

7/8
Grade

Course Selection Book



Dear Future Seventh and Eighth Grade Families,

This book contains detailed descriptions of both required core classes as well as elective offerings for the upcoming school year. The Orchard Lake Middle School (OLMS) faculty is excited to help you and your student through this time of transition and opportunity.

The course offering structure for seventh and eighth grades includes four periods of core academic courses plus two periods of electives. Depending on the class, electives last for either one semester or a full year. When selecting classes, students will take a combination of elective classes that fill two periods across the entire year.

CORE		ELECTIVES
Required Courses (full year)	Semester Electives (20 weeks)	Year Electives (full year)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● History ● Math or Adv Math ● Science ● ELA <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● History ● Math or Adv Math ● STEAM Science & STEAM ELA (application process required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Art 1 ● Art 2 ● Chinese 1 ● Spanish 1 ● Computer Science 1 ● Computer Science 2 ● Fitness for Life ● LINK ● Theater ● Varsity Singers (Audition required) ● WEB Leadership (semester, application required, 8th grade only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AVID (application required) ● Chinese 2 (Chinese 1 prerequisite) ● Spanish 2 (Spanish 1 prerequisite) ● Concert Band ● Symphony Band ● Concert Orchestra ● Symphony Orchestra ● Fitness for Life ● Musical Theater (Audition required) ● Varsity Singers (Audition required) ● Viking Voices (Audition required) ● WEB Leadership (Application required, 8th grade only) <p>Support Classes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Math Lab * ● Read * ● Read 180 *

* Placement in support classes is based on assessments and teacher recommendation.

We are looking forward to working with you next year and are waiting for the opportunity to assist you with any questions you may have. In addition to the emails listed below, we can be reached by phone at (248) 865-4480.

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7th Grade REQUIRED CORE Course Descriptions

7 History (Full Year)

Students will investigate the past by studying world history. Building upon on the topics students examined in 6th grade, students will learn about the earliest humans, global migration, and settlement patterns. Students explore how the emergence of pastoral and agrarian societies set the stage for the development of cities, states, and powerful empires. Students will learn about trade networks and the cultural diffusion of skills and ideas. The growth, spread, and influence of world religions are also examined in this course.

7 Math (Full Year)

This course is designed to strengthen and enrich math concepts and to prepare students for 8th grade math. Instruction will include the following topics: algebraic reasoning, integers and rational numbers, patterns and functions, ratios and proportions, percentages, collecting and analyzing data, geometry, measurement, probability, and solving multi-step equations and inequalities.

7 Advanced Math (Full Year)

This course will be taught at a more rigorous pace than 7th grade math. Instruction will include topics from the eighth grade curriculum: Numbers and operations (real number concepts), algebra (linear functions, non-linear functions, equations, simultaneous equations and linear inequalities), geometry (Pythagorean theorem, geometric figures, volume, surface area, transformations and symmetry), and probability (draw, explain, and justify conclusions based on data and understand probability concepts for simple and compound events). With a successful completion of this course, students will be prepared for 8th grade advanced math the following year. **Placement in this class is based on assessment protocols and teacher recommendation.**

7 English/Language Arts (Full Year)

ELA7 integrates reading, writing, listening and speaking objectives through the ELA Common Core State Standards units. Fluency is developed in the writing of constructed response paragraphs, narrative and expository essays. Students are expected to apply critical thinking skills through the study of literature, including fiction and nonfiction texts. Vocabulary and grammar are taught through these reading and writing units as well.

7 Science (Full Year)

This course focuses on extending the scope and sequence from 6th grade science following the state frameworks by promoting solid and accurate content, frequent practice of science process skills (measuring, inferring, hypothesizing, experimenting, observing, and following directions), hands-on activities, computer labs, integration of science concepts across the curriculum, and assessments. Areas of deeper study include: Chemistry and the periodic table, waves, the physics of motion and we end the year with a study of DNA and genetics.

7 English/Language Arts STEAM and Science STEAM (Full Year, Required Application Process)

The STEAM Pathways program offers a unique approach to delivering curriculum. Grounded in a Project Based Learning approach, students will examine big driving questions that address real-world problems/scenarios. Along the way, they will be exposed to and apply the critical learning standards of our curriculum to help them examine, address, and inquire about these big driving questions. A large focus of the learning will be on the importance of research and collaboration as students learn how to make group decisions supported by solid evidence.

8th Grade REQUIRED CORE Course Descriptions

8 History (Full Year)

The purpose of this course is to develop the students' understanding of the heritage that shaped America as a democratic nation. United States history is surveyed and analyzed beginning with the causes of the American Revolution, continuing with the formation of our national government, Westward expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and concluding at the beginning of the 20th century. In this course, strong emphasis will be placed on developing a deeper understanding of fundamental social studies concepts and skills through the study of significant historical events, primary source and graphic data analysis, and the application of Core Democratic.

