



**Course Description Book  
2018-2019**

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## Our Mission

St. Francis Xavier Catholic School System is a Christ-centered community dedicated to the faith formation, academic excellence, community engagement, and individual growth of our students in a safe environment.

## Welcome

Dear Students and Families

The faculty and staff of St. Francis Xavier Middle School is committed to providing our students with engaging, relevant course offerings and student life activities to capture their interests and provide a variety of intellectual experiences. The course offerings will allow our students to build lifelong habits all while generating a love for learning and a willingness to grow. These skills will be beneficial during their years at Xavier Middle School and will be carried with our students as they continue onto high school. The faculty and administration at Xavier Middle School devote considerable time and energy to reviewing current courses and developing new curriculum that is rigorous and aligned with the most current middle and high school standards.

This course description book provides a comprehensive listing and description of each course offered within each grade level at Xavier Middle School. We are excited to offer classes that serve a wide range of academic interests that focus on growing in our Catholic faith, exploring the important areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM), and improving 21st century learning skills.

It is our hope that the time spent at Xavier Middle School allows our students an opportunity to grow as individuals, discover ways to become servants within our community, and gain knowledge as they become lifelong learners. We encourage each student to create lasting experiences that will stay with them as they continue their journey into becoming young adults.

Welcome to Xavier Middle School; we are excited to have you and your family be a part of the wonderful Xavier community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Bires". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Robert Bires  
Principal

# Xavier Middle School Curriculum Overview

<h2>5th Grade Course Offerings</h2>		
<b>Core Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• Religion</li> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Language Arts</li> <li>• Social Studies</li> </ul>	<b>Encore Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art (once a week)</li> <li>• Spanish (once a week)</li> <li>• Physical Ed. (twice a week)</li> <li>• General Music (twice a week)</li> </ul>	<b>Elective Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Band (twice a week)</li> <li>• Orchestra (twice a week)</li> </ul>
<h2>6th Grade Course Offerings</h2>		
<b>Core Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• Religion</li> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Language Arts</li> <li>• Social Studies</li> </ul>	<b>Encore Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art (twice a week)</li> <li>• German (once a week)</li> <li>• Physical Ed. (twice a week)</li> </ul>	<b>Elective Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Band (three times a week)</li> <li>• Choir (twice a week)</li> <li>• Orchestra (three times a week)</li> <li>• General Music (twice a week)</li> </ul>
<h2>7th Grade Course Offerings</h2>		
<b>Core Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• Religion</li> <li>• Language Arts</li> <li>• Social Studies</li> </ul>	<b>Encore Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical Ed. (twice a week)</li> <li>• Literacy Elective (Every day)</li> </ul>	<b>Elective Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art (three times a week)</li> <li>• Band (three times a week)</li> <li>• Choir (three times a week)</li> <li>• Health (twice a week)</li> <li>• Orchestra (twice a week)</li> <li>• Languages (Every day)</li> </ul>
<h2>8th Grade Course Offerings</h2>		
<b>Core Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• Religion</li> <li>• Language Arts</li> <li>• Social Studies</li> </ul>	<b>Encore Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical Ed. (twice a week)</li> <li>• Literacy Elective (Every day)</li> </ul>	<b>Elective Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art (three times a week)</li> <li>• Band (three times a week)</li> <li>• Choir (three times a week)</li> <li>• Orchestra (twice a week)</li> <li>• Languages (Every day)</li> </ul>

# Considerations for High School

## World Languages

Completing two years worth of a world language at Xavier Middle School in 7th & 8th grade is equivalent to a level 1 course at a high school. This will allow students to complete up to a level 5 world language course in high school with the possibility of earning college credit as a senior in high school.

## Project Lead the Way

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is a STEM program offering a problem-based curriculum that is infused in all science courses at Xavier Middle School. By completing science courses at Xavier Middle School, students will be prepared to enroll in PLTW courses offered in high school.

## Grade Scale

Grade	Percentage
A+	99-100
A	95-98
A-	93-94
B+	91-92
B	87-90
B-	85-86
C+	83-84
C	79-82
C-	77-78
D+	75-76
D	71-74
D-	69-70
F	0-68

## -Grade 5 Course Descriptions

### **ART (Meets once each week)**

The fifth grade visual art curriculum continues to build on students' knowledge of, and experiences in art. Students become aware of color, line, texture and form, and incorporate design into their art. Developing an appreciation for art and art history is also emphasized. Lessons include two and three dimensional art, drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, and collage and fiber art. The curriculum is differentiated to assure success for every student's abilities in the classroom.

### **GENERAL MUSIC (Full Year Course)**

Fifth grade General Music is a required music appreciation class. Students will explore the elements of music as well as experiment with playing classroom instruments, singing songs alone and within groups, and moving to music. Fifth grade general music students will participate in the December and May concerts to give them an opportunity to experience choral skills

### **LANGUAGE ARTS**

The fifth grade Language Arts program promotes effective oral and written communication. The program is based on the writing process with all grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling skills introduced, practiced and reviewed in the context of writing and textbook work. For Spelling the 5th grade will use a program based on common spelling patterns, prefixes, suffixes and root words. The *Wordly Wise* Vocabulary series concentrates on building vocabulary by using words in context. To develop their writing skills, the students and teachers use a combination of resources: English textbook, *Write*, web resources, and the *6+1 Trait Writing*. Three main pieces of writing in 5th grade include: an opinion, an informative, and a narrative piece, all of which are taken through the writing process. Graphic organizers and rubrics are used to help students formulate their information. Students use Google Drive, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Publisher, and websites to facilitate their learning.

### **LITERATURE**

Students learn through a variety of reading formats. Using novels the students learn how to quote accurately from a text, make inferences, determine the theme, summarize, find the point of view of characters, determine the meaning of words, learn about figurative language (similes, metaphors, personification, idioms, hyperbole) and identify genres in literature. Non-fiction reading skills learned include finding the main idea and details, learning about text structure (chronological order, compare and contrast, cause/effect, problem/solution), and using evidence from text to support answers. The students will also have time for reading books of their own choosing and are tested on these in the Accelerated Reader Program. Through the STAR Reading Assessment, the students' goals are determined, based on their individual needs.

