



ELKHORN
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2017-2018
Grade 8
Curriculum Handbook



Elkhorn Grandview Middle School
Elkhorn Middle School
Elkhorn Ridge Middle School
Elkhorn Valley View Middle School

WELCOME

We welcome you and your children to middle school. Our middle school curriculum is designed to meet the needs of a special group of students; the 10-14 year olds. It is academic, but also exploratory. While basic skills are emphasized in core areas, exploratory experiences expose students to additional areas to help them develop new interests, to appreciate the fine and applied arts, and to expand their talents.

We look forward to working with you to help your children move successfully and happily through these transitional years. Adolescents require understanding, love, and patience from their parents, teachers, and other adults in their lives. This handbook is designed to acquaint you with the middle school curriculum and activities. We hope it will answer your questions about our program and give you insight as you join us in helping your child(ren) make the incredible journey from childhood to adolescence.

TEAM CONCEPT

The middle school program is designed to promote success. Students are assigned to an academic team in the 6th, 7th and 8th grade. The team serves several purposes. Team teachers are responsible for teaching Language Arts, Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies. The team affords flexibility in scheduling. In addition, the team provides a small unit within the school to allow for more personalized instruction and interaction between teachers and students.

The team teachers, because of their common planning time, are able to work closely to plan appropriate instructional and social strategies for students. Planning time also provides a time to conference with parents and/or resource personnel regarding special learning and behavior needs of individual students.

Through a total team effort, the middle schools in the Elkhorn Public Schools district will work to provide each student with opportunities to grow in knowledge of the academic subjects, performance of life skills and the ability to accept and follow through with responsibilities. Self-discipline is probably the most important aspect to student success. Our team work is focused on helping each student develop that sense of self-responsibility.

GRADING

Grades from middle school help determine which classes students may be eligible for at the high school level. Regular attendance is essential, as daily grades are taken in class. Due to the participation and class interactions, grades reflect academic knowledge, attendance, and responsibility. Students are encouraged to do their best and to prepare all work in the best possible manner. ALL subject areas use the 1-5 grading system, unless otherwise stated.

The grading scale is:

1 = 93%-100%
2 = 85%-92%
3 = 78%-84%
4 = 70%-77%
5 = 0%-69%

IN = Work Incomplete
P = Pass
F = Fail

LANGUAGE ARTS - 8TH GRADE (CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: 8th grade Language Arts continues to emphasize the importance of oral and written communication skills. It is a grammar and writing program which exposes students to a wide variety of opportunities which include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Composition (a 6 trait writing model will be the primary tool for writing instruction: organization, conventions, ideas, word choice, sentence fluency, and voice). Writing includes descriptive (for state assessment), expository, narrative and persuasive.
2. Oral Communication (may include class discussions and informative speeches)
3. Grammar, mechanics, and usage
4. **Spelling/Word Study - weekly lessons and reviews**
5. Library/Research Skills

TEXTS: NE State Writing Assessment – Fall and Spring

Write Source Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2012

READING 8TH GRADE (CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: 8th grade reading is divided into four skill sets: vocabulary and word study, reading workshops, literature circles, and independent reading. Vocabulary and word study consists of daily practice with and assessment of a student's knowledge of word families (roots and prefixes) and application of this knowledge to authentic reading situations. Word study also includes vocabulary acquisition strategies for the engaged reader, including how to use context clues to comprehend a difficult reading passage. Figurative language comprehension, analysis, and application (idioms, hyperboles, analogies, metaphors, and similes) will also be included in our word study. Reading workshops are a time for 8th graders to be exposed to multiple genres of text while practicing the skills necessary to be a competent reader. These 5-6 week units consist of mini-lessons designed to introduce, practice, and assess the essential reading skills as outlined by the Nebraska Department of Education and assessed by the Elkhorn Public Schools district (8.1.6 a-o). Prentice Hall's *Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes* is the anthology used during these mini-lessons, while current authentic and high interest texts are also brought in and discussed during the units. Literature circles are 3-4 week units centered on student needs and reading interests. These circles, while literature based, allow the teacher to work with students in small group and individual settings. The circles are discussion centered, emphasizing proper discussion techniques for comprehending and analyzing text. Finally, independent reading practice throughout the year is expected of all 8th graders. The middle schools use the learning information and management system called Accelerated Reader to assist in the testing, recording, and reporting of student independent reading progress. .

