



Middle School Course Catalog

2025-2026



Table of Contents

English Language Arts	p. 3
Mathematics	p. 4
Social Studies	p. 5
Science	p. 7
Physical Education	p. 7
Health Education	p. 8
Hmong Language & Culture	p. 9
Music	p. 9
Art	p. 10

English Language Arts

English Language Arts 6

602-1/602-2

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade Level: 6

Course Description: : ELA 6 uses a state approved curriculum in compliance with the READ Act. ELA 6 focuses on the grade 6 MN English Language Arts benchmarks, provides advanced reading instruction, and establishes a foundation in the habits and skills for the critical thinking, analysis, and text types that will be expected of students during their middle school years. Students will read a variety of genres, participate in literature discussions and book clubs, develop written responses to literature, select books to read independently, and set reading goals based on their strengths, needs, and interests. ELA 6 also focuses on the grade 6 MN English Language Arts benchmarks; provides advanced writing, media literacy, and language instruction; and establishes a foundation for the habits and skills for research, argumentation, speaking, and writing types that will be expected of students during their middle school years. Students will read, write, and evaluate memoirs, literary essays, feature articles, personal essays, research papers, and poetry.

English Language Arts 7

702-1/702-2

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation or by test results

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade Level: 7

Course Description: ELA 7 uses a state approved curriculum in compliance with the READ Act. ELA 7 focuses on the grade 7 MN English Language Arts benchmarks; provides advanced reading, writing, media literacy, and language instruction; and deepens the habits and skills for the critical thinking, analysis, text types, research, and writing types expected of students at the end of their middle school years. Students will read, write, and evaluate a variety of genres and digital texts; participate in literature discussions, writing groups, and book clubs; select books to read independently and select topics for writing; and set reading and writing goals based on their strengths, needs, and interests.

English Language Arts 8

802-1/802-2

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade Level: 8

Course Description: ELA 8 uses a state approved curriculum in compliance with the READ Act. It focuses on the grade 8 MN English Language Arts benchmarks; provides advanced reading, writing, media literacy, and language instruction; and establishes a foundation in the habits and skills for critical thinking, analysis, text types, research, and writing types expected of during their high school years. Students will read, write, and evaluate a variety of genres, digital texts, position papers, and speeches; participate in literature discussions, writing groups, and book clubs.

EL Communications

Prerequisite: EL status

Course Length: 1 Semester

Grade Level: 6-8

Course Description: Students strengthen their skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. It prepares students for the WIDA ACCESS test, as well as work in other core classes. Units are based on the WIDA core language uses of Inform, Narrate, Explain, and Argue. This class is highly interactive.

Mathematics

Math 6

601-1/601-2

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade Level: 6

Course Description: This course is the introduction to algebraic concepts with a strong emphasis placed on computations with fractions, decimals, and percentages. Students will engage in an in-depth study of number theory, positive rational number computation, two and three-dimensional geometry and measurement, probability and statistics, and apply this learning to solve real-world mathematical problems. This course prepares students to be mathematically literate, as well as prepare them for future math courses, the 6th grade MN Math Standards, and MN standardized math tests.

Math 7/8

808-1/808-2

Prerequisite: teacher recommendation

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade Level: 7/8

Course Description: This course prepares students for non-linear Algebra. The objective of this course is for students to learn all content standards as given by the State of Minnesota for grade 8 (linear Algebra). The four mathematics strands covered in this course are: Number and Operation, Algebra, Geometry, and Data Analysis and Probability.

Pre-Algebra (Math 7)

701-1/701-2

Prerequisite: None (6th grade need recommendation)

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade Level: 6/7

Course Description: This course prepares students for Algebra 1 or Linear Algebra. The objective of this course is for students to learn all content standards as given by the State of Minnesota for grade 7. The four mathematics strands covered in this course are: Number and Operation, Algebra, Geometry, and Data Analysis and Probability.

Linear Algebra (Math 8)

801-1/801-2

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra (7th grader needs recommendation)

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade Level: 7,8

Course Description: This course covers the first half of a traditional Algebra 1 course. It reviews Pre-algebra skills and extends through linear functions, linear inequalities, and systems of linear equations.

Algebra 1

1001-1/1001-2

Prerequisite: Accelerated Pre-Algebra or recommendation

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade Level: 7, 8

Course Description: This course is a complete Algebra 1 course. It extends through linear functions and inequalities, systems of linear equations, polynomials, and quadratic and exponential functions. The course is intended for students who have shown mastery of Pre-Algebra concepts and skills.