### **MATHEMATICS**

#### Honors Math 5

Recommended MAP Range: 220 or higher

Honors Math 5 is a core course that is taught at an advanced pace. Students will work in our Math program and will be evaluated informally and formally throughout the year. This program will build the

foundation and launch the students into a successful transition to Middle School math. Students will begin to look at advanced topics covered in 6th and 7th grade math. This course will begin to study important middle school mathematics concepts and understand how they are related to real data and real-life application. Students will form a solid foundation in fundamental middle grade topics such as decimals, fractions, geometry, and measurement with grade appropriate introduction to key algebraic topics. Extensive application to word problems is a part of this course. Students who successfully complete Honors Math 5 will be placed in either Pre-Algebra in 6th grade or Honors Math 6.

### Math 5

Recommended MAP Range: 225 or lower

Math 5 covers place value relationships, operations with whole numbers and decimals, volume of right rectangular prisms, addition and subtraction of fractions with like and unlike denominations, multiplication and division of fractions, construction and interpretation of graphs and classification of two-dimensional figures. The class uses different mediums to learn, including math games, online practice, and paper and pencil problem solving.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Meets twice each week)**

The Physical Education class promotes and emphasizes that all students be physically educated and have fun while moving. The units are designed to incorporate fundamental skills, physical fitness and knowledge of various lifelong sports. Emphasis is placed on participation, good sportsmanship, and effort. Students who choose to actively participate in quality physical education programs receive a variety of benefits, including the development of:

- A variety of motor skills and abilities related to lifetime leisure activities
- Improved understanding of the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- Improved understanding of movement and the human body
- Improved knowledge of rules and strategies of particular games and sports
- Self-confidence and self-worth as they relate to physical education recreation programs.

### **RELIGION**

Fifth grade religion explores 7 central ideas that make up who we are as Catholics: Knowledge of the Faith, Liturgy and Sacraments, Moral formation in Jesus Christ, Prayer, Community Life in the Church, Missionary Spirit, Safe Environment.

The integration of technology includes obtaining and exploring knowledge and information concurrent with Catholic teaching. Websites, online videos, and other video sources along with inspirational music that promote Catholic identity are used to facilitate prayer, examine issues dealing with morality, and explain how the 7 sacraments bring grace to our lives. Study skills used and reinforced include classroom review, study guides for each chapter in the religion text, written and oral assignments, and in depth discussions and memorization.

### **SCIENCE**

Fifth grade science covers topics from Earth, Life and Physical sciences through the SEPUP science series. Topics for the year include:

1. Studying soils scientifically- Students study the properties of different types of soils in the context of preparing a school garden. They investigate soil profiles, organic and inorganic components, use of fertilizers, and soil mapping.
2. Rocks and minerals-Students investigate properties of rocks and minerals as they consider questions related to use of our natural resources.
3. Cell biology and disease-Students study microbiology, cell size, structure, function and permeability; systems of classification. They explore the function of the immune system and the growth of antibiotic-resistant organisms. A project on disease develops research skills.
4. Energy-Students explore energy transfers and conversion in the context of household energy usage. They learn that energy can be obtained, stored and used in various ways. Renewable and non-renewable energy sources are discussed.
5. Force and motion- Hot Wheels Speedometry. Students work in groups to deepen their understanding of potential and kinetic energy by measuring distance to describe energy, changing variables in the experiments and constructing bar graphs to chart their data.
6. Project Lead the Way with VEX IQ robotics - Students explore the ways robots are used in today's world and their impact on society and the environment. Students learn about a variety of robotic components as they build and test mobile robots that may be controlled remotely.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Fifth grade Social Studies begins with the first Native Americans in the United States and leads to the exploration of North America and the development of the first colonies. Students learn about the growth of the original 13 colonies and study the Revolutionary War. Also explored are the U.S. Constitution, the three branches of government, and the election process in the United States. Students will develop an understanding of economics and the geography of our country. Presentations, simulations, reports and written assessments are used to demonstrate students' learning. Resources used are the textbook, web resources and *CNN Student News*. Students are given study guides and review sheets to help focus their learning. Technology is also incorporated into the curriculum through projects that use Google Drive, interactive websites and online videos.

## **SPANISH (Full Year)**

All fifth grade students will be registered for Spanish class. Students with an accommodation plan may opt out with administration approval. Spanish during 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be a continuation of the Spanish curriculum from the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Schools System. The class will meet one day per week for the full school year. This is considered a beginning course and prior knowledge or classes in Spanish are not required. This is a class to explore the Spanish language and culture. In this class students will explore the alphabet, numbers, colors, animals, clothing, some basic conversation, culture and holidays.

## **Electives**

### **BAND (Full Year Course)**

In fifth grade, band rehearsals are 40 minutes in length and held two days per week. Students receive individual lessons weekly during the school day. Students participate in solo ensemble recitals and festivals, and winter and spring concerts. Fifth grade band students participate in our annual System band concert. This combined concert includes band members from grades 5 - 12. Each quarter students are given a variety of music theory and listening assignments. Computer programs such as



Smart Music and various iPad apps are used to evaluate and drill music skills. Students who have played a band instrument prior to fifth grade, as well as beginning students, are all welcome to join our program.

### **ORCHESTRA (Full Year Course)**

Orchestra is available to students in grades 5-8 at XMS. Orchestra meets two times per week in 5th grade, and each student has one 15 minute private lesson per week. Students perform in 2-3 concerts per year and are encouraged to participate in the annual Solo and Ensemble Festival at XMS in March. Students will continue to learn how to play and perform on their instruments as a large ensemble through the Essential Elements book, in addition to learning a variety of string orchestra repertoire in both class and at their lesson. If a student is beginning orchestra for the first time as a 5th grader, summer lessons are highly recommended. Please contact the 5th grade orchestra teacher for a list of instructors.

## Grade 6 Course Descriptions

### **ART (Meets twice a week)**

Sixth grade Art is designed to meet important student developmental goals in a relevant, sequential, and invigorating manner. The curriculum is built on the elements of art and emphasizes two key concepts. 1.) Fostering the creative thinking process: invention, imagination, experimentation, and exploration - a foundation for higher level thought processes. 2.) Core skill advancement through classic and imaginative work. Projects include: a Biblically themed creativity booster, still life drawing and portraiture, oil pastel painting, carve and peel.

