



Eighth Grade Middle School Course Descriptions Sheboygan Area School District

English Language Arts 8 (Required)

Attention is given to each of the four skills required for proficiency in language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Reading instruction includes a variety of strategies and material. Writing instruction is designed around the writing process with special emphasis given to research.

Math 8 (Required)

Course 3 focuses on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

8th Grade Algebra

In Algebra, students develop math skills in algebraic expressions, functions, geometry, and statistics. Placement in 8th Grade Algebra is based on successful completion of Advanced 2 in 7th Grade.

Science 8 (Required)

The middle school science program places an emphasis on teaching science standards in the areas of earth, life, and physical science. Students have an opportunity to better understand the concepts and scientific knowledge through laboratory experiences, reading, and writing.

Social Studies 8 (Required)

This course covers American history through the 1860's. Students explore topics such as European exploration, colonization/immigration, the American Revolution, westward expansion and industrialization, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. An emphasis on how diverse groups of people interacted throughout various historical periods is woven into all units of study. The 2018 Wisconsin State Standards are the foundation in which the curriculum is built with an emphasis on the Inquiry process. Current event topics are embedded in the units of study.

Physical Education 8 (Required)

Students participate in a wide variety of activities while also promoting physical fitness. The 8th grade curriculum builds on skills, team concepts, rules, and safety introduced and practiced in the 7th grade. The curriculum also includes lessons that review and present new information on alcohol, drug use, and life skills.

Virtual P.E. 8 (Available to students who take World Language or Dual Language ONLY)

Students will be required to achieve specific exercise goals (time, heart rate, etc.), keep logs of their activities, and cover content independently. Teachers will check in and give feedback based upon course expectations and frequency.

Life Readiness 8 (Required)

This course will provide essential information for adolescent learners as they continue to develop into young men and women. This class will provide Human Growth and Development, academic and career planning, as well as high school transition skills. Problem solving and decision-making skills that relate to all of these topics are reinforced and discussed. As 8th graders, you will continue your journey through the academic and career planning *process of KNOW, EXPLORE, PLAN, and GO - to be Future Ready.*



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FACE 8 (Required)

8th grade Community Connection with Family/Consumer Science: Students will be able to make appropriate personal economic choices and understand the role of the economy within their everyday lives. The course combines current events with concepts such as budgeting, family finances, investing, credit cards, checking and savings accounts, and overall financial decision-making. As future members of the workforce, we will have students learn to fill out job applications, do mock interviews, and understand the basics of getting and keeping employment. We will have the students develop and participate in creating their own restaurant in which they will serve staff and parents on several occasions.

WIN 8 (Required)

WIN (What I Need) is a non-graded class designed to develop specific skills in students that may need additional instruction in core academic subjects. In addition, students that need intervention, general support, and other skill building during this time. For those students in need of enrichment this time will be used to challenge these students.

Band 8 (All Year – Elective)

Band 8 is open to all students who have previously played or are interested in learning brass, woodwind or percussion instruments. Students work on their individual individual and group performance skills while learning rhythms, notes, and musical terms. Students also learn about music from other cultures, historical periods, and learn to play a large variety of musical styles. Students will use improvisation, composition, musical analysis and critiquing to learn about music. Students involved in this course will have the opportunity to perform in the jazz ensemble and Middle School Music Festival. Students will participate in class, small group lessons, and evening performances 2-3 times a year.

Orchestra 8 (All Year – Elective)

Orchestra 8 is open to all students who have previously played or are interested in learning violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students continue the development of individual and ensemble instrumental skills as well as broaden their understanding of music as a craft. Students will learn a wide variety of music, and continue to experiment with improvisation and composition. They will also use critique and musical analysis to think about the music they hear. Students are expected to attend class rehearsals, and small group lessons as well as perform at 2-3 evening concerts. Middle School Music Festival participation is encouraged but not required.

Chorus 8 (Elective)

Chorus 8 is a great opportunity for students to continue to grow their singing skills and perform in a concert. Students will continue instruction in correct use of the voice when performing unison and harmony in two-part or even three-part music. The students in this class will be expected to participate in all performance opportunities, including one evening concert during the semester.

General Music 8 (Elective)

General Music 8 is a class for students who want to learn about music, but are not necessarily interested in a performing ensemble. Students will be learning a variety of music styles through exploring various units, which could include basic guitar, music history, and music composition.

World Languages (All Year - Elective)

Spanish, French, and German are offered to all students in 8th grade as a high school level course. Taking a World Language in 8th grade provides the pathway to more Honors Credits in high school. The student will not receive high school credit for the course taken in 8th grade but will allow the student to take the second year class of that language and work towards the potential to earn college



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credit while in High School. This class will meet everyday all year in the same manner that a high school class would. These courses emphasize speaking, reading, listening, and writing. Students continue to learn vocabulary, culture, and grammar through daily practice and assigned tasks. Students who earn average or above grades in Spanish, German, and French in 8th grade may take the second year of the same language in 9th grade. Taking Introduction to World Language is not required to take this course. This course meets everyday and is year long.

Art 8 (Elective)

In this semester-long elective course, students further develop their artist skills by focusing on concepts in the elements and principles of design, drawing, color theory, and sculpture. Students will be given the opportunity to explore a variety of mediums to create two-and three-dimensional projects.

Tech Ed 8 (Elective)

8th grade Technology Education provides an in-depth, project-based study of the materials, machines, and technologies that are used in industry today. Students explore related career opportunities and establish a connection to high school technology education coursework. This course focuses on wood/metal working processes, welding, fabrication, intro to cnc and basic 3D design.

Project Lead the Way 8 (Elective)

8th grade PLTW is an engineering focused class that will boost student problem solving skills. They are introduced to and use the design process to solve problems and understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on our lives. Students use industry standard 3D modeling software to create a virtual image of their designs and produce 3D prints to bring their ideas to life. This class will also focus on Automation and Robotics: Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics. They learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use a robust robotics platform to design, build, and program a solution to solve an existing problem.