



University Laboratory School
Middle School
Program of Studies
2024- 2025

Introduction

The purpose of the Middle School Program of Studies is to help you select the courses you will take in the upcoming school year. At the LSU Laboratory School, scheduling courses is done through a partnership between parents, students, teachers, and the School Counselor. During the spring semester of each year, an updated copy of the Middle School Program of Studies is posted to the school's website to assist you in making informed decisions about scheduling for the coming year. This guide should be your first resource for answering questions about courses and scheduling at the LSU Laboratory School.

Scheduling Information

Course Offerings

Although ULS guarantees course options to meet graduation requirements, the administration reserves the right to cancel courses based on insufficient enrollment.

Course Request Process

The School Counselors distribute the course request sheets each spring. Parents and students are welcome to meet with their child's School Counselor to discuss course plans. The signed and completed course request sheet should be returned to the School Counselor. While no student is guaranteed his first-choice elective course, students who do not return their course request sheets by the deadline may lose priority in the scheduling process.

Schedule Changes

Space permitting, schedule changes may be requested ONLY during the first 3 days of school. All changes in course requests must be submitted by a parent or guardian in writing to the school counselor. Students may not drop or add a class after the 3rd day of school at 3:00 p.m. Requests for a specific teacher or a specific order of classes cannot be honored because these changes have on class size and classroom instruction.

Scheduling Conflicts

The LSU Laboratory School offers a variety of courses, and we make every effort to fulfill student course requests. As at any school, however, there will be times when a student cannot schedule every course requested. Students are given the opportunity to choose alternative courses on the course selection sheet should there be a conflict. If no alternates are listed, students are placed in the course deemed most appropriate by the school counselor.

General Information

College Admissions and TOPS

Since admissions requirements vary from college to college, high school graduation does not guarantee admission to college. It is primarily the responsibility of the student and the parent to ensure that the student's credits, grade point average, and standardized test scores meet the requirements of the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) and the college he or she chooses to enter. This also applies to National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) requirements.

Coursework Completed Off Campus & Proficiency Tests

Although students are encouraged to seek enrichment opportunities, students may not take a course off campus or take a proficiency test to advance to the next level in a discipline. Additionally, once enrolled at ULS, initial Carnegie credit will not be added to the ULS transcript for any course completed elsewhere

except for one-half Carnegie credit of Health.

Credit Recovery

Secondary school students who fail a required course either first or second semester must participate in credit recovery to be promoted to the next grade. High school students who wish to enroll in credit recovery while also being concurrently enrolled in the same course at ULS, should contact the school counselor. If a course repeated in credit recovery is not passed by July 31st prior to the start of the upcoming school year, the student must return to their Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) school district.

Parents/guardians should request the list of ULS approved credit recovery schools from the school counselor. It is ultimately the responsibility of the parent/guardian to contact the approved credit recovery school for information regarding registration, courses offered, dates, times, and costs.

Middle School Curriculum at ULS

Table 1

SUBJECT	6 TH GRADE	7 TH GRADE	8 TH GRADE
R.W.W.	Reading Writing Workshop	Reading Writing Workshop	Reading Writing Workshop
MATH	Math 6 or Pre-algebra	Pre-Algebra or Algebra I*	Math 8 or Algebra I* or Geometry*
SCIENCE	Integrated Science	Integrated Science	Integrated Science
SOCIAL STUDIES	Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies
WORLD LANGUAGE	French A or Spanish A	French B or Spanish B	French I* or Spanish I*
ELECTIVE	Art or Band or Choir or STEM	Art or Band or Choir or STEM	Art or Band or Choir or STEM*
HEALTH & P.E.	Health & Physical Education	Health & Physical Education	Health* & Physical Education

* High school credit is earned for these courses.

High School Courses Taken During Middle School

Middle school students who earn high school credit in math or world language may opt to have those grades transferred to their high school transcript **or** they may opt to exclude the credits from the high school transcript by repeating the course(s) the following year.

High school credits earned in middle school count towards the Carnegie credits needed to graduate, count towards TOPS, and count towards the grade point average. Regardless of how many high school Carnegie credits are earned in middle school, ULS students are required to take English, math, science, and social studies all 4 years of high school.