### **LANGUAGE ARTS**

Students are given the opportunity to experiment with and develop different styles of writing. The emphasis is on writing as a process using the ideas and vocabulary of *6+1 Trait Writing*. The study of grammar, plus sentence and paragraph structure, provide students with the tools needed to write fluently. Vocabulary practice and mastery are also incorporated into the curriculum. Touch-typing is continued as students work to gain skill and speed at word-processing. GoogleDocs is used to enhance learning and collaboration among students. A portfolio of each student's creative writing is assembled throughout the year.

### **LITERATURE**

Students learn to appreciate good literature in many forms. Trade books, short stories, poetry, and plays are used to develop basic reading skills. Students develop strategies to comprehend, analyze and use inferences to gain a better understanding of literature. Five thinking strategies are stressed: recall, analysis, inference, synthesis, and evaluation. Opportunities are given in units to build and develop listening skills. Many of the literature selections are tied in with Social Studies and Religion, including *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*, *The Devil's Arithmetic*, an excerpt from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and *The Adventures of the Speckled Band*, a Sherlock Holmes mystery. Time is set aside for

silent reading, which is encouraged through the use of the Accelerated Reader program. Through the STAR Reading Assessment, the students' goals are determined, based on their individual needs.

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Pre-Algebra**

Prerequisite: Honors Math 5 and teacher recommendation

Recommended MAP Range: 235 or higher

This Pre-Algebra course will help students develop the skills necessary to manipulate numbers, solve equations and understand the general principles at work. Students will compute interest through percentages, graph linear functions, compare rational numbers with scientific notation, and convert fractional numbers between fractions, decimals, and percents. Practical application through the incorporation of word problems is required in this course.

### **Honors Math 6**

Prerequisite: B+ or better in Honors Math 5

Recommended MAP Range: 225 to 240

This course will take students through a spiraling fast paced review of 6th grade math, while looking ahead to 7th grade math skills. Students will develop algebraic concepts and processes that can be used to solve a variety of real-world mathematical problems. Students will continue to build on a foundation in fundamental middle grade topics such as decimals, fractions, geometry, and measurement with grade appropriate introduction to key algebraic topics. Extensive application to word problems is a part of this course.

### **Math 6**

Prerequisite: Math 5 or Honors Math 5

Recommended MAP Range: 230 or lower

Courses offered in sixth grade Mathematics focus on problem solving as a method of inquiry and application; communication skills and techniques for conveying mathematical ideas and concepts; reasoning experiences and processes that reinforce and extend thinking skills; and investigations of mathematical connections that students use in their daily lives. Topics explored are general computation using the four properties of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions; and measurement using standard and metric. Upon completion of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics course students will be ready for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics course.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Meets twice a week)**

The Physical Education class promotes and emphasizes that all students be physically educated and have fun while moving. The units are designed to incorporate fundamental skills, physical fitness and knowledge of various lifelong sports. Emphasis is placed on participation, good sportsmanship, and effort. Students who choose to actively participate in quality physical education programs receive a variety of benefits, including the development of:

- A variety of motor skills and abilities related to lifetime leisure activities
- Improved understanding of the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- Improved understanding of movement and the human body

- Improved knowledge of rules and strategies of particular games and sports
- Self-confidence and self-worth as they relate to physical education recreation programs.

## **RELIGION**

The Hebrew Scriptures are the focal point of study in sixth grade religion. Students learn how to use the Bible and how to interpret what they read. Units also include a continuing study of prayer, Catholic worship, and the history of the Bible. Students express their faith through participation in prayer services, liturgies, and retreats. Sixth graders participate in two retreats (a three day camp experience in September and a one day service retreat in April). The focus is on choices, consequences and Catholic moral teachings. Students are given the opportunity to write their own Psalms which are shared via our Haiku page. Our program follows the Standards of the Green Bay Diocese.

## **SCIENCE**

This is a Physical Science course with emphasis on "hands-on" experiences to get a better understanding of science concepts. Class participation, group work and lab activities are used to gain knowledge of science in everyday life. The topics covered in the curriculum are matter, atoms, compounds, energy and waves, and force and motion.

Sixth grade will also devote a nine week quarter to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education. Using the Project Lead the Way programming, students will learn, experience and create items through the course titled "Design and Modeling".

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

The sixth grade Social Studies program focuses on the history and geography of Latin America, Canada, and Europe. The year begins with a brief review of map and geography skills, followed by the settlement of the Native American peoples of Latin America and Canada. The conquests of these areas are also covered. Government, economics, and the history of these areas are explored. Students then examine the history of Europe beginning with the Middle Ages. The geography of this area is also emphasized.

Following the European studies students continue with a study of Latin America from initial settlement through modern times with an integration of the geography of the region. Technology is incorporated into the units. Students will learn how to properly research and cite sources, and how to properly write a research paper. Projects include the medieval unit, the Latin America map, and a basic research paper. Study skills covered are note taking and test taking.

## **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE GERMAN**

All students will be registered for German class. Students with an accommodation plan may opt out with administration approval. This is considered a beginning course and prior knowledge of a foreign language is not required. The goal of the exploratory German class is to expose students to some of the basics of the German language and culture. Students will participate in a variety of activities to give them a basic overview of German greetings, cognates, the alphabet, numbers, colors, animals, and traditions. A small number of homework assignments and assessments of student's ability to communicate in German will be used for evaluation. This should help them make a more informed decision on which language is most interesting to them, and the language in which they can be most successful in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

## ELECTIVES

***Each 6<sup>th</sup> Grade student needs to choose one of the 4 electives below. Please see the course section form for requirements and procedures.***

### **BAND (Full Year Course)**

In sixth grade band rehearsals are 40 minutes in length and held three days per week. Students receive individual lessons weekly during the school day. Students participate in band festivals, solo ensemble recitals and festivals, winter and spring concerts. Sixth grade band students participate in one Pep Band performance with the Xavier High School Band. They also participate in our annual System band concert. This combined concert includes band members from grades 5 - 12. Second semester students are given the option of participating in Jazz Band. Each quarter students are given a variety of music theory and listening assignments. Computer programs such as *Smart Music* and various iPad apps are used to evaluate and drill music skills. Students who have played a band instrument and beginning students are all welcome to join our program.

