



ELKHORN
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2020-2021
Grade 7 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 the Elkhorn Public Schools (EPS) middle schools. 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 children 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 EPS middle schools 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 during middle school determine which classes students may be eligible for in high school. 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 - 7TH GRADE (CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: 7th grade Language Arts continues to emphasize the development of both oral and written communication skills. Students are exposed to a wide variety of language arts experiences including the following:

1. Composition (a 6 trait writing model will be the primary tool for writing instruction: ideas, organization, sentence fluency, word choice, voice, and conventions).
2. Oral Communication (may include informative speech, persuasive speech, informal presentations, and class discussion)
3. Grammar, mechanics, and word usage
4. Vocabulary
5. Research Skills

TEXT: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Into Literature: 2020 Into Literature Student Edition plus Online Resources Grade 7

READING - 7TH GRADE (CORE CLASS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is divided into several components. The first component is individual class work involving reading and discussing, in large and/or small groups, a variety of short stories, novels, poetry and plays. The second component is vocabulary. This is a study of essential word parts and definitions designed to improve reading vocabulary and word recognition. The third component is Accelerated Reader, or AR. It is a learning information system that manages independent student reading, encouraging improved reading comprehension.

Text: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Into Literature: 2020 Into Literature Student Edition plus Online Resources Grade 7

Novels

Mystery: The Westing Game- Ellen Raskin
Sci-Fi: A Wrinkle in Time- Madeleine L'Engle
 Transall Saga- Gary Paulsen

In addition to the core materials, the teacher may add other readings as needed or desired.

Reading is a skill. The more you do it, the better you become! Reading aloud helps improve fluency skills; practice daily.

INTEGRATED SCIENCE - 7TH GRADE (CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an integrated science course covering all 4 scientific disciplines – Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science and Physics. Units covered will include: Ecology, Properties of Matter, Intro to Chemistry, Earth Systems, and Earth's History.

TEXT: Glencoe iScience short course series, McGraw Hill, 2012

WORLD HISTORY - 7TH GRADE
(CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will trace the development of humankind from prehistoric times to modern times with perspectives on the future. Each unit will explore a different period of history and the variety of social studies found in the cultures of those periods. Units may include prehistoric hunter-gatherers, the ancient civilizations of the Middle East, Africa and Asia, the Greeks and Romans, The Middle Ages, Renaissance, Enlightenment, Revolution, Imperialism, war and peace, comparative systems and futures.

TEXT: World History in conjunction with Middle Grades World History 2019 Survey Student Edition plus Digital Courseware

MATH 7
(CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course students will have acquired a good working knowledge of the basic math skills; addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. They will acquire information in the following areas: Understanding and interpreting data; Applying whole number and decimal operations; addition, subtraction, multiplication and division; Using algebraic equations and formulas; Studying patterns with numbers and geometry; Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions; Using ratios, proportions and percents; Probability and statistics; Measurement; and Integers and coordinate graphing.

COURSE OUTLINE:

1. Problem solving
2. Statistics and data analysis
3. Applications with scientific notation/metric system
4. Patterns and number sense
5. Applications with fractions
6. An introduction to Algebra
7. Integers
8. Investigations into geometry
9. Area
10. Surface area and volume
11. Ratio, proportion, and percent
12. Application with percent
13. Discrete math and probability
14. Functions and graph

TEXT: Glencoe (McGraw-Hill) Math Course 2 (2014 Edition)

WEB: www.connected.mcgraw-hill.com

PRE-ALGEBRA - 7TH GRADE
(CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: Teacher recommendation based on MAP scores, NSCAS math scores, and previous year's Math performance.

*A 6th grader is eligible for this course with a teacher recommendation, a 1 in the previous year's Math class, and exceptional performance on a placement test, MAP test and NSCAS math test.

*A 7th grader is eligible for 8th Grade Algebra with a teacher recommendation, successful completion of 7th grade Pre-Algebra and meeting the criteria set for the placement test, MAP test, and NSCAS math test.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will cover topics that prepare the students for Algebra I, including the following: Evaluating expressions (numeric or variable), Order of operations, Commutative, associative, and distributive properties, Integer operations, Problem solving (equations and non-equations), The decimal system and the metric system, Bases other than ten, Fractions, Using formulas, Squares and square roots, Ratios, proportions, An introduction to computers, Adding and subtracting variable expressions, Multiplying and dividing variable expressions, Geometric figures, and Linear graphing.

COURSE OUTLINE:

1. Exploring Patterns
2. Investigating in Algebra
3. Modeling Integers
4. Exploring the Language of Algebra
5. Data and Graphs
6. Number Theory
7. Rational Numbers and Percents
8. Proportion, Percent and Probability
9. Real Numbers and Inequalities
10. Geometry Concepts and Spatial Thinking
11. Congruence, Similarity, and Transformations
12. Measurements in Geometry
13. Exploring Linear Equations
14. Exploring Data and Polynomials

TEXT: Glencoe (McGraw-Hill) Math Course 3 (2014 Edition)

WEB: www.connected.mcgraw-hill.com

ALGEBRA - 8TH GRADE
(CORE CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: Teacher recommendation based on MAP scores, placement test and previous year's 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 a placement test and the MAP test.

*An 8th grader could take Geometry with teacher recommendation and successful completion of Algebra.

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

1. Real Numbers
2. Equations, Inequalities, and Functions
3. Systems of Equations and Inequalities
4. Polynomials
5. Data Analysis and Probability

TEXT: Algebra I, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2007.