Math & Science Progression

Rising 6th grade students are assessed for placement into the math and science tracks below:

Table 2

Grade	Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4
6th Grade	Math 6 & Integrated Science	Math 6 & Integrated Science	Math 6 & Integrated Science	Pre-Algebra & Integrated Science
7th Grade	Pre-Algebra & Integrated Science	Pre-Algebra & Integrated Science	Pre-Algebra & Integrated Science	Algebra I & Integrated Science
8th Grade	Math 8 & Integrated Science	Algebra I & Integrated Science	Algebra I & Integrated Science	Geometry & Integrated Science
9th Grade	Algebra I & Physical Science	<i>Retake</i> Algebra I & Physical Science	Geometry & Biology I	Algebra II & Biology I
10th Grade	Geometry & Biology I	Geometry & Biology I	Algebra II & Chemistry	AP Pre-Calculus & Chemistry
11th Grade	Algebra II & Chemistry	Algebra II & Chemistry	Additional math & Additional Science	Additional math & Additional science
12th Grade	Additional math & Additional science	Additional math & Additional science	Additional math & Additional science	Additional math & Additional science

Grade Scale and Quality Points

Table 3

Letter Grade	Unweighted Grade Scale	Unweighted Quality Points
A	93-100	4 quality points
B	85 - 92	3 quality points
C	75 - 84	2 quality points
D	67 - 74	1 quality points
F	0 - 66	0 quality points

Retention

As per the ULS Pupil Progression Plan, students who fail more than any combination of six half credits throughout middle school or throughout high school are not eligible for promotion at the LSU Laboratory School and must return to their Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) school district. Further, if a course which is repeated in summer school is not passed before the start of the upcoming school year, the student must return to their FAPE school district.

Transfer Students

Students who transfer to the LSU Laboratory School with a letter grade showing on the transcript from the previous school will be given that same letter grade on the LSU Laboratory School transcript. If grade point averages are on the previous school's transcript and their grade scale is available, that student will be awarded a letter grade based on the previous school's grade scale. Should a grade scale for the previous school not be available, letter grades will be based on the LSU Laboratory School's grade scale. Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, Honors, and International Baccalaureate courses taken at a previous school will be awarded additional quality points only if recognized by the Louisiana Department of Education. Upon enrollment, students must submit a college transcript indicating that college credit was awarded to receive additional quality points for Dual Enrollment.

ULS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

(ULS graduation requirements align with the TOPS University Diploma requirements)

Table 4

CREDITS	COURSES
ENGLISH = 4 CREDITS**	
1 Credit	English I*
1 Credit	English II*
1 Credit	English III <u>or</u> English III H <u>or</u> English III IB
1 Credit	English IV <u>or</u> English IV H <u>or</u> English IV IB
MATH = 4 CREDITS**	
1 Credit	Algebra I*
1 Credit	Geometry*
1 Credit	Algebra II
1 Credit	Algebra III, Advanced Math - Functions & Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre calculus H <u>or</u> AP Pre-Calculus Math I IB, Math II IB AP Calculus AB <u>or</u> AP Calculus BC
SCIENCE = 4 CREDITS**	
1 Credit	Biology I*
1 Credit	Chemistry I
2 Credits	Physical Science, Biology II H, Chemistry II H, Environmental Science <u>or</u> Environmental Systems IB, Physics <u>or</u> Physics I IB, Physics II IB
SOCIAL STUDIES = 4 CREDITS**	
1 Credit	World Geography <u>or</u> AP Human Geography
1 Credit	Civics* <u>or</u> AP U.S. Government*
1 Credit	U.S. History <u>or</u> U.S. History H <u>or</u> IB History of the Americas I
1 Credit	World History <u>or</u> World History H <u>or</u> IB History of the Americas II
PHYSICAL ED. = 1.5 CREDITS	
1 Credit	Physical Education I
½ Credit	Physical Education II (ULS sophomores take a full year of PE II)
HEALTH = ½ CREDIT	
½ Credit	Health
WORLD LANGUAGE = 2 CREDITS (2 credits of the <u>same</u> language taken in high school)	
1 Credit	World Language - credit one
1 Credit	World Language - credit two
FINE ARTS = 1 CREDIT	
1 Credit	Art, Band, Choir, Music & Technology, Theatre I <u>or</u> Theatre IB
ELECTIVES = 3 CREDITS	
1 Credit	(See the HS Program of Studies for course options)
1 Credit	(See the HS Program of Studies for course options)
1 Credit	(See the HS Program of Studies for course options)
TOTAL = 24 CREDITS	

*Students must pass the HS LEAP test for these courses to graduate.