### **MUSIC**

#### **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE CHOIR (Full Year Course)**

Our middle school offers a choral ensemble for each grade level. Sixth grade choir meets as a full group twice a week and once each week for a small group lesson. Lessons are scheduled based on the student's academic schedule. Sight singing skills, music notation, and proper vocal technique are introduced. Students will compose short melodies which will be sung by the choir. Performances include several concerts each year and an optional Solo/Ensemble judging in March.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE GENERAL MUSIC (Full Year Course)**

The general music course is a music appreciation class that meets twice each week. Students will explore the elements of music: rhythm, melody, harmony, form, timbre, dynamics, and texture. Using technology, exploration will include musical cultures, European music history, music composition and musical theater. The first semester will feature World Music Drumming and the mechanics of music. During the second semester students will study instruments including the keyboard, guitar, handbells, recorder, and harmonica. Skills that are introduced in the first semester are built upon in the second semester.

#### **ORCHESTRA (Full Year Course)**

Orchestra is available to students in grades 5-8 at XMS. Orchestra meets 3 times per week, and each student has one 15 minute private lesson per week. Students perform 2-3 concerts per year, and are encouraged to perform for the Solo and Ensemble Festival at XMS or the WSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival in March. Students will continue to develop their skills learned in 4th and 5th grade, through the Essential Elements and Sound Innovations books, in addition to a variety of string orchestra repertoire both in class, and at their lesson. If a student is beginning orchestra for the first time as a 6th grader, summer lessons are highly recommended. Please contact the 6th grade orchestra teacher for a list of instructors.

# Grade 7 Course Descriptions

## **LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERATURE (Full Year Course)**

Language Arts and Literature are combined and taught together throughout the entire year. Grammar, descriptive, and persuasive writing are included in the Language Arts portion. The *6+1 Trait Writing* provides the platform for written expression. During the year research is conducted and a persuasive piece is written. Sensory language is taught and practiced using different styles such as narrative, descriptive, and expository texts. Online Google Docs is used frequently for written items.

Literature includes reading, discussing, and working with many different literary genres including fiction, nonfiction, biography, drama, poetry, and more. Plot elements are learned and applied to explore how an author uses plot to shape a story. Theme and inference are important components in applying comprehension to the various stories. Reading outside of class is encouraged. Content is compared with film versions and comparisons are drawn between the two venues. GoogleDocs is used often to relay learned information. . The students will also have time for reading books of their own choosing and are tested on these in the Accelerated Reader Program. Through the STAR Reading Assessment, the students' goals are determined, based on their individual needs.

## **LITERACY ELECTIVES**

*Each 7th grade student is required to be enrolled in a literacy elective course during both semesters. These classes focus on writing and reading. Each elective is a semester class and may only be taken once during the student's 7th grade year. Please review the requirements and procedures on the class selection form.*

### **BACK STAGE (One semester & may not be repeated)**

The Back Stage class helps facilitate the usage and management of our school's auditorium. The students learn and practice the basic technological skills to function in an auditorium or theater setting. During this course, the students learn a variety of real life skills. There are opportunities and challenges for leadership, being a productive team member, problem solving and multitasking. A variety of sources are used to facilitate our learning including technological instructional manuals, tech maps, and stage maps. Their literacy focus is developing cohesive ideas through writing. The students develop that skill by documenting their "hands on" learning.

Also included in this semester course are a variety of experiences as students analyze characters and story plots, develop comprehension skills and collaborate on ideas as they read. After they develop their understanding of the topics, they share their knowledge using a variety of technology as they give presentations in the auditorium. Back Stage provides an opportunity to get an inside look and "back stage" peek at what goes on with event management, running sound, video technology and lighting within our auditorium. Upon completion of the class, students can continue to advance their learning by joining Tech Team.

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT (One semester & may not be repeated)**

The world of cooking will be explored using different avenues and the theme of food will be used to write creatively. Students will dissect cookbooks to determine how they differ. They will create a recipe poem about themselves and an Ode to their favorite food. They will also concoct a descriptive menu for a restaurant. Articles from *Eating Well* Magazine will be read and students will discover the secrets

of sidewalk dining and the wonders of rhubarb and blueberries. If time permits we may even cook up a batch of desserts to sample and practice following a recipe.

### **GOD’S GREEN EARTH (One semester & may not be repeated)**

This is a semester literary elective where students look into our wonderful world and the environmental issues it faces. Students will read nonfiction pieces that introduce John Muir, Rachel Carson, and other important environmentalists. They will see the impact those people had on our world as they take virtual tours of some of our national parks. A highlight of the student’s learning will be in the area of debate! The students will take controversial environmental issues, learn about current environmental law, organize their data, and debate the issues in class. Their reading will also include fiction pieces where the characters in the story deal with environmental issues and are challenged to make a positive difference. Throughout the semester, students will look for ways that they can better our world. As they learn, they will undoubtedly see ways that they can make a difference. Our beautiful earth is a gift from God. Let’s learn how to take care of it.

### **DISCOVERING LATIN AMERICA (one semester & may not be repeated)**

This class will discover and explore different aspects of modern Latin America. During this literary elective, students will read and explore several cultural components of the Latin American countries including climate, cuisine, art, music, sports, education, transportation, holidays and festivals, religion, and tourism. Students will apply their knowledge by creating artwork to resemble that of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. They will cook and bring in Mexican food to share with the class to have a taste of the exceptional cuisine. Students will also learn about holidays and festivals in several countries as they occur. The way of life among the communities in each country will be compared and contrasted with readings and discussions

### **MYTHOLOGY (One semester & may not be repeated)**

Mythology is a study of how ancient societies learned to function, communicate, and grow. How did all things begin? Students will see the world through the eyes of the gods and will strive to find connections to different cultures and religions. Students will read about the Greeks and how gods were a part of daily life. Students will also use Greek and Latin root words to apply to their vocabulary they use today.

### **SONGWRITING & COMPOSITION (Fall Semester Only)**

Are you interested in learning how to play the piano, guitar and ukulele? If so this course is for you! This survey course looks at the history, genre and theory behind songwriting and composition. Students will be exploring these subjects through class projects, which include medieval Era music, electric music, parodies, basic theory, pop music and movie music. Chromebooks and online programs will be used on a regular basis to give an understanding of music technology and students will have their own unique compositions to showcase. This class is open to students of all music abilities.

### **WRITING WITH iPADS (One semester & may not be repeated)**

Students will explore different types of writing by using a variety of iPad apps. Some of the apps used are: *Visual Poetry*, *Max Journal*, *ToonTastic*, *Write About*, *SpellGrid*, *Prezi*, *WordJoust*, *BookCreator*

and *Animoto*. Students will also write an essay utilizing 'song' as the overall theme and they will create *Powtoons*, utilizing an app in Google. In this course, students will also analyze how the elements of a story interact. They will participate in a variety of technology projects to enhance their overall writing techniques. Students will also have the opportunity to share some of their projects with their classmates.