Mastering Mathematics

00-1/800-2

Prerequisite: none

Course Length: 1 Semester

Grade Level: 6-8

Course Description: This course is an intervention course that will help build a students mathematical fluency and help the student close gaps in order to help them achieve a higher score on the MCA and Fastbridge tests.

ML Math

799-1/799-2

Prerequisite: none

Course Length: 1 Semester

Grade Level: 6-8

Course Description: This course is an intervention course specifically for ML learners that will help build a student's mathematical fluency and help the student close gaps in order to help them achieve a higher score on the MCA and Fastbridge tests, as well as improve performance in grade-level math classes..

Intro to Computers

17-1/717-2

Prerequisite: none

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade Level: 6-8

Course Description: This course is an introduction to computer science and computers. Students will learn the basics of Google Suite, practice on keyboarding skills as well as an introduction to programming.

Social Studies

Grade 6 - Minnesota Studies

604-1/604-2

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade Level: 6

Course Description:

Students in 6th grade will learn about Minnesota state history and government and Minnesota's role within the larger context of the country. Students study Minnesota history and its government, placing the state and its people within the context of the national story. They engage in historical inquiry and study events, issues and individuals significant to Minnesota history, beginning with the early indigenous people of the upper Mississippi River region to the present day. They examine the relationship between levels of government, and how the concept of sovereignty affects the exercise of treaty rights. They analyze how the state's physical features and location of resources affected settlement patterns and the growth of cities. Drawing on their knowledge of economics, students analyze the influence of a market-based economy at the local and national levels. They learn about the unique role Minnesota played, and continues to play, in regional, national and global politics.

Grade 7 - United States Studies

704-1/704-2

(history and government 1800–present)

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade Level: 7

Course Description:

Students in 7th grade will learn about people, issues and events of significance to this nation's history from 1800 to the current era of globalization. They will examine the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and Supreme Court decisions for their lasting impact on the American people, economy and governance structure. Students will study civics and economic principles in depth, drawing connections between these disciplines and history to explain the impact of various policies on how people lived, worked and functioned in society. They will create and use detailed maps of places in the United States and conduct historical inquiry on a topic in the nation's history.

Grade 8 - Global Studies

804-1/804-2

(interdisciplinary; world geography and contemporary world history)

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade Level: 8

Course Description:

Students in 8th grade will explore the regions of the world using geographic information from print and electronic sources. They will analyze important trends in the modern world such as demographic change, shifting trade patterns, and intensified cultural interactions due to globalization. Students will participate in civic discussion on contemporary issues, conduct historical inquiry, and study events over the last half century that have shaped the contemporary world. They will analyze

connections between revolutions, independence movements and social transformations, and understand reasons for the creation of modern nation states. They will learn that governments are based on different political philosophies and serve various purposes. By learning economic principles of trade and the factors that affect economic growth, students understand why there are different standards of living in countries around the world

College and Career Readiness

688-1/688-2

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade Level: 6-8

Course Description:

The purpose of this class is for students to develop the competencies needed to move through the next stages of school, and into adulthood. In this class students will set life-long goals, learn about different career options, and begin to think about the need for college. While exploring their long term goals, students will also master interpersonal communication skills, develop self-awareness, and build social-emotional skills. Basic adulting skills covered will include financial literacy, budgeting, and searching and applying for jobs. This is a dynamic class that covers multiple topics a week, where higher order thinking is encouraged, and where students develop their ability to engage in group discussion and collaborative work.

Science

Earth Science

603-1/603-2

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade Level: 6

Course Description:

Introduces students to basic earth science concepts. The topics covered are: geology, meteorology, and astronomy. Students will continue building skills in scientific inquiry and laboratory investigations

Life Science

703-1/703-2

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade Level: 7

Course Description:

Life Science 7 covers basic life science concepts such as cells, genetics, ecology, evolution, and the human body. Students will also develop skills in scientific inquiry and laboratory investigations.

Physical Science

803-1/803-2

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade Level: 8

Course Description:

Earth Science 8 Covers basic middle school physics and chemistry concepts as well as the engineering design process and the nature of science. Students learn about the properties of matter, how materials and atoms interact in a physical change, types of energy, waves, light, forces and motion.