**Regardless of how many high school credits are earned in middle school, all ULS students are required to take English, math, science, and social studies all 4 years of high school.

Course Descriptions

Sixth Grade

Reading Writing Workshop

This course is designed to produce global, creative, independent, and skillful readers, writers, speakers, thinkers, and listeners. A workshop atmosphere is created in which students are immersed in both reading and writing. Students spend time daily actively engaged in reading and writing. They will read novels, short stories, and non-fiction from a variety of genres. Students will write for a variety of purposes. Mini lessons will target specific reading, grammar, and writing skills. RWW addresses the Louisiana state standards and national ELA standards.

Math 6

This course takes students through the transition from elementary to middle school math. Concepts focused on include number sense with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers, decimals, and fractions. We also cover basic algebraic expressions, matching expressions to word problems, geometry, measurement and ratio/proportions/percents.

Pre-Algebra

Prerequisite: Recommendation of the math placement committee

This course will place a strong emphasis on the continued study of integers, order of operations, variables, expressions, and equations. Students will solve and graph equations and inequalities, write and solve proportions, and explore geometry, statistics, and graph concepts. Problem solving will be emphasized throughout the course. The successful completion of this course prepares students for Algebra I.

Integrated Science

This course allows students to see the interrelationships in the natural world. With an emphasis on energy, the students will study a variety of topics including ecology and environment, space science, chemistry, force and motion and waves. The students study a series of units designed to help them understand important science concepts, processes and ideas; develop higher order thinking skills; promote problem-solving skills involving the application of scientific principles and research; and with emphasis on communication and reading and writing in science.

Social Studies

Beginning with the exploration of colonization of North America, this course offers a chronological study of major events, issues, movements, individuals, and groups of people in the United States from a national and a Louisiana perspective. In this course, students will examine British and French exploration and colonization, the development of the British thirteen colonies, French and Spanish Colonial Louisiana, the American Revolution, and the development and ratification of the U.S. Constitution.

French Level A

This course is an introduction to the French language and culture of French-speaking countries. The course provides interactive activities to help develop vocabulary, grammar, reading, and writing as well as pronunciation, speaking, and listening skills. This course prepares students for French Level B. Please note that students will remain in the same world language throughout middle school.

Spanish Level A

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture of Spanish-speaking countries. The course provides interactive activities to help develop vocabulary, grammar, reading, and writing as well as pronunciation, speaking, and listening skills. This course prepares students for Spanish Level B. Please note that students will remain in the same world language throughout middle school.

Art

This introduction to art course is a study of artists and cultures of the time periods being studied in social studies. In addition, students explore and utilize the Elements of Art. They also observe and discuss the ways Master artists incorporate the art elements into their work and begin learning about art criticism.

Band

This course includes Music Theory concepts appropriate for 6th grade. Includes notes and rests through dotted quarter notes and rests and easy syncopation in sight reading, written work and performance. Students will begin the process of understanding stylistic playing with the use of dynamics and articulation markings. Students will cover 4 key signatures with their respective scales (Bb, Eb, Ab, and F), a one octave chromatic scale, and will be able to identify note names, and will be coached in hearing and recognizing errors in performance. Concert music appropriate to 6th grade students' level of performance will be prepared in class for performance. There will be 3 required concerts: one in November, one in February, and one in May.

Choir

This course includes elements of choral music (melody, harmony, rhythm, tone, texture, beat, tempo, form, dynamics and more) through the study of existing works and historical context. Students will learn about music of different cultures, music history and American popular music. Students will encounter a wide variety of musical experiences including listening, performing, and analyzing and composing. The students participate in several concerts per year and Musical Festival Assessment. Students may audition for All District Honor Choir, All State Honor Choir, Regional Honor Choir, and alternate years may audition for the National Honor Choir. Uniforms are required. No audition is needed.

Step Into STEM

This year long course will use project-based learning to explore the 4 main areas of the LSU STEM Pathways – engineering, digital design, bioscience, and computer science. Students will employ in-depth problem solving as they search for solutions and share what they learn with others, mastering the 21st century skills along the way.

Health & Physical Education

Activities students engage in during middle school are part of a team sport model. Students will learn to apply the elements of fair play, sportsmanship, and cooperation along with expectations of game play. It's anticipated that students will improve their current skill level and move to a point of enjoyable play. Participation is not about being the best but students striving to do their best and improve. The importance of physical activity beyond the class is encouraged as a healthy lifestyle. Middle School physical education classes dress out daily for class.