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Algebra**

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

Recommended MAP Range: 245 or higher

Algebra is an upper level math course and follows the high school curriculum. Students will be challenged and work at a rigorous pace with an above-normal workload. This course examines the following concepts of Algebra: operations with real numbers and powers; expressions, equations, and inequalities; linear functions; polynomial and nonlinear functions; and rational functions and radicals. Learning these major topics will set the foundation for future math courses.

### **Pre-Algebra**

Prerequisite: Honors Math 6

Recommended MAP Range: 230 or 250

Prior knowledge of basic computation skills, order of operations, and basic fraction skills such as finding a common denominator and simplifying a fraction are recommended. Pre-Algebra is designed to give students the fundamental skills necessary to succeed in the Algebra course taken the following year. Students will explore arithmetic operations, number systems and properties, measurement, geometry, and have an introduction to algebraic thinking and concepts. They will solve one-step and multi-step equations and inequalities, compute with integers, follow order of operations with exponents and square roots, master computation skills with rational numbers, classify and name basic geometric figures, calculate the area and volume of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional figures, calculate percent problems, and learn the basics of linear equation.

Beyond the textbook, students will use resources such as *Khan Academy* (a non-profit educational organization that provides free video tutorials and interactive exercises) and *KUTA* software as enrichment and extra practice. Students who successfully complete Pre-Algebra with a B average or better will move onto Algebra the following year.

### **Math 7**

Prerequisite: Math 6 or Honors Math 6

Recommended MAP Range: 235 or lower

This course prepares students to transition to more advanced mathematical topics such as Algebra and Geometry while enhancing their basic arithmetic knowledge. Students develop abstract reasoning and symbolic manipulation skills and will support answers by showing various process steps. Problem solving reinforces concepts and makes mathematical connections to their daily lives. Topics in this course include: order of operations, exponents, basic pre-algebra, integers, rational numbers (positive and negative fractions and decimals), proportions, percentages, basic geometry and probability. Upon completion of this course, students will be ready for Pre-Algebra.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Meets twice a week all year)**

The Physical Education class promotes and emphasizes that students be physically educated and have fun while moving. The units are designed to incorporate fundamental skills, physical fitness and knowledge of various lifelong sports. Emphasis is placed on participation, good sportsmanship, and effort. Students who choose to actively participate in quality physical education programs receive a variety of benefits, including the development of:

- A variety of motor skills and abilities related to lifetime leisure activities
- Improved understanding of the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- Improved understanding of movement and the human body
- Improved knowledge of rules and strategies of particular games and sports
- Self-confidence and self-worth as they relate to physical education recreation programs.

## **RELIGION**

The seventh grade Religion curriculum focuses on the life of Christ. Students gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a member of the Church and a follower of Christ. Parts of the New Testament are studied, *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth*, as well as parts of the *Catholic Catechism*. Exciting faith and character building experiences include: learning, making and praying the Rosary, followed up by a visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help for Mass and a tour, and Christmas Cookie Decorating and donations to St. Joseph's Food Program. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders also attend a special Winter Camp that harnesses the teaching of our Lord's Beatitudes.

The school year is full of liturgies, retreats, seasonal units, hands-on activities, technological communications and projects, activities of the Church year, as well as service projects, all of which provide a means for students to grow and express their faith. Seventh grade religion also has a special focus on the *Theology of the Body*, Pope John Paul II's integrated vision of the human person, body, soul and spirit. The religion department also works closely with our school counselors to bring awareness and education on the topics of alcohol, and other drug abuse prevention. The focus is on choices, consequences and Catholic moral teachings.

## **SCIENCE**

In this Life Science course students study all forms of living organisms. They begin by learning the characteristics of living things, and move into the wonderful animal kingdom. To aid in learning, a variety of technology sources are used, such as video and live web cameras to view these animals in action. Students will do dissections along the way including a worm, grasshopper, starfish, and a frog. Labs are a big part of the course of study, as students will extract DNA from wheat, examine cells, and perform numerous data collecting experiments. The animal unit culminates with an in-depth unit on the human body. The course then moves into the world of plants and a study of ecology. The course contains many hands on activities and has a strong emphasis on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) skills. In addition, a Project Lead the Way class called "Medical Detectives" is infused to allow additional experiences in scientific problem solving.

Throughout this Life Science course, students will learn to acknowledge that all of these miraculous things they are learning about have been created by God. They are encouraged to remember that they are called to be stewards of the Earth and all its creatures, and they must respect life and value all that is entrusted to them.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**



The focus of seventh grade social studies is Ancient Civilizations, Asia, Africa, and Antarctica. Geography, cultures, and the beginnings of various civilizations are also explored. Topics such as independence, trade, economics, and early forms of government are examined. Various projects are utilized throughout the course to demonstrate information learned.

## **ELECTIVES**

*The following 7<sup>th</sup> grade courses are electives. Students may select a subject based on interest and ability. Additional details and requirements are listed on the class selection form.*

### **ART (Semester class, full year course is recommended, material is not repeated)**

Seventh grade art is devoted to the concept of communicating with visual images. In our internet rich, global environment, these skills stand to serve students well. First semester: first students apply themselves to boosting their creativity and classic drawing skill development - including around the world materials: India inks, Russian clay crayons, French pastels, charcoals. The centerpiece unit for this term is a print-making unit complete with art history, composition studies, and a nature print with battleship linoleum. Second semester: students study art theory with a plethora of art history examples. They then create various pieces: a large canvas panel acrylic landscape, symbolic work, and, if time allows, a graphic design. Throughout the year, students immerse themselves in art studies of their choosing in an independent study styled practice time called 'Sketchbook'.

### **BAND (Full Year Course)**

In seventh grade band rehearsals are 40 minutes in length and held three days per week. Students receive individual lessons weekly during the school day. Students participate in band festivals, solo ensemble recitals and festivals, winter and spring concerts. Seventh grade band students participate in one Pep Band performance with the Xavier High School Band. They will also participate in our annual System band concert. This combined concert includes all band members from grades 5 - 12. Second semester students are given the option of participating in Jazz Band. Each quarter students are given a variety of music theory and listening assignments. Computer programs such as *Smart Music* and various iPad apps are used to evaluate and drill music skills.