THE CORE TEXT FOR READING IN 8TH GRADE:

Anthologies: Prentice Hall's Literature; Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes (Silver), Pearson Prentice Hall, 2003. In addition to the Anthology, the teacher may add other reading as needed or desired.

Other skills covered in this course will be:

1. Reading fluency practice
2. Individual and group presentations
3. Vocabulary – including quizzes and daily recording of a vocabulary log
4. Recognizing and explaining the meaning of figurative language
5. Daily written responses to reading
6. Independent reading, practice to include genre study & author study
7. Recording daily reading log

PRE-ALGEBRA - 8TH GRADE **(CORE CLASS)**

PREREQUISITES: Acceptance into 8th grade and a good working knowledge of the basic math skills; addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will cover topics of math that will prepare students for Algebra I, including:

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| 1. Language of Algebra | 8. Proportion and Percent |
| 2. Integers | 9. Statistics and Graphs |
| 3. Solving multi-step equations and inequalities | 10. Probability |
| 4. Factors and Fractions | 11. Applying Algebra to Geometry |
| 5. Add and subtract rational numbers | 12. Measuring Area and Volume |
| 6. Multiply and divide rational numbers | |
| 7. Graphing equations and inequalities | |

TEXT: Pre-Algebra, McGraw-Hill, 2015.National Glencoe Math, Course 3

WEB: www.connected.mcgraw-hill.com

ALGEBRA - 8TH GRADE **(CORE CLASS)**

PREREQUISITES: Teacher recommendation based on MAP scores, NeSA math scores, Orleans Hanna Aptitude test and previous years Math performance.

* A 7th grader is eligible for this course with a teacher recommendation, successful completion of 7th grade Pre-Algebra and exceptional performance on the Orleans-Hanna Aptitude test, the MAP test and NeSA math test.

* An 8th grader could take Honors Geometry with teacher recommendation, successful completion of Algebra, exceptional performance on the MAP test and the NeSA math test.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Topics studied include:

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| 1. Real Numbers | 8. Linear Equations |
| 2. Algebraic Expressions | 9. Relations, Functions, and Variation |
| 3. Equations in one Variable | 10. Systems of Linear Equations |
| 4. Inequalities in one Variable | 11. Radicals |
| 5. Polynomials | 12. Quadratic Equations and Functions |
| 6. Factoring Polynomials | 13. Statistics and Probability |
| 7. Rational Expressions | |

TEXT: Algebra I, McGraw-Hill 2014, Algebra I.

WEB: www.connected.mcgraw-hill.com

AMERICAN HISTORY - 8TH GRADE **(CORE CLASS)**

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will identify the major themes in American history and explain the importance of the development of the nation. Some topics we will be discussing include; the English colonies, the American Revolution, the Constitution and Bill of Rights, Westward Expansion, Civil War, Reconstruction, and The Progressive Era. Emphasis will be placed on the development of social studies skills.

TEXT: United States History: Beginnings to 1914- Holt McDougal

INTEGRATED SCIENCE - 8TH GRADE
(CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an integrated science course covering topics in Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Earth Science. Units covered will include: Measurement, Form and Transfer of Energy, Earth's History, Scientific Inquiry, the Nature of Science, Cell Reproduction & Heredity, Properties of Matter and introductory Chemistry, and the link between Science and Technology.

TEXT: iScienceGlencoe short course series, McGraw-Hill, 2012

WEB:

EXPLORATORY BLOCK

(6 Weeks) All eighth grade students rotate through each program

EXPLORATORY FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE – 8TH GRADE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK - 6 WEEKS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Middle School Family and Consumer Science Program will be delivered in a student-centered, modular education classroom setting. The course involves an applied approach to curriculum focused around the following areas: making healthy meals, consumer Skills, and sewing a zippered bag. Students will be involved in challenging hands-on activities, experiments, problem solving practices and group work.

GRADING: A student's grade is based on points earned from classroom participation and modular work.

ART – 8TH GRADE

(EXPLORATORY BLOCK - 6 WEEKS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students will explore various mediums through painting and/or drawing units. A pottery unit will also be included that will further explore 3-D forms and techniques.

ADVANCED APPLICATIONS – 8TH GRADE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK - 6 WEEKS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course allows students to learn advanced techniques as well as new computer technology to solve problems, create products, utilize information and increase academic and personal productivity.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS: Students will demonstrate the ability to use and understand multimedia technology including:

- use of digital photography technology
- explore internet safety
- graphics editing
- use of scanning technology
- proper use of the internet for research
- explore career options in computers
- video editing
- exploring computer ethics and piracy

GRADING: Students will be evaluated based on their participation, performance and quality of projects.