8 Math (Full Year)

This class emphasizes algebra, geometry, data and probability and will provide transition into Algebra. Students will develop fluency in these concepts enabling them to solve more complex problems. Instruction will include the following topics: numbers and operations (real number concepts), algebra (linear functions, non-linear functions, equations, simultaneous equations and linear inequalities), geometry (Pythagorean Theorem, geometric figures, volume, surface area, transformations and symmetry), and probability (draw, explain, and justify conclusions based on data and understand probability concepts for simple and compound events).

8 Advanced Math/Algebra (Full Year)

This class is equivalent to a first-year high school algebra course. The content includes but is not limited to integers, operations with polynomial, linear equations, roots and radicals. Successful completion leads to enrollment in Geometry in 9th grade. **Placement in this class is based on assessment protocols and teacher recommendation.**

8 English/Language Arts (Full Year)

The reading and writing process is reinforced, while students continue to develop fluency, comprehension, and analytic skills. Students write narrative poetry, an argument piece, literary analysis, and expository essays with an emphasis on in-text citation. Critical thinking skills with a focus on argumentation are used to analyze and interpret works of fiction and nonfiction. Vocabulary and grammar are taught through the reading and writing process.

8 Science (Full Year)

This year long course focuses on the high school content expectations in earth science and introduces microbiology prior to 9th grade biology. The course will follow the state frameworks by promoting solid and accurate content, frequent practice of science process skills (measuring, inferring, hypothesizing, experimenting, observing, and following directions), hands-on activities, computer labs, integration of science concepts across the curriculum, and assessments. This includes: galaxies and stars, global and local weather, earthquakes, volcanoes and natural disasters, earth's hydrosphere, and we end the year with a prelude to high school biology on the cellular level.

8 English/Language Arts STEAM and Science STEAM (Full Year, Required Application Process)

The STEAM Pathways program offers a unique approach to delivering curriculum. Grounded in a Project Based Learning approach, students will examine big driving questions that address real-world problems/scenarios. Along the way, they will be exposed to and apply the critical learning standards of our curriculum to help them examine, address, and inquire about these big driving questions. A large focus of the learning will be on the importance of research and collaboration as students learn how to make group decisions supported by solid evidence.

ELECTIVE Course Descriptions

Art 1 (Semester, No Prerequisite)

Students will create two and three dimensional works using materials like acrylic paint, watercolor paint, oil pastels, and found objects. They will explore art history, art criticism, aesthetics (beauty), and art production through research, quizzes, tests, guest speakers, and most importantly, HANDS-ON ART PROJECTS! Emphasis will be placed on the Elements and Principles of Design, while reinforcing an Authentic Arts approach to learning. Personal and service-learning projects will challenge students to work with materials, problem solve, and follow directions within a given topic.

Art 2 (Semester, No Prerequisite)

This is a computer arts class. Students will learn about the visual arts through digital photography and graphic design. Students will work with digital cameras and computer programs to give them a foundation for real-world application of graphic design and photography. Some projects will use traditional art mediums. A majority of the class will be about graphic design and editing using Adobe Photoshop Elements 7. Using Adobe Photoshop Elements, students learn to edit and create projects that will challenge them to develop both a visual and technical eye for graphic design.

AVID 7 and AVID 8 (Full Year, Application Process Required)

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an academic, regularly scheduled elective class with the overall goal to prepare students for four-year college eligibility. All AVID students are enrolled in rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum to meet and exceed university eligibility requirements. The elective course provides support for the attainment of this goal through tutorial support, writing instruction, reinforcement of study skills, time management techniques, and motivational activities. AVID students learn to work cooperatively as a support system for each other and form a trusted core of dedicated students to rely upon. These students gain confidence in their own abilities while learning to assist their peers. Students must apply, complete a questionnaire, participate in an interview and be accepted to be enrolled in AVID.

Computer Science 1 (Semester, No Prerequisite)

Communicating in the 21st century requires an understanding of multimedia tools. In this project-based class, students will explore some of the latest multimedia apps for blogging, podcasting, audio editing, digital storytelling, 3D modeling, and animation. Internet safety and netiquette are also covered in this course.

Computer Science 2 (Semester, No Prerequisite)

Do you have ideas for a great video game? Do you enjoy building things in 3D (like Minecraft)? If so, this class may be for you! Students explore the programming side of computers with several different applications such as Scratch, Alice 3D, Google Sketch-up and Python. With these programs, students will learn how to work with object-based programming, coding, animating and 3D modeling. Internet safety and netiquette are also covered in this course.