### **CHOIR (Semester class, full year course is recommended, material is not repeated)**

Seventh grade Choir meets three times each week for large group rehearsal and once each week in a small group session. Lesson time is used to enhance the overall performance of the choir. Sight singing skills, music notation, and proper vocal technique introduced in sixth grade are developed throughout seventh grade. Technology is incorporated into the classroom as students work to compose short melodies with music software, learn about composers and musicians of varied genres, and explore careers in music. Performances include several concerts each year and an optional Solo/Ensemble judging in March.

### **ORCHESTRA (Full Year Course)**

Orchestra is available to students in grades 5-8. If students are beginning orchestra for the first time, summer lessons are highly recommended and instructor approval is required. This course meets three times per week for 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade. Each student has one 15 minute private lesson per week. Students perform in 3 performances each year and are expected to perform as a group at WSMA Solo Ensemble.

## **HEALTH (Semester Course)**

Health education is a seventh grade elective course that meets twice per week. Students will be actively involved in learning about the many aspects of wellness, including:

- Social, mental and emotional wellness
- Nutrition and the importance of physical fitness
- Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
- Communicable and non-communicable disease and prevention
- Decision making and safety to reduce health risks

All of this information is age-appropriate to students and can help prepare them to improve their health habits in order to prevent illness, improve the way they feel about themselves and develop their overall health and well-being. Students will be assessed through unit tests and/or project based assignments.

## **WORLD LANGUAGES (Full Year Course, five times per week)**

A good understanding of basic grammar is necessary for students to learn a world language. Therefore students must have average or better grades in Language Arts in sixth grade in order to take a world language.

### **French 1A**

French 1A includes the first three units of the book, *Discovering French Nouveau, Bleu 1*. Students learn basic necessary vocabulary including days, months, colors, weather, foods, beverages, the body, nationalities, etc. In addition, French 1A focuses on sentence formation, proper grammar, pronunciation, and conversation development. This is accomplished through fun dialogues, skits, and lots of repetition. Supplementary resources include the webpage, [www.classzone.com](http://www.classzone.com), where students can access an online practice workbook and vocabulary flashcards, as well as practice quizzes for lessons and units. GoogleDocs and Drive are used for class projects including skits and other writing activities. Students who complete French 1A with a C+ or better are prepared for and encouraged to continue on to French 1B.

### **German 1A**

German 1A will introduce students to the German language and culture and enable them to speak and understand German at a basic level. Students will learn listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills in the target language. Interpretive listening and reading skills will be practiced and assessed through listening activities, music, and reading short passages and realia from the target culture. Interpersonal speaking will be practiced and assessed through basic conversations and pair work. Presentational writing and speaking skills will be assessed through larger projects and presentations. The themes explored are those found in chapters 1-4 of *Komm mit!* and include "Who am I?", free time activities, home and family, and school. The corresponding grammatical structures include verb conjugations, present tense, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs and sentence structure. In addition to the textbook, several online resources are available for practice. This course is continued in 8<sup>th</sup> grade (German 1B) .

### **Spanish 1A**

Spanish 1A will introduce basic Spanish verbal and written skills with an emphasis on good pronunciation and written and oral comprehension. Vocabulary is continually enlarged and grammar skills stressed. Grammar units include: numbers, alphabet, definite and indefinite articles, possessive adjectives, adjective/noun agreement and subject/verb agreement, interrogatives, present tense, simple

future tense, gustar, ser and estar. Classroom work is primarily in Spanish and exams are frequent. Students will use the *Conjuguemos* webpage to help practice vocabulary and grammar.

## Grade 8 Course Descriptions

### **COMMUNICATION ARTS (Full Year Course)**

Throughout the year, students will review proper writing for narrative, comparison and contrast, and persuasive essays. Each quarter, students will also continue to work on their writing using journals. Spelling, grammar, and vocabulary are incorporated into each unit. Students have Accelerated Reader (AR) book checkout in the library during class time. Students are expected to read books in their Lexile range and meet a minimum requirement of AR test points. Through the STAR Reading Assessment, the students' goals are determined, based on their individual needs. During the first quarter, students will focus on elements of stories and grammar. They will read a variety of short stories like Flowers for Algernon, Raymond's Run, and The Lottery, among others. Literary elements covered are theme, conflict, plot, irony, point of view, and voice. During the second quarter, students will read The Diary of Anne Frank, and explore both the play and the original diary. The third quarter will be focused on nonfiction writing, and students will complete a research project. This will consist of students being able to research a variety of topics, writing a formal research paper in MLA format, and presenting their research. Fourth quarter will include students reading the historical fiction novel, Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry.

### **LITERACY ELECTIVES**

*Each 8<sup>th</sup> grade student is required to be enrolled in one literacy elective course each semester. These classes focus on writing and reading. Each elective is a semester class and may only be taken once during the student's 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. Please review the requirements and procedures on the class selection form. When choosing literacy electives, each student needs to select one "A Literacy Elective" and one "B Literacy Elective". The letter is not a determination of when the class is taught.*

<b>Writing Electives A</b>
Intro to Media
Creative Writing
Jazz Band (semester 2)
WHAT'S a Matter?
<b>Reading Electives B</b>
Intro to Economics
SAQ

## Introduction to Psychology

### Stories of Mystery and Suspense

#### **“A” LITERACY ELECTIVES**

##### **CREATIVE WRITING (One semester & may not be repeated)**

Students will produce a range of written work and create a writing portfolio. While learning to develop characters as well as their imaginations, students will be able to think and write outside the box. We will be dabbling in parodies, screen writing, and working on connecting our writing with the senses and our personal experiences. We will also spend time evaluating and editing each other's pieces, learning how to be a critique without criticizing.

##### **INTRODUCTION TO MEDIA (One semester & may not be repeated)**

During this course students will explore beginning skills in movie making. Scripts will be written and storyboards created for a minimum of four projects. The projects will include commercials, public service announcements and newscasts, all completely planned, produced and edited by the students. All work will be done on classroom computers. For their final project the students will teach a lesson on a camera or editing skill that they learned over the course of the semester. Students will explore many forms of media, as well as interviewing, public speaking and data analysis.