In addition, this course is designed to promote student learning about issues that affect immediate and long-term health. Topics related to maintaining healthy physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being will be discussed in a developmentally appropriate manner.

Seventh Grade

Reading Writing Workshop

This course is an opportunity for students to grow as readers, writers, listeners, and speakers. Through a workshop atmosphere, students will read works that interest them and share those readings and ideas with others. Mini lessons will target specific reading and writing skills, and students will spend daily time actively engaged in all aspects of literacy. Our goal is to become a community of readers and writers, working together to learn and discover the joys of language. RWW addresses the Louisiana state standards and national ELA standards.

Pre-Algebra

This course will place a strong emphasis on the continued study of integers, order of operations, variables, expressions, and equations. Students will solve and graph equations and inequalities, write and solve proportions, and explore geometry, statistics, and graph concepts. Problem solving will be emphasized throughout the course. The successful completion of this course prepares students for Algebra I.

Algebra 1 **1 HS credit Prerequisite: Pre-algebra**

This course is a core course which focuses on developing a rich understanding of fundamental algebraic ideas. Topics include solving one-variable equations and inequalities, simplifying radicals, function notation, writing equations of linear functions, graphing linear functions and inequalities, solving systems of equations, properties of exponents, exponential functions, operations with polynomials, factoring polynomials, graphing quadratic functions, and solving quadratic equations. Students must apply problem-solving skills.

Integrated Science

This course is an integrated science approach that focuses on Life, Physical and Environmental science. Major topics include ecology, organ systems, heredity, evolution, adaptation, and chemistry. Students will study units that develop their understanding of each of the science fields and how the areas are integrated to support life on Earth. Throughout the course students will continue to develop their knowledge of science process skills including the use of higher order questioning that applies that thinking to problem solving. Students will develop their communication skills through research, discussions, and scientific writing.

Social Studies

Beginning with the presidency of George Washington, this course offers a chronological study of major events, issues, movements, individuals, and groups of people in the United States from a national and a Louisiana perspective. In this course, students will examine the development of the early republic, the Louisiana Purchase, the War of 1812, westward expansion, social and political reform movements of the nineteenth century, the growth of nationalism and sectionalism, the Civil War, and the Reconstruction period.

French Level B

This course is designed to build upon the skills acquired in French Level A and to provide learners with basic reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in the target language. Students will work with textbooks and

authentic materials found on Internet sites and audio/video programming in French. This course provides language study while exploring the cultural uniqueness of social customs and geographic locations. This course will prepare students for French I. Please note that students will remain in the same world language throughout middle school.

Spanish Level B

This course is designed to build upon the skills acquired in Spanish Level A and to provide learners with basic reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in the target language. Students will work with textbooks and authentic materials found on Internet sites and audio/video programming in Spanish. This course provides language study while exploring the cultural uniqueness of social customs and geographic locations. This course will prepare students for Spanish I. Please note that students will remain in the same world language throughout middle school.

Art

This course is a study of a variety of artists and cultures. Students will review and intensify their study of elements and principles of design in a variety of media. Emphasis will be placed on refining and expanding skills to organize and depict ideas and feelings in expressive ways. Students will also practice how to critique a work of art using age-appropriate vocabulary.

Band

This course includes Music Theory concepts appropriate for 7th grade. Includes notes and rests through 16th note & rest patterns. Sight-reading will run sequentially with skills taught in 6th grade band. Understanding will be assessed in written work and performance. Students will continue the process of understanding stylistic playing with the use of dynamics and articulation markings. Students will cover 5 key signatures with their respective scales (C, F, Bb, Eb, & Ab), a two-octave chromatic scale, and will be able to identify note names, and will be coached in identifying practice needs based on hearing and recognizing errors in performance. Concert music appropriate to 7th grade students' level of performance will be prepared in class for performance. There will be 3 required concerts: one in November, one in February, and one in May.

Choir

This course is offered to any student who is interested in singing and learning how to do so correctly. Continuing to learn the elements of choral music (melody, harmony, rhythm, tone, texture, beat, tempo, form, dynamics and more) through the study of existing works and historical context. Students will learn about music of different cultures, music history and American popular music. Students will encounter a wide variety of musical experiences including listening, performing, analyzing and composing. This class is more demanding and more advanced than the 6th grade class, but the expectations are parallel to that of the 6th grade. The students participate in several concerts per year and Music Festival Assessment. Students may audition for All District Honor Choir, All State Honor Choir, Regional Honor Choir, and in alternate years may audition for the National Honor Choir. Uniforms are required. No audition is needed.