Chinese 1 (Semester, No Prerequisite)

Students will be introduced to level I grammar structures, pronunciation, practical vocabulary, culture and listening comprehension. Students will learn to read and write in two different character sets. Reading and writing of short passages are part of the instruction. Speaking in the target language is an important part of the course. This is a prerequisite for the second year of Chinese. Students who complete this semester plus a year of Chinese in eighth grade are eligible (with teacher recommendation) to enter second-year World Language classes as freshmen and earn one year of high school credit at West Bloomfield High School. Successful completion of three semesters of a world language at Orchard Lake Middle School and placement in level two in ninth grade is essential in order to qualify for an International APID diploma at West Bloomfield High School.

Chinese 2 (Full Year, Chinese 1 Prerequisite)

Students will be introduced to level I grammar structures, pronunciation, practical vocabulary, culture and listening comprehension. Students will learn to read and write in two different character sets. Reading and writing of short passages are part of the instruction. Speaking in the target language is an important part of the course. Students who complete this year of Chinese are eligible (with teacher recommendation) to enter second-year World Language classes as freshmen and earn one year of high school credit at West Bloomfield High School. Successful completion of three semesters of a world language at Orchard Lake Middle School and placement in level two in ninth grade is essential in order to qualify for an International APID diploma at West Bloomfield High School.

Spanish 1 (Semester, No Prerequisite)

Students will be introduced to level I grammar structures, pronunciation, practical vocabulary, culture and listening comprehension. Reading and writing of short passages are part of the instruction. Speaking in the target language is an important part of the course. Interactive software is utilized to enhance instruction. This is a prerequisite for the second year of Spanish. Students who complete this semester plus a year of Spanish in eighth grade are eligible (with teacher recommendation) to enter second-year World Language classes as freshmen and earn one year of high school credit at West Bloomfield High School. Successful completion of three semesters of a world language at Orchard Lake Middle School and placement in level two in ninth grade is essential in order to qualify for an International APID diploma at West Bloomfield High School.

Spanish 2 (Full Year, Spanish 1 Prerequisite)

Students will be introduced to level I grammar structures, pronunciation, practical vocabulary, culture and listening comprehension. Reading and writing of short passages are part of the instruction. Speaking in the target language is an important part of the course. Interactive software is utilized to enhance instruction. Students who complete this year of Spanish in eighth grade are eligible (with teacher recommendation) to enter second-year World Language classes as freshmen and earn one year of high school credit at West Bloomfield High School. Successful completion of three semesters of a world language at Orchard Lake Middle School and placement in level two in ninth grade is essential in order to qualify for an International APID diploma at West Bloomfield High School.

Concert Band (Full Year, 6th Grade Band Prerequisite)

REVISION NEEDED This class is the next step for Orchard Lake Band students after 6th Grade Band. In this class students will continue to improve their performance ability, as well as continue to learn the musical concepts essential for success in the 8th Grade Symphony Band. Students will continue to develop their ability to read, write, improvise, sing, and play a variety of music, including world and popular music, for their parents and peers through several performances throughout the year. Most importantly, students will interact in a positive, safe, and team-building environment to develop as young citizens in and through music. Any students interested in learning an instrument for the first time in 7th grade are encouraged to do so, and should contact the band director for further instructions.

Symphony Band (Full Year, 6th Grade Band Prerequisite)

This class is the highest performing band offered to Orchard Lake Band students. Students will continue to improve their performance ability, and develop advanced skills that they will use in the high school band program and beyond. Students will continue to develop their ability to read, write, improvise, sing, and play a variety of music, including world and popular music, for their parents and peers through several performances throughout the year. Students will participate in field trips, concert tours, and special performance opportunities as part of this ensemble. Most importantly, students will interact in a positive, safe, and team-building environment to develop as young citizens in and through music. Previous musical experience on a band instrument is required for admittance.

Concert Orchestra (Full Year, 6th Grade Orchestra Prerequisite)

This is a year-long intermediate class for middle school students, open by audition only. Students will continue to develop the intermediate skills to advance violin, viola, cello and bass techniques/skills. Students will build confidence as violin, viola, cello and bass players and grow as performers in this supportive environment. Performances are a logical outgrowth of this class and therefore students will perform in several public concerts during the school year, with the possibility of travel.

Symphony Orchestra (Full Year, 6th Grade Orchestra Prerequisite)

This class is for intermediate to advanced middle school students. Student will continue to develop the intermediate to advanced violin, viola, cello and bass techniques/skills. Students will build confidence as violin, viola, cello and bass player and grow as performers in this supportive environment. Performances are a logical outgrowth of this class and therefore students will perform in several public concerts during the school year, with the possibility of travel.