##### **JAZZ BAND (One semester & may not be repeated)**

Jazz Ensemble is designed to take the student through the diverse musical styles of American jazz through performance and study. Students will rehearse three times a week, focusing on stylistic and idiomatic playing of Swing, Blues, Bossa Nova and Afro-Cuban jazz. During the other two days of the week, elements of study will include theory of jazz harmony and modes, as well as jazz music history. Jazz Ensemble will be featured at a benefit concert for Dan's House of Hope in March, as well as at the International Food Fair in May. Students will have the opportunity to perform with The Big Band Reunion at Frank's Pizza Palace sometime during the semester.

##### **WHAT'Sa MATTER? (One semester and may not be repeated)**

Would you like to learn more about chemistry and perform some fun chemistry experiments, like making a homemade lava lamp, a polymer-based slime, or Dippin' Dots ice cream using liquid nitrogen? In this course, students will use the scientific method to design and conduct cool chemistry investigations while studying matter and how it undergoes change. As students read nonfiction text, gather scientific evidence, draw conclusions, and report their findings, they will be not only be strengthening their technical reading, writing, and lab skills, but also their ability to solve problems, think critically, and present results.

#### **“B” LITERACY ELECTIVES**

##### **INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY(One semester & may not be repeated)**

If you find people interesting and catch yourself asking why people do certain things or act a certain way, this course might be for you. Those who enjoy science, social studies, and people in general, would enjoy psychology. This course is intended to give a basic outline of the field of psychology. You explore people, personalities, research methods, the brain, psychological disorders, and so much more. Some of the topics covered in Introduction to Psychology are: History of psychology, Human

Development, Famous people within the field, Lifespan Development Personality, Emotion and Motivation, Psychological Disorders, Social psychology, and Research methods.

### **INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS (One semester & may not be repeated)**

Students will learn economic principles such as scarcity, benefits vs. costs, the relationship of supply and demand, bartering and trading, goods and services, entrepreneurship, and pitching and creating a business. Students will participate in activities such as “The Economics of Zoo Keeping”, researching a famous entrepreneur and presenting the information to the class, creating a business plan and pitching it to the class, and learning about investing in the stock market. Students will read the novel *Lawn Boy* by Gary Paulsen to further enhance their learning of basic economic principles. The students enrolled in Economics will also be responsible for managing the school store, The Mini Mart. They will learn basic business concepts, such as cost, retail, profit, target market, advertising, and paying bills.

### **SPEED, AGILITY, AND QUICKNESS (One semester & may not be repeated)**

Improving speed, change of direction and reaction time is possible through proper training strategies known as speed, agility and quickness or SAQ training. This course provides students with a general understanding of SAQ training concepts, improves student’s knowledge of fitness terminology, weightlifting and the body’s muscle groups. Some of the literacy activities and assignments that will be included in the class are:

- Reading health and strength training articles that allow students to broaden their knowledge of fitness terminology and concepts through written article responses
- Participation in projects where they will learn different variations of lifts, as well as, explain and demonstrate how each lift works their specific group of muscles
- Identification and labeling the anatomy of the body with scientific terminology
- Improving speed, change of direction and reaction time is possible through proper training.
- strategies known as speed, agility and quickness or SAQ training.

### **STORIES OF MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE (One semester & may not be repeated)**

Did you know that the original detective story is not one about Sherlock Holmes, but is a gothic mystery by Edgar Allan Poe? Students will participate in crime-solving activities and explore mystery stories through the formats of novels, short stories, plays, videos, syndicated television recordings, radio broadcast recordings, and poems. They will explore stories by Edgar Allan Poe, Arthur Conan Doyle, Richard Connell, Ellen Raskin, and W.W. Jacobs, among others. Character, setting and data analysis are key processes that students will use to solve “mini mysteries” within the class. Students will write crime report summaries upon the conclusion of stories, and at the end of the semester, students will be able to write their own mysteries!

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Honors Geometry**

Prerequisite: B+ or better in Algebra

Recommended MAP Range: 250 or higher

This course covers the essential topics in geometry, concepts such as congruence; similarity; perpendicular and parallel lines; quadrilaterals; right triangle trigonometry; circle relationships; polygons; surface area and volume of three-dimensional solids; as well as coordinate and transformational geometry. Fundamentals of deductive and inductive logic are presented using mathematical proofs, geometric proofs and real-world problem solving as tools. This course will include all topics covered in Geometry, but the topics will be covered in greater depth with more challenging problems and a greater emphasis on problem solving.

### **Algebra**

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

Recommended MAP Range: 230 - 255

Students must have successfully completed the Pre-Algebra class with a B average or better to be able to take Algebra. Prior knowledge of computing with rational numbers, integers, and solving basic equations is recommended. This course is designed to give students the requisite skills that provide a foundation for all future mathematics courses. Students will explore writing and solving linear equations, learn identity and equality properties, and use proportional reasoning when using trigonometric ratios, solving interest formulas and weighted averages word problems. Students will solve quadratic equations, equations with polynomials and factoring, and learn graphing and solve linear functions and inequalities.

Beyond the textbook, students will use *Khan Academy* (a non-profit educational organization that provides free video tutorials and interactive exercises) and *KUTA* software for enrichment and extra practice. Students who successfully complete Algebra will move on to Honors Geometry the following year.

### **Pre-Algebra**

Prerequisite: Math 7

Recommended MAP Range: 240 or lower

Prior knowledge of basic computation skills, order of operations, and basic fraction skills such as finding a common denominator and simplifying a fraction are recommended. Pre-Algebra is designed to give students the fundamental skills necessary to succeed in the Algebra course taken the following year. Students will explore arithmetic operations, number systems and properties, measurement, geometry, and an introduction to algebraic thinking and concepts. Students will solve one-step and multi-step equations and inequalities, compute with integers, follow order of operations with exponents and square roots, master computation skills with rational numbers, classify and name basic geometric figures, calculate the area and volume of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional figures, calculate percent problems, and learn the basics of linear equation.

Beyond the textbook, students will use resources such as *Khan Academy* (a non-profit educational organization that provides free video tutorials and interactive exercises) and *KUTA* software as enrichment and extra practice. Students who successfully complete Pre-Algebra will move on to Algebra the following year.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Meets Twice a Week)**

The Physical Education class promotes and emphasizes that all students be physically educated and have fun while moving. The units are designed to incorporate fundamental skills, physical fitness and knowledge of various lifelong sports. Emphasis is placed on participation, good sportsmanship, and

effort. Students who choose to actively participate in quality physical education programs receive a variety of benefits, including the development of:

- A variety of motor skills and abilities related to lifetime leisure activities
- Improved understanding of the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- Improved understanding of movement and the human body
- Improved knowledge of rules and strategies of particular games and sports
- Self-confidence and self-worth as they relate to physical education recreation programs.