TEXT: Illustrated Microsoft Office 365 & Office 2016: Introductory

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY – 8TH GRADE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK - 6 WEEKS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course involves an applied approach to curriculum focused around four areas of Industrial Technology: Manufacturing Technology, Communication Technology, Construction Technology and Transportation Technology. Learning will take place in a modular setting along with thought provoking, problem solving practices with groups of students.

TEXT: Technology - Delmar Pub. Inc.

HEALTH – 8TH GRADE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK – 6 WEEKS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will explore many aspects of health. A variety of topics will be included, but not limited to: wellness, stress management, nutrition, physical fitness, eating disorders, prevention and control of diseases, avoidance of drugs, violence prevention, relationships, consequences of teenage sexual activity, consumer health, and bullying. Methods of instruction may include any combination of the following: lecture, group activities, videos, class discussion, and hands-on activities.

GRADING: Writing assignments, projects, presentations, quizzes, tests, and class participation.

* Classroom resources are available for parent review. See the health teacher.

SPEECH & DRAMA – 8TH GRADE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK – 6 WEEKS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this exploratory class students will explore debate and Shakespeare. The purpose of this class will be to introduce students to persuasive communication and presentation- including research, analysis and the understanding of multiple sides to a debatable topic. Students will also be performing an adapted melodramatic-version of a Shakespeare play production. All the elements of set, costume, lights, and sound will be incorporated in this performance. Students will also continue developing the ability to critique live performances with constructional feedback.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – 8TH GRADE
(REQUIRED CLASS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: As a part of the total school curriculum, Physical Education offers an organized, sequential progression of activities which provide for the social, physical, intellectual, and emotional development of children through the medium of physical activity.

ACTIVITIES:

Soccer	Indoor Hockey	Basketball	Archery
Cross Country	Physical Fitness test	Badminton/Ping Pong	Softball
Volleyball	Track & Field	Bowling	Jump Rope
Weight Training	Ultimate Frisbee	Wrestling	Flag Football

DAILY ROUTINE: Class period 45 minutes.
5 minutes - dress
35 minutes - exercise
5 minutes - dress

UNIFORM:
Tee shirt, shorts, tennis shoes
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GRADING: 1-5 (1=Excellent; 2=Good; 3=Average; 4=Pass, and 5=Fail) Grades are determined using a demerit system based on three areas: Skill-Improvement, Attitude/Dress and Written Test.

LOCKS: All lockers in the locker room will come with a lock. There is a \$5 fine for any lost lock.

BAND -- 8TH GRADE
(ADDITIONAL OFFERING)

PREREQUISITES: 6th through 7th grade bands or permission of the instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: 8th grade band has as its goals the learning of classical and popular music scored for band. Rehearsal procedures and increased musical awareness, as well as solo and ensemble work are stressed. Students will perform in three concerts and one middle school music contest in the spring. Preparatory material for high school tryouts is fully covered. There may also be a performance with the high school pep band at a football game and a basketball game depending on the scheduling between middle and high school directors.

Band is a semester course with a semester commitment. Students enrolled must complete the full term of each semester. There is a one week period at the beginning of each semester during which a student may drop band. Before a student is dropped from this course, there **must** be a written or verbal request from the parent to the band director.

TEXT: **Rubank Intermediate Method Book**. Supplementary texts provided by the instructors.

CONCERT DRESS: Students will need to wear black pants, black socks, solid black shoes, and a middle school music shirt available for purchase from the director.

GRADING: Grades will be determined by attitude, effort, and participation in class, individual playing skills, such as rhythms and scales, fingerings, vocabulary, home practice, and attendance at events.

***Parents will need to make their own arrangements for instruments. A limited number of secondary instruments are available for rent from the school.**

CHORUS – 8TH GRADE
(ADDITIONAL OFFERING)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: To establish proper vocal technique and musical style by reinforcing what was learned in 6th & 7th grade chorus and to gain knowledge through singing choral music and vocal exercises. Skills are developed in 3-part singing, as well as 4-part, if voices are available. A variety of musical experiences and performances are covered throughout the year with three concerts. Eighth grade chorus students may audition for EMS "Classics" Show Choir.

Chorus is a semester course with a semester commitment. Students enrolled must complete the full term of each semester. There is a one week period at the beginning of each semester during which a student may drop chorus. Students are asked to provide the director with a written note from the parent making this request.