WEB: go.hrw.com

EXPLORATORY BLOCK

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

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS – 7TH GRADE **(EXPLORATORY BLOCK - 6 WEEKS)**

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course allows students to use computer technology to solve problems, create products, utilize information, and increase academic and personal productivity. Various types of technology and software programs will be introduced.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS: Students will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Make professional presentations using Powerpoint
2. Learn intermediate tools to edit and create Word Documents
3. Learn how to set up spreadsheets and use formulas.
4. Explore internet safety
5. Explore technology vocabulary
6. Use the internet for topic research and planning for a career of their choice.
7. Understand and recognize computer ethics and piracy

TEXT: Illustrated Microsoft Office 365 & Office 2016: Introductory

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY- 7TH GRADE **(EXPLORATORY BLOCK - 6 WEEKS)**

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course involves an applied approach to newly developed Technology Education, utilizing computer technology in office-like modules. Designing and making a CO2 car will be incorporated as one of the hands-on activities. Curriculum will focus around the four components of industrial technology: Manufacturing Technology, Communication Technology, Construction Technology and Transportation Technology.

TEXT: Technology - Delmar Publications Inc.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE - 7TH GRADE **(EXPLORATORY BLOCK - 6 WEEKS)**

PREREQUISITES: None

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: Interior Design, Preparing healthy snacks, and Clothing Care skills. 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 – 7TH GRADE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK - 6 WEEKS)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will include a 2-D unit further exploring elements of art and design. It will also include a pottery unit that will include more advanced hand building techniques.

HEALTH – 7TH GRADE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK - 6 WEEKS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The 7th grade health class focuses on aspects of human growth and development and family life education. Topics include: making healthy choices, self respect issues, puberty and adolescence, human reproduction, pregnancy and prenatal development, relationship skills, dating, teen pregnancy, sexual harassment and abuse and sexually transmitted diseases. Parents/guardians are asked to be involved with this class by discussing take home assignment sheet questions with their child.

GRADING: Grades are based on points earned from classroom participation, worksheets, quizzes, written work, etc.

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

SPEECH & DRAMA – 7TH GRADE
(EXPLORATORY BLOCK – 6 WEEKS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this exploratory class, students will examine theatre history, dating all the way back to the Greeks and Romans, and explore “behind the scenes” technical elements of theater. There will also be a focus on oral interpretation and Competitive Speech Team (an extracurricular activity offered at the high school level) where they will be able to present multiple characters through the analysis of literature and presentational techniques.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - 7TH GRADE
(REQUIRED CLASS)

PREREQUISITES: None

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	Indoor Soccer	Weight Training
Cross Country	Physical Fitness test	Badminton/Ping Pong	Softball	Ultimate Frisbee
Volleyball	Wrestling	Flag Football	Bowling	Archery

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

UNIFORM: Tee shirt, shorts, and tennis shoes

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.

WORLD LANGUAGE – SPANISH – 7TH GRADE
(ADDITIONAL OFFERING)
(EVERY OTHER DAY)

PREREQUISITE: Language Experience (Spanish)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This class is a year-long class designed to focus on communication, culture, connections, comparisons, and communities. Students will enhance basic skills in reading, writing, speaking, and understanding the Spanish language as well as gain a greater understanding of Spanish culture. The Spanish course is designed to be a two-year offering leading into the high school. Students who successfully complete Spanish 7 and Spanish 8 will be able to enroll in Spanish II at the high school.

TEXT: Autentico: Pearson 2017

CHORUS – 7TH GRADE
(ADDITIONAL OFFERING)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to establish proper vocal technique and musical style by reinforcing what was learned in 6th grade chorus and to gain knowledge through singing choral music and vocal exercises. Skills are developed in 3-part singing and introduction into 4-part singing. A variety of musical experiences and performances are covered throughout the year with three concerts. 7th grade chorus students may audition for 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 wear black pants, black socks, black shoes, and a middle school “Noteworthy” t-shirt polo, cost \$10.

BAND – 7TH GRADE
(ADDITIONAL OFFERING)

PREREQUISITES: 6th grade band or permission of instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The 7th grade band defines its goals as learning of a variety of music styles in full band arrangements. Rehearsal procedures and increased musical awareness, rhythm, key signature, and counting are stressed. Students will perform in three concerts plus one middle school music contest in the spring semester. There may also be a performance with the high school pep band at 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: Tradition of Excellence Book II, Supplementary texts provided by the instructors.

CONCERT DRESS: Students will 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 participation and attitude in class, individual playing skills such as rhythms and scales, fingerings, vocabulary, playing assessments, and home practice.

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

SPECIAL EDUCATION – 7TH GRADE **Resource Room (Additional Offering)**

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.

SPECIAL EDUCATION – 7TH GRADE **Life Skills Program (Additional Offering)**

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.

HIGH ABILITY LEARNER EDUCATION-7TH GRADE **(H.A.L.E.) - (Additional Offering)**

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.

1. Student must achieve 125 or above on a Scholastic Aptitude Measure
2. Achievement level total composite of 96% or higher on a standardized achievement test
3. 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.
4. 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, NSCAS Math 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, NSCAS Reading 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
Math Counts	Fall – Winter	All
Computer Club	Fall – Spring	All
Yearbook	Fall – Spring	All
Student Council	Fall – Spring	All
Chess Club	Fall – Spring	All
Jazz Band	Fall - Spring	All