Introduction to STEM Pathways and Careers

This year long project-based course explores four main pathways of STEM education and possible careers in the fields of 1) Computing and Computer Science, 2) Pre-Engineering, 3) Digital Design and Emergent Media, and 4) Biomedical Sciences. This course will expose students to these overarching concepts: expand awareness of various careers and occupational pathways related to STEM and

stimulate the understanding of higher order thinking processes such as the engineering design process, the scientific method, and computational thinking.

Health & Physical Education

Activities students engage in during middle school are part of a team sport model. Students will learn to apply the elements of fair play, sportsmanship, and cooperation along with expectations of game play. It's anticipated that students will improve their current skill level and move to a point of enjoyable play. Participation is not about being the best but students striving to do their best and improve. The importance of physical activity beyond the class is encouraged as a healthy lifestyle. Middle School physical education classes dress out daily for class.

In addition, this course is designed to promote student learning about issues that affect immediate and long-term health. Topics related to maintaining healthy physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being will be discussed in a developmentally appropriate manner.

Eighth Grade

Reading Writing Workshop

This course provides students the opportunity to grow as readers, writers, listeners, and speakers. Through a workshop atmosphere, students will read works that interest them and share those readings and ideas with others. Mini lessons will target specific reading and writing skills, and students will spend daily time actively engaged in all aspects of literacy. Our goal is to become a community of readers and writers, working together to learn and discover the joys of reading and writing. RWW addresses the Louisiana state standards and national ELA standards.

Math 8

The LSU Laboratory School Mathematics Curriculum stresses rigorous concept development presents realistic and relevant applications and keeps a strong emphasis on computational skills. Students enrolling in this course demonstrate a need for further instruction prior to enrollment in Algebra 1 for high school credit. In Math 8, teachers strive to create student-centered classrooms where students engage in rich mathematical tasks and experiences that create mathematical discussions among students. Students are asked to develop and produce evidence of their thinking and persevere in their problem-solving process. Teachers develop lessons that encourage math fact fluency in students based on conceptual understanding. The use of technology and manipulatives further supports the conceptual development of mathematical concepts and skills. The Louisiana Student Standards for Mathematics Grade 8 are used for this course and are organized into content standards and process standards. The content standards are organized into five strands: the number system, geometry, statistics and probability, ratios and proportional relationships, and expressions and equations. The standards of mathematical practice are an essential part of learning for all students. Students will use the process standards as a way of acquiring and using content knowledge. The eight practice standards emphasize problem solving, reasoning, representation, connections, and communication. These strands are consistent throughout the K-12 Mathematics Curriculum here at LSU Laboratory School.

Algebra 1 1 HS credit Prerequisite: Pre-algebra

This course focuses on developing a rich understanding of fundamental algebraic ideas. Topics include solving one-variable equations and inequalities, simplifying radicals, function notation, writing equations of linear functions, graphing linear functions and inequalities, solving systems of equations, properties of exponents, exponential functions, operations with polynomials, factoring polynomials, graphing quadratic functions, and solving quadratic equations. Students must apply problem-solving skills.

Geometry 1 HS credit Prerequisite: Algebra I

This is the study of visual patterns and the use of these patterns to describe the physical universe. Students utilize inductive reasoning to make conjectures about the relationships in geometric figures and use deductive reasoning to confirm these conjectures. After discovering or deriving relationships, students use their ideas to solve algebraic problems involving geometry. Euclidean geometry, transformational geometry, and coordinate geometry will be covered.

Integrated Science

This course continues the comprehensive curriculum for science as mandated by the state department of education. The eighth-grade year focuses on earth and space science allowing the students to see the interrelationships in the natural world. The students study a series of units designed to help them

understand important science concepts, processes, and ideas; develop higher order thinking skills; develop problem-solving skills and apply scientific principles; and promote communication, reading and writing in science, and social skills. The units include topics such as science process skills and the engineering processes (STEM), chemistry, energy, diversity of living things, geological processes with emphasis on Louisiana environmental resources, and the interactions of humans with the environment.