Fitness for Life (Semester or Full Year, No Prerequisite)

This course is a high energy exercise and sports program designed to promote the elements of fitness: muscular strength, muscular endurance, cardiovascular endurance, and flexibility. Students will enjoy many sports, games, and fitness activities that develop a healthy mind and body.

LINK (Semester, No Prerequisite)

A LINK student assists and mentors students with special needs in their general or special education classes. The LINK program is about creating connections within a diverse group of students and ensuring that all students are acknowledged for what makes them different and what makes them and all of us the same.

Theater (Semester, No Prerequisite)

This exciting class will help you to become a better actor or actress while having fun performing plays for a live audience! This is a project based class also includes learning the fundamentals of film acting and offers a chance to act for the camera! No audition is necessary.

Musical Theater Productions (Full Year, Audition Required)

This advanced musical theater class offers students the opportunity to perform in several major musical productions: a mini musical in the fall, a Broadway musical in the spring (on the stage at WBHS) and a creative, dramatic musical show at the end of the year. Highlights include opportunities for lead roles, solos, acting and dancing features, as well as working with professional choreographers, directors, technicians and live musicians. Emphasis will be on building singing, acting and stage performance skills. AUDITION REQUIRED. Audition announcements, information and sign-up sheets will be available shortly.

Viking Voices BLUE (Full Year, Audition Required)

This dynamic and challenging vocal group is for the most advanced and experienced 7th/8th grade singers and vocal musicians. Emphasis will be on reading music, advanced musical selections and musical variety. Students will receive prime performance opportunities and a superior vocal experience. Solo features, exciting concerts, travel and choral festival are among the yearly highlights. AUDITION REQUIRED. Audition announcements, information and sign-up sheets will be available shortly.

Viking Voices WHITE (Semester or Full Year, Audition Required)

The course description and classroom/performance experience is very similar to VIKING VOICES BLUE, however, you may sign up for either a semester or full year participation. The two semesters will offer different curriculum and concert opportunities. AUDITION REQUIRED. Audition announcements, information and sign-up sheets will be available shortly.

Varsity Singers (Semester or Full Year, Audition Required)

Varsity Singers is a select, top quality honors choir, for 7th/8th grade singers. The classroom environment is fun, yet challenging, where students continue to develop their voices and musical skills. We will perform a wide variety of popular, choral and musical theater selections in several exciting shows and concerts throughout the year. Additional highlights include: solo features, performing with a live band, choral festival, and learning to read music. This is a half year class, but you may sign up for both semesters (full year). The two semesters will offer different curriculum and concert opportunities. AUDITION REQUIRED. Audition announcements, information and sign-up sheets will be available in the coming weeks.

W.E.B. Leadership Academy (Semester or Full Year, Application Required, 8th Grade Only)

The Where Everyone Belongs mentoring program provides leadership with training to eighth grade students. W.E.B. leaders will mentor sixth grade students and other new students to OLMS. The goal is for students to provide a positive example while working together to create a positive environment at OLMS. During this semester long class students will participate in leadership training, work with a group of sixth grade students and identify and solve problem issues in the school. This class is only for students who want to continue to make OLMS a positive place and who have exhibited positive leadership potential through grades, activity and service. MANDATORY training for selected students will take place in August. Participation in W.E.B. class is not required to be a W.E.B. leader. * Must complete application. Applications must be returned with your course selection sheet.

Support Course Descriptions

Placement in support classes is based on assessment protocols and teacher recommendation.

Math Lab (Full Year)

Math Lab is designed to be a second math class to help increase math confidence, knowledge and skills through pre-teaching, skill building, and re-teaching of the grade level math topics. Topics covered in the class will vary depending on the needs of the students. However, typical topics supported include creating tables, coordinate graphing, using variables, ratios, fractions, volume, perimeter, area, data distributions, and linear equations.

Read (Full Year)

Read is a systematic and interactive class that focuses intensely on phonemic awareness, decoding, vocabulary, phrasing/prosody, spelling, fluency, guided reading, and listening comprehension. Reading strategies are also taught and practiced which will help students to become more independent and successful while reading. Read is a support class for students who have been identified as needing additional support in order to be successful with grade level reading material. This is a full year class, students will be reevaluated at the end of the first semester.

Read 180 (Full Year)

The Read 180 program reinforces all literacy skills with a special emphasis on comprehension. Students study literature and build on their independent reading levels and critical-thinking skills through the use of differentiated computer software and self-selected novels from the READ 180 library. Special writing assignments and reading projects are also incorporated into the curriculum. This is a two hour comprehensive class replacing ELA.