travel and live in space. Problem-based activities include solving real-world aviation and space challenges and planning a mission to Mars.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Design & Modeling

Green Architecture and Outdoor Education

Students will apply engineering skills & design thinking to the natural world. The course will begin with Outdoor Education experiences that build a connection to the environment, including exploration of local ecosystems, studying environmental stewardship, and adventure/survival activities. Lessons from the outside will integrate with the Green Architecture unit from Project Lead the Way. Students will then be able to share their knowledge with hands-on projects, like eco-friendly structures that minimize environmental impact.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Design & Modeling

Medical Detectives

Students will play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene.” They will solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Design & Modeling

STEM Extensions

Students will use a Design Thinking Process to complete projects in the GLMS Innovation Lab. Makerspace experiences include 3D printing, laser cutting, electric circuits, block coding, and robotics. Technology will be used to Connect, Collaborate, Create, Communicate, and think Critically in ways that are Safe, Appropriate, Valuable, and Engaging. Projects will be showcased to invested stakeholders (peers, parents, GLCS employees, community members).
Prerequisite encouraged: Successful completion of Design & Modeling

OTHER CLASSES

Advisory

Every student will be assigned to an advisory class. This is a short period of time in which teachers establish connections with their group of students and mentor them throughout the year. Teachers review their students' academic performance and present a character development and social-emotional learning curriculum through the Positivity Project.

Books and Movies

Along with books, movies can be used to encourage and develop students’ critical thinking. Students in this class will explore matching texts (books and the movies adapted from them) to grow their analytical strategies. Focus will be on reading, watching, and discussing various similarities and differences between the two. Students will be asked to predict, record observations, and give immediate reactions. They will analyze what happened from multiple viewpoints while reading and watching. Students will analyze the two versions (book and movie) and hone in on the differences, discussing the effect of each adaptation on the story. Students will be encouraged to decide if the differences have positive or negative effects on the original story. Casual debates will occur, and students will be held accountable for citing specific examples in their arguments.

Career Readiness

The purpose of this course is to increase students' knowledge, understanding, and skills of what it means to be “ready for a career.” Students will use a variety of materials to assess interest, skill levels, and awareness for readying one’s self for different career pathways. Resume building and planning for students to be prepared for the next steps in their educational and career pathway will also be focused on.

MS Drama

This interactive drama course is designed to introduce middle school students to the exciting world of theatre and performing arts. Throughout the 12 weeks, students will engage in various activities and exercises to develop their acting, creative, and analytical skills. They will explore different theatrical styles, learn foundational techniques, and collaborate to create their own performances or design renderings. By the end of the course, students will have a solid understanding of the basics of theatre and drama, as well as the ability to apply their knowledge in practical contexts.

MS Financial Literacy

This course will provide students with a combination of instructional videos, activities, discussions, and simulations to help engage students in learning about the following concepts:

- Saving and Budgeting
- Credit & Debt
- Education, Careers, and Entrepreneurship
- Investing, Insurance, and Identity Theft
- Global Economics
- Marketing & Consumerism

LINKS (7th and 8th Grade)

This class is a trimester encore course designed to facilitate awareness of individuals with special needs, the systems they require for placement in general education classes, and the benefits of peer-to-peer support in the least restrictive environment. LINKS students will be supporting students with autism spectrum disorder in a variety of settings at the teachers’ discretion.
Prerequisite: Application & interview

Podcasting

Podcasting is the perfect medium for students to work with. There are millions of podcast episodes at students’ fingertips and with new ones being released all of the time, it is clear that podcasting is relevant today. This podcasting class will help students connect with each other across the building. This class will allow students voice and choice while trying podcasting with a real, authentic audience. The skills of a podcaster include writing, editing, speaking, recording, interviewing, researching, and even designing.This podcasting class will further our building’s work on reading, writing, and speaking with purpose. Through this project-based learning course, students will have the opportunity to listen and respond to a variety of podcasts. They will brainstorm, plan, create, and record their own podcasts. They may share their podcasts with the school at large.

Resiliency for Growing Learners (7th & 8th Grade)

Resiliency for Growing Learners teaches lessons that provide simple, hands-on solutions to help students increase academic success. The curriculum utilizes a variety of methods to gain an understanding of each student and to teach and practice important life skills and executive functioning skills (decision making, healthy friendships/relationships, self-advocacy, self-concept, motivation, emotion regulation, prioritization, etc). Students will become mindful of these positive behaviors that push them towards

success for both inside and outside of the classroom. This will be through completion of the Why Try Curriculum, weekly agenda, and in-class completion of academic work.

Virtual

Virtual courses offer the student more personal choices in encore class options. Students can access encore classes that may not be available in the seated environment and can choose a course that interests them. Students work independently through their course lessons in the middle school virtual lab as part of their school day. A mentor oversees the student's progress and assists with their course needs. Examples of courses include Art Appreciation, Build a Drone, Career Explorations, American Sign Language, Health Quest, Leadership Skills, Keyboarding, Principles of Coding, and many more. Not all courses are guaranteed to be available.