Social Studies

Beginning with the Second Industrial Revolution, this course offers a chronological study of major events, issues, movements, individuals, and groups of people in the United States from a national and a Louisiana perspective. In this course, students will examine the rise of the United States as an industrial and world power, World War I, the Great Depression, Huey P. Long, The Great Flood of 1927, World War II, the Cold War, the Civil Rights movement, and the modern era. Reading, writing, social studies skills, and analytical processes are developed throughout each unit.

French I

1 HS credit

This course is an introduction to the French language and culture. Emphasis will be placed on vocabulary, grammar, reading, and writing as well as the development of pronunciation, speaking, and listening skills. This course may count for high-school credit. Upon completion of this course, the World Language Department recommends the following: Students completing Spanish I, in 8th grade, with an A or B are encouraged to enroll in Spanish II as a freshman. Students with a C or below are recommended to retake Spanish I as a freshman. Please note that students will remain in the same world language throughout middle school.

Spanish I

1 HS credit

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. Emphasis will be placed on vocabulary, grammar, reading, and writing as well as the development of pronunciation, speaking, and listening skills. This course may count for high-school credit. Upon completion of this course, the World Language Department recommends the following: Students completing Spanish I, in 8th grade, with an A or B are encouraged to enroll in Spanish II as a freshman. Students with a C or below are recommended to retake Spanish I as a freshman. Please note that students will remain in the same world language throughout middle school.

Art

This course is a study of Louisiana artists and the cultures that influenced them. Students expand their knowledge of art techniques while focusing on developing strong artistic skills. Students learn a variety of drawing techniques to develop skills in observational drawing. Self-reflection is key in this course so that students can refine and improve their artwork.

Band

This course includes Music Theory concepts appropriate for 8th grade. Includes notes and rests through 16th & triplet note & rest patterns. Sight-reading will run sequentially with skills taught in 7th grade band. Understanding will be assessed in written work and performance. Students will cover 6 of 12 major key signatures with their respective scales (C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, D) and a two-octave chromatic scale. Students will execute changing key signatures, time signatures, dynamics, and articulation markings, of all within one piece of music. They must show knowledge of all note names and must have the ability to identify practice needs based on hearing and recognizing errors in performance. They will also be taught the rudiments of marching in preparation for HS Band. Concert music appropriate to 8th grade students'

level of performance will be prepared in class for performance. There will be 3 required concerts: one in November, one in February and one in May as well as a performance in the fall at a HS football game in conjunction with the HS Band.

Choir

This course is offered to any student who is interested in singing and learning how to do so correctly. Continuing to learn the elements of choral music (melody, harmony, rhythm, tone, texture, beat, tempo, form, dynamics and more) through the study of existing works and historical context. Students will learn about music of different cultures, music history and American popular music. Students will encounter a wide variety of musical experiences including listening, performing, analyzing and composing. The addition of vocal changes in the adolescent voice adds more challenges to this class. The skills of balance, listening and part-singing are to be achieved to the fullest potential of middle school by this level. The students participate in several concerts per year and Music Festival Assessment. Students may audition for All District Honor Choir, All State Honor Choir, Regional Honor Choir, and in alternate years may audition for the National Honor Choir. Uniforms are required. No audition is needed.

Survey of Computer Science

1 HS credit

Survey of Computer Science STEM introduces the basics of computing using fun and engaging activities. This course places emphasis on exploration and experimentation, and less emphasis on problem-solving and formal analysis. This course fosters creativity and perseverance using the fundamentals of computing. In addition, career exploration lessons are threaded throughout the course, with a focus on developing students' interest in computing and identification with the computing professions.

Health Education

.5 HS credit

Positive decision making related to individual health is emphasized as the core of the health course. Units of instruction include an introduction to overall health, mental health, relationships, nutrition, vaping, alcohol abuse, drug use & communicable and non-communicable diseases. CPR instruction is part of the program with an emphasis on responding to an emergency.

Physical Education

Activities students engage in during middle school are part of a team sport model. Students will learn to apply the elements of fair play, sportsmanship, and cooperation along with expectations of game play. It is anticipated that students will improve their current skill level and move to a point of enjoyable play. Participation is not about being the best but students striving to do their best and improve. The importance of physical activity beyond the class is encouraged as a healthy lifestyle. Middle School physical education classes dress out daily for class.

In addition, this course is designed to promote student learning about issues that affect immediate and long-term health. Topics related to maintaining healthy physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being will be discussed in a developmentally appropriate manner