

Elective Course Descriptions

Grade 7

2023-2024



John Muir
Middle School

Programming Information

Here is a brief “snapshot” of the curriculum and programming for the Wausau School District Middle Schools.

6th Grade:

- Students will have two periods of math and literacy, and two periods of social studies and science on alternating days.
- Students will have physical education and music exploration every-other-day for the school year.
- Students will have one quarter of business and technology education, one quarter of art, and two quarters of health during the year.
- Students will have an Intervention/Enrichment (IE) period every day, which may include resource time, band, orchestra, specific math and/or literacy interventions, and enrichment opportunity in numerous areas.

7th Grade:

- Students will have two periods of math and literacy, and two periods of social studies and science on alternating days.
- Students will have physical education every-other-day for the school year.
- Students will select elective classes to complement their schedule.
- Students will have an Intervention/Enrichment (IE) period every day, which may include resource time, band, orchestra, specific math and/or literacy interventions, and enrichment opportunity in numerous areas. Some enrichment courses offered in the 2021-2022 school year may require an additional course fee.

8th Grade:

- Students will have two periods of math and literacy, and two periods of social studies and science on alternating days.
- Students will have physical education every-other-day for the school year.
- Students will choose elective courses to complement their schedule.
- Students will have a period to be used for an additional elective course or an Intervention/Enrichment (IE) period every day. The IE period may include resource time, band, orchestra, specific math and/or literacy interventions, and enrichment opportunities in numerous areas. Some enrichment courses offered in the 2021-2022 school year may require an additional course fee.

Timeline

Elective Sign-Up Process-

- **Homeroom Elective Presentations:** During the week of January 9th, students will view a short 3-5 minute video explaining the options from each of the allied departments.
- **Monday January 16th:** a messenger will be sent to families outlining the entire sign-up process. This messenger will also contain links to the homeroom presentations on the school website along with course descriptions.
- **Wednesday January 18th:** Students will watch an instructional video on completing their worksheet and completing the sign-up process in Infinite Campus. This will be during TEAM time on the 19th.
 - During the rest of the week, programming will provide teachers with a list of students yet to complete the sign-up process. Students will need to complete their worksheets and teachers will submit the completed worksheets to the programming office.
 - Counseling will also be involved for student contact along with administration to ensure the completion of sign-up by Friday January 27th.
- **Friday March 17th:** Adjustments to student requests will no longer be taken unless there is a stated academic need or extenuating circumstance presented to administration.
- **August - Schedule Pick-up** - Students will receive their schedule at a TBD date in August.

Important: *We will make every attempt to honor as many prioritized elective courses as possible. However, course selections are **not guaranteed**. Please understand that many factors impact the scheduling process, including each student's core academic needs, class sizes, staffing, and availability of facilities.*

Schedule change requests are not honored unless there is an identified academic need for a change of placement.

7th GRADE Elective Course Descriptions

Art: *Scheduled every-other-day for one semester*

Art is a fun, hands-on, creative problem solving class. The art experience in 7th grade is exploratory in nature and focuses on higher level technical and skill building art production. The students will have fun doing creative problem solving art projects in both two and three dimensions using a variety of materials, including painting and working with clay. Art production, appreciation, and history will also be explored making connections to our culture and careers.

Band: *Scheduled every-other-day for the school year and lessons scheduled during the IE period or music class.*

7th Grade HighBANDers! *Do you need a break in the school day to move your muscles, challenge your brain, be with your friends, and create something totally awesome?! If so, then you need to join the 7th grade band! In this high-energy and fun class, we will continue to rock out with what you learned in 6th grade band like technical playing skills, tone production, and expanding our note and rhythmic capacity through music theory. However, participating in the 7th grade band is much more than just learning an instrument; it is also a GREAT place to build friendships, work as a team, and practice important life-skills such as time-management, responsibility, and performing in front of other people. The awesome performance opportunities throughout the school year specific to the 7th grade band will include three concerts: including one at Wausau West, Pisca's Army of ROCK, District Solo and Ensemble Festival, and State Honors ensemble. **Let's get Loud!***

Prerequisite: *If a student is planning on enrolling in 7th grade band but has no previous experience, the student must complete the six lesson summer school course provided through the District prior to beginning the program or have instructor permission. The summer school lessons are free of charge, though an instrument will need to be rented or purchased.*

Orchestra: *Full Rehearsals/Sectionals meet on a rotating basis during the*

Resource period. Small group lessons are offered during student music elective times.