## **RELIGION**

This course covers the history of the Catholic Church from its beginning to the present day. Students learn who, when, why, and how Church traditions were formed to better understand and deepen their own faith. Prayer, world religions, Marks of the Church, Trinity, laws of the Church, and other doctrines are studied in the curriculum. Articles from The Compass, the Green Bay Diocesan Newspaper, are read and discussed on a regular basis. Students express their faith through participation in daily prayer, prayer services, liturgies, and retreats. Theology of the Body is also a part of the religion program. Projects will be done on prayer, the saints, and world religions. Students are encouraged to witness to their faith in their daily lives

## **SCIENCE**

Topics covered in this course include: erosion and deposition; plate tectonics; weather and atmosphere; and the earth in space. Each of these topics is taught through an inquiry-based, issue-oriented STEM curriculum that engages students in the process of learning through hands-on labs; encourages students to use scientific evidence to make decisions; and helps educate tomorrow's citizens about the application of science to everyday life. In addition to this Earth Science STEM curriculum, students will be receiving 9 weeks of Project Lead the Way Flight and Space instruction. Students will explore the science behind aeronautics and use their knowledge to design, build, and test a glider. Custom-built simulation software allows students to experience space and travel. Most instructional information, such as an online version of the textbook, videos, photos, notes, and classroom documents can be accessed by students through the teacher's webpage using Haiku Learning.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

This course covers American History Pre-Colonial and the following themes: 1) Environment, 2) Migration, 3) Cultural diversity, 4) Values and Beliefs, 5) Free Enterprise, 6) Technology, 7) Constitutional Government, 8) Civil Rights, 9) National Identity, and 10) Cooperation and Conflict. These themes are progressively developed from prehistory to the Civil War.

Students learn to celebrate the multicultural, pluralistic nature of American society, and gain a strong sense of what it was like to live in different eras and places. Both primary and secondary sources are integrated into the curriculum to help enhance the content as well as encourage students to critically analyze historical documents. Students will also have the opportunity to debate topics; learning the necessary skills to support an opinion in a constructive way.

## **ELECTIVES**

Each 8<sup>th</sup> grade student is required to choose 3 elective courses per semester. Please see the course selection form for requirements and procedures.

### **ART (Semester Course, may be taken both semesters, three times per week)**

Eighth grade Art is dedicated to the concept of space: 2-D and 3-D. First semester: after a creativity booster and classic drawing skill development, students launch into the intriguing world of one point perspective. Stereoscopic images from an interactive disc of the Library of Congress collection help inspire students as they research and create one point perspective scenes in times and places of their choosing. Second semester: features three dimensional art as students design and create papier maché sculptures with old fashioned materials. Throughout the year, students immerse themselves in art studies of their choosing in an independent study styled practice time called 'Sketchbook'.

### **BAND (Full Year Course)**

In eighth grade band rehearsals are 40 minutes in length and held three days per week. Students receive individual lessons weekly during the school day. Students participate in band festivals, solo ensemble recitals and festivals, winter and spring concerts. 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students participate in one Pep Band performance with the Xavier High School Band and also participate in our annual System band concert. This combined concert includes all band members from grades 5 - 12. Second semester students are given the option of participating in Jazz Band. Each quarter students are given a variety of music theory and listening assignments. Computer programs such as *Smart Music* and various iPad apps are used to evaluate and drill music skills.

### **CHOIR (Semester class, full year course is recommended, material is not repeated)**

Eighth grade choir meets three times each week for large group rehearsal and once each week in a small group session. Lesson time is used to enhance the overall performance of the choir. Sight singing skills, music notation, and proper vocal technique introduced in sixth and seventh grade are developed throughout the school year. Technology is incorporated into the classroom as students work to compose short melodies with music software, learn about composers and musicians of varied genres, and explore careers in music. Performances include several concerts each year and an optional Solo/Ensemble judging in March.

### **ORCHESTRA (Full Year Course)**

Orchestra is available to students in grades 5-8. If students are beginning orchestra for the first time, summer lessons are highly recommended and instructor approval is required. The course meets three times per week for 6th-8th grade. Each student has one 15 minute private lesson per week. Students perform in 3 school performances each year and are expected to perform as a group at WSMA Solo Ensemble.

### **WORLD LANGUAGE (Full Year Course, five days per week)**

#### **French 1B**

Prerequisite: French 1A with passing grades

French 1B includes units four through six of the book, *Discovering French Nouveau, Bleu 1*. Students add onto the basic building blocks they learned in the previous year to become more independent speakers and writers. Learning to ask for directions, expressing opinions about various topics, and building on their vocabulary are skills stressed in level 1B. Students continue to build their irregular and regular present tense verb lists while learning to converse in the near future and past tense. Several



student-created skits are created and presented. GoogleDocs and Drive are used for any writing project for the class. Students that earn a C+ or better will be able to enter French 2 in high school.

### **German 1B**

Prerequisite: German 1A with passing grades

After reviewing the concepts of German 1A, the students continue to expand their knowledge of German through further development of listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills in the target language. The themes explored are those found in chapters 5-8 in *Komm mit!* and include clothing, making plans, expressing obligations, and shopping. More advanced grammatical concepts are also introduced. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade course also exposes the students to extended reading selections where the students will read graded readers and be expected to discuss the content in German. Google drive and GoogleDocs will also be used. This course is a continuation of German 1A. Completion of the two-year course allows interested and excelling students to be able to enter German 2 in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and ultimately reach German 5 at the high school, potentially earning a substantial number of college credits.

### **Spanish 1B**

Prerequisite: Spanish 1A with passing grades

After a review of Spanish 1A concepts, new grammar and vocabulary units are added. Grammar units include adjectives/agreement, reflexive verbs, ser/estar, present progressive and present perfect tenses, and the related use of gerunds and past participles. Conversational skills are constantly reinforced. Frequent oral and written exams test students' comprehension of the target language. Classroom work is primarily in Spanish. Students will use the *Conjuguemos* webpage to help practice vocabulary and grammar. After completing this course many students will go on to Spanish 2 in high school.