Physical Education

6th-8th Grade

1311

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: (1 Semester per year or every other day for a year)

Grade Level: 6-8

Course Description: This course is designed to enhance students' interest and participation in lifetime fitness activities and a variety of lifetime sports. Opportunities will be provided for participation in individual, dual and team sports and activities. Throughout the course, emphasis will be placed on fundamentals, rules, strategies and individual physical fitness.

Hmong Language & Culture

Hmong Culture and Arts

1009

Prerequisite: none

Course Length: 2 semesters

Course Description: In this course, students will explore the rich traditions, history, and artistic expressions of the Hmong people while developing skills in reading, writing, and speaking the Hmong language. Through hands-on activities, storytelling, and creative projects, students will gain a deeper understanding of Hmong customs, folklore, music, and visual arts. They will also practice conversational Hmong and learn essential language structures to build their fluency. This class fosters cultural pride, appreciation, and cross-cultural understanding, making connections between the past and present to celebrate Hmong heritage.

Music

6 Choir

605-1/605-2

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade level: 6

Description: The 6 Choir class is designed to teach students how to sing, read, perform, and connect to music. Students will learn proper singing technique in a variety of styles within a musical ensemble. Students will learn about basic elements of music including rhythm, melody, and harmony. They will explore musical styles and folk songs from around the world. Students will display their basic reading and singing skills, musical expression, and performance etiquette skills in performances throughout the year.

7/8 Treble Choir

705-1/705-2

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade level: 7-8

Description: The 7/8 treble choir class is designed to develop high voiced students' ability to sing, read, perform, and connect to music. Students will develop their singing technique in a variety of styles within a musical ensemble. Students will read complex rhythms and melodies and begin to work more with harmony. They will explore musical expression and meaning in music. They will explore musical styles and folk songs from around the world. Students will display their reading and

singing skills, musical expression, and performance etiquette skills in performances throughout the year.

7/8 Tenor/Bass Choir

805-1/805-2

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade level: 7-8

Description: The 7/8 tenor/bass choir class is designed to develop low voiced students' ability to sing, read, perform, and connect to music. Students will develop their singing technique in a variety of styles within a musical ensemble. Students will read complex rhythms and melodies and begin to work more with harmony. They will explore musical expression and meaning in music. They will explore musical styles and folk songs from around the world. Students will display their reading and singing skills, musical expression, and performance etiquette skills in performances throughout the year.

Intro to Guitar

860-1/860-2

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade Level: 6-8

Description: This is an introduction to reading music notation and performing on the guitar. The goal of this course is to improve students' ability to read, write, and perform music on the guitar. This is a beginning level course, with no prior ability level on the instrument necessary!

Advanced Guitar

861-1/861-2

Prerequisite: Intro to Guitar

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade Level: 7-8

Description: This course builds on the previous year of learning and introduces new musical notation styles such as tablature, and a new style of playing with the introduction of fingerpicking. This is a performance class and will have multiple concert performances over the year. This is an advanced level course and requires completion of the Introduction to Guitar course.

Intro to Band (Red Band)

850-1/850-2

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade Level: 6-8

Description: This course is an introduction to instrumental music through the concert band. Students will learn to read, comprehend, write, and perform music on an instrument of their choice from within the concert band families of instruments. Students will learn to perform as an ensemble, and as sections within a larger ensemble as part of this course. This is a performance based class with multiple concert performances throughout the year. This is also a beginner level course, perfect for 6th grade students or 7th & 8th grade students looking to join the ensemble!

Advanced Band (Blue Band)

851-1/851-2

Prerequisite: Intro to Band

Course Length: 2 Semesters

Grade Level: 7-8

Description: This course builds on previous years of instrumental music education, further developing students ability to read, write, and perform on their instrument. Students will learn to perform advanced rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic music with an emphasis on individual musical confidence within the ensemble. This is a performance based class with multiple concert performances throughout the year. This is an advanced level class with at least one year of prior band experience required.

Music Exploration

867-1/867-2

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 semesters

Grade Level: 6-8

Description: This course will explore several performance areas of music while teaching music notation and literacy. Students can expect to learn basic performance skills on various instruments over the course of the year and to learn some core components of music composition. No previous experience in instrumental music is required!

Art

Art- 6-8

607 (6th grade)/707 (7th grade)/807 (8th grade)

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 Semesters (every other day)

Grade Level: 6-8

Course Description: This course encompasses broad visual art experiences. The course is designed to build knowledge of artists and art history, to create an awareness of visual art within their world and to develop techniques for creating and understanding artworks. To accomplish this, students will experience using a variety of art mediums which will include drawing, painting and sculpting.