Explore the power of music in seventh grade orchestra! In this grade level, students have the chance to further develop their musical skills and knowledge playing violin, viola, cello or bass, in rehearsals and small group lessons. The course of study in seventh grade orchestra is focused on further advancing technical skills and tone production. Several concerts are held during the course of the school year. Additional topics covered may include music history, music theory, and even composing music on your instrument! Other exciting performance opportunities for seventh grade orchestra students include – Chamber Orchestra, Solo & Ensemble, and Middle Level Honors Orchestra.

Prerequisite: *If a student is planning on enrolling in 7th grade orchestra, but has no previous experience, the student must complete the six lesson summer school course provided through the District prior to beginning the program or have instructor permission. The summer school lessons are free of charge, though an instrument will need to be rented or purchased.*

**A purchased or rented instrument is required for participation in band/orchestra. Families may choose to purchase or rent instruments from local music stores. A limited number of instruments are available for rent from the school at a reduced rate for families who qualify for financial assistance. Please contact the band or orchestra instructor for more information.*

Choir: *Scheduled every-other-day for the school year*

LET'S SING!! *Choir provides a unique opportunity to sing, to perform, and to build relationships with others in a group setting. Our focus will be to help students become better singers by developing skills in reading music, tone quality, correct posture, working as a team, and most importantly, expressing emotion through singing! Students will also have an opportunity to participate in the Solo/Ensemble Festival, and could audition for the **Pop/Jazz Choir** and Middle Level State Honors Choir. **Choir students are required to perform in two evening concerts.** Come and make some music with your friends!*

Music Connections: Keyboard Emphasis

Scheduled every-other-day for one semester

LET'S make MUSIC WITH PIANOS!! *Join us for a hands-on approach to learning music!! Making music provides our minds and body an opportunity to learn in a fun and exciting way. In this class, students will practice independently to learn and perform piano music at a beginning level. This is a course where students are required to be responsible, independent learners. If you want to develop your piano skills, this is the music class for you!*

Music Connections: Guitar Emphasis

Scheduled every-other-day for one semester

Let's make music with guitars!! Join us for a hands-on approach to learning music!! Making music provides our minds and body an opportunity to learn in a fun and exciting way. In this class, students will practice independently and perform on guitars at a beginning level using melodic notation, tablature, and chording. This is a course where students are required to be responsible, independent learners. If you want to develop your guitar skills, this is the music class for you!

Family and Consumer Education – Sew What:

Scheduled every-other-day for a semester

The **Sew What** course is designed to give students an opportunity to develop skills in following directions, basic work based skills and machine sewing techniques and practices. Students will learn to read patterns and symbols required for successful project completion. Students will practice use of varied types of sewing equipment for both hand and machine stitch work. The ability to follow and understand sewing construction directions and terminology will be emphasized within project construction. A drawstring bag will be the project for this course.

\$4.00 Project Fee required

Family and Consumer Education –

FUNdamental Foods: ***Scheduled every-other-day for a semester***

The **FUNdamental Foods** course gives students the opportunity to learn basic cooking skills. The focus will include an emphasis on safety and sanitation and nutrition through various hands-on activities. Students will learn how to successfully read a recipe and acquire the skills needed to complete all cooking labs. Further emphasis will be placed on correct measuring and cooking techniques using basic equipment, understanding cooking basic terminology and learning the difference between quick and yeast breads.

\$4.00 Lab Fee required

Technology Apps – Design and Modeling:

Scheduled every-other day for a semester

This class takes the students on an exciting adventure through the eyes of an engineer where they will build and program robots, drone technology, sphere robots, design and test bridges, towers and other engineered structures. They will learn cutting-edge software for 3D design and a 3D printer, rapid prototyping and other tools used by real engineers. Students will design and build a magnetic-levitation train. Students will have the opportunity to make a t-shirt with a logo they design. Through a series of design challenges, hands-on activities, and guided learning, students will learn how to think like an engineer. This is a great starter class for students wanting to take Project Lead the Way engineering courses in high school.

\$4.00 Project Fee

World Cultures:

Scheduled every-other-day for a semester

World Cultures is a semester class that meets every other day and introduces students to French, German, and Spanish: the three language courses offered as year-long electives in eighth grade. It also provides an overview of the cultures of the Middle East and Southeast Asia. Students explore language, geography, history, food, and traditions through a variety of activities designed to help students gain a better understanding and appreciation for the diversity of these cultures and learn ways these cultures impact our lives.