TEXT: Sing From Octavos

CONCERT DRESS: Students will need to wear black pants, black socks, black shoes, and a middle school "Noteworthy" t-shirt.

WORLD LANGUAGE – SPANISH – 8TH GRADE
(ADDITIONAL OFFERING)
(EVERY OTHER DAY)

PREREQUISITE: World Language – Spanish – 7th Grade

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This class is an all year class designed to focus on communication, culture, connections, comparisons and communities. Students will continue their study of grammar, writing, speaking and will develop an even greater understanding of the Spanish language and culture. Students who successfully complete Spanish 7 and Spanish 8 will be able to enroll in Spanish II at the high school, allowing those students who choose to continue to take Spanish for a total of 5 years including an AP class in the 5th year.

TEXT: Autentico: Pearson 2017

SPECIAL EDUCATION – 8TH GRADE **(Life Skills Program) - (Additional Class)**

PREREQUISITES: Student's IEP Team Recommendation

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Life Skills Program is an integration of functional academic, community living and personal/social skills. Students will work on prevocational, recreation/leisure, and home living skills. Students also work on specific curricula to assist them in becoming active participants in the community.

SPECIAL EDUCATION – 8TH GRADE **(Resource Room) - (Additional Class)**

PREREQUISITES: Students must first be referred by a teacher or parent. Screening of student's records will determine if individual psychological tests are necessary. Placement is dependent on test results.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The resource program provides collaborative support for students in the regular classroom. Adaptations of assignments and tests, study guides, oral reading of tests and use of technology to support students in a collaborative classroom. Individual resource supports are offered when inclusion within the regular classroom is not conducive to student's needs and learning. Each student's program will be designed to meet individual academic, behavioral, social and emotional needs.

HIGH ABILITY LEARNER EDUCATION-8TH GRADE **(H.A.L.E.) - (Additional Class)**

PREREQUISITES: In order to be considered for identification into the HALE program, students must first have qualifying scores and a teacher recommendation. The next step is for the student's scores, teacher evaluation and sample work to be entered into a matrix to determine identification into the program.

- Student must achieve 125 or above on a Scholastic Aptitude Measure
- Achievement level total composite of 96% or higher on a standardized achievement test
- Achievement level of 96% or higher on any sub test of a standardized achievement test in the areas of total reading, language arts, or mathematics.
- Nomination by teacher or parent using a specific list of characteristics

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Middle School program primarily employs interest based seminars and independent study to achieve program goals. Appropriate pacing of curriculum ensures that the rapid learner is challenged. Curriculum compacting is available for those students able to demonstrate mastery of skills.

SUPPORT CLASSES

Support Math (Grade 6, 7 and 8):

PREREQUISITES: Students are selected for Support Math based upon MAP scores, NeSA – M results and teacher recommendation.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to increase the time for mathematics instruction. Students will receive additional classroom instruction and support to supplement the grade level mathematics curriculum. The student will strengthen knowledge of math procedures and computation along with problem solving techniques.

Support Reading (Grade 6, 7 and 8):

PREREQUISITES: Students are selected for Support Reading based upon MAP scores, NeSA – R results, Gates-MacGinitie Reading Test and teacher recommendation.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to increase the time for reading instruction. Students will receive additional classroom instruction and support to supplement the grade level reading curriculum. The student will strengthen knowledge in fluency, decoding, comprehension and vocabulary development using both fiction and non-fiction texts.

ACTIVITIES AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Athletics:

Boys Athletics:

Sport	Season	Grade Level	Interscholastic/Intramural
Football	Fall	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic
Basketball	Winter (Nov. – Jan.)	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic & Intramural
Wrestling	Winter (Jan. – March)	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic
Track	Spring	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic

Girls Athletics:

Sport	Season	Grade Level	Interscholastic/Intramural
Volleyball	Fall	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic & Intramural
Basketball	Winter (Jan. – March)	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic & Intramural
Track	Spring	7 th & 8 th	Interscholastic

Non-Athletics:

Activity	Season	Grade Level
Science Bowl	Fall – Winter	All
Math Counts	Fall – Winter	All
Computer Club	Fall – Spring	All
Year Book	Fall – Spring	All
Student Council	Fall – Spring	All
Chess Club	Fall – Spring	All
Science Olympiad	Fall – Spring	All
Jazz Band	Fall - Spring	All