

CORE & ELECTIVE
COURSE
DESCRIPTIONS
2020-2021



SEITZ MIDDLE SCHOOL

CORE COURSES/REQUIRED COURSES

ELA

Grade 6, 7 & 8

Full Year Course

English 6:

During sixth grade English, students will increase their communication skills and knowledge through reading, writing, and presentation. Students will explore various writing techniques through fictional and informational writing forms. In addition, students will read a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts.

English 7:

During seventh grade English, students build on past knowledge while mastering new literacy skills. Throughout the year, students will read a variety of texts (novels, memoirs, poetry, historical non-fiction) and write in different styles (personal memoir, research paper, character analysis). Students will learn to demonstrate a command of language conventions through grammar instruction. In addition, students will work to develop their independent reading habits. Technology will be integrated appropriately.

English 8:

This course is designed to develop student skills in reading, writing, and language. The course aims to prepare students for the PSAT 8/9 test and provide a strong foundation for success in high school English courses. Reading standards for the course will focus on identifying and analyzing central ideas in a text. Language and Writing standards taught will support proficiency in composing argumentative and informational texts.

Math

Grade 6, 7 & 8

Full Year Course

Math 6:

This course is designed to focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking.

Math 7:

This course is designed to focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

Pre-Algebra:

This course is designed to focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. Additional, students will solve linear equations in one variable.

Math 8:

This course is designed to focus on four critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

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Algebra:

This course is designed to provide a formal development of the algebraic skills and concepts necessary for students to succeed in advanced courses. Building a strong Algebra foundation is vital in achieving that success in future math courses and on the PSAT 8/9. Content is organized into the following critical areas taken from the SAT college readiness standards: (1) writing & solving algebraic & linear expressions, equations, and inequalities (2) functions (3) graphing linear equations (4) systems of equations and inequalities (5) polynomial expressions (6) quadratic equations (7) data and statistics

Geometry:

This course is designed to emphasize the study of the properties and applications of common geometric figures in two and three dimensions. It includes the study of transformations and right triangle trigonometry. Inductive and deductive thinking skills are used in problem solving situations, and applications to the real world are stressed. It also emphasizes writing proofs to solve (prove) properties of geometric figures.

Science

Grade 6, 7 & 8

Full Year Course

Science 6:

In this course, students will explore Earth's structure, which includes topics such as plate tectonics and the rock cycle. In addition, they will learn about erosion and weathering and ecosystems, which includes topics such as relationships among organisms and energy in an ecosystem. Students will be encouraged to become investigators, ask questions, create models, analyze data, construct theories, and clearly communicate scientific ideas.

Science 7:

In this course, students will explore the science of weather, which includes developing models to describe the cycling of water through Earth's systems driven by energy from the sun and the force of gravity, collecting data to provide evidence for how the motions and complex interactions of air masses results in changes in weather conditions and applying scientific principles to design a method for monitoring and minimizing human impact on the environment. In addition, students will be conducting investigations to provide evidence that living things are made of cells; either one cell or many different cells. They will be constructing a scientific explanation based on evidence for how environmental and genetic factors influence the growth of organisms.

Science 8:

This course is designed to further a student's knowledge in the world of physical science. The main concepts students will encounter will be developing models to describe the atomic composition of simple molecules and extended structures, applying Newton's Third Law to design a solution to a problem involving the motion of two colliding objects, and asking questions about data to determine the factors that affect the strength of electric and magnetic forces. Students will be conducting investigations and evaluating the experimental design to provide evidence that fields exist between objects exerting forces on each other even though the objects are not in contact, using mathematical representations to describe a simple model for waves that include how the amplitude of a wave is related to the energy of the wave, and developing and using models of the Earth-sun-moon system to describe the cyclic pattern of lunar phases, eclipses of the sun and moon, and seasons.

Social Studies

Grade 6, 7 & 8

Full Year Course

Social Studies 6:

In this course, students will cover the physical and human geography of Earth and the cultures of the Western Hemisphere. Students are asked think like a Geographer as they analyze the world around them including their hometown, state, and country. They will learn about the ways Earth's physical geography effects humans as well as how humans have affected the Earth. This course will also investigate the world's population growth, distribution, and density. The course will culminate with the investigation of Western cultures of the United States, Canada, Native Americans, and Latin America.

Geography 7:

In this course, students will move beyond mere events, people and dates and are encouraged to think like historians, geographers, economists, political scientists, anthropologists, and other social scientists. Students will investigate historical era 1: The Beginnings of Human Society, Era 2: Early Civilizations, Cultures, and Pastoral People and Era 3: The Rise and Fall of Empires by exploring how these social scientists select, analyze, and organize evidence, and then use that evidence to create accounts that answer questions or problems.

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American History 8:

In this course, students will move beyond mere historical events, key people, and dates and are encouraged to think like historians examining the bigger picture of American history. They will concentrate on the timeframe of our history from the beginning of the United States until the era of Reconstruction after the Civil War. Other topics will include a review of the American Revolution, the creation of the New Government, Jefferson's presidency, Westward Expansion, Jacksonian democracy, the Civil War, and finally Reconstruction.

World Language

Grade 7 & 8

Full Year Course

World Language education is received through a blended learning approach by having direct instruction and by utilizing Rosetta Stone. Students may choose between Spanish, French, and German (*the classroom teacher is an expert in the Spanish language; therefore, students choosing a different language will be independent learners in the classroom*). High school VPAA graduation credit is awarded if Rosetta Stone modules are successfully completed.

Run on A/B schedule paired with STEM 7 or STEM 8.

Coding

Grade 7

Full Year Course

Coding is an introductory course that empowers students to explore the world of computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun.

High school VPAA graduation credit is awarded if successfully completed.

Run on A/B schedule paired with STEM 7.

STEM

Grade 7 & 8

Full Year Course

STEM 7:

STEM is a project-based learning environment in which students are challenged to actively engage in the learning process through critical thinking, analytical observation, experimentation, research and team building. Projects explored during the school year will focus on shifting the students thinking paradigm to begin thinking like a Scientist and thinking like an Engineer, then using that to build bridges, drones and tackle a community problem through participation in the eCybermission Engineering Design Challenge. We will also immerse ourselves in technology by learning block-based coding in Scratch and then designing our own pixelated video games using Bloxels Builder.

Run on A/B schedule paired with either World Language 7 or Coding.

STEM 8:

STEM is a project-based learning environment in which students are challenged to actively engage in the learning process through critical thinking, analytical observation, experimentation, research and team building. Projects explored during the school year include Robotics, designing Parachutes, furthering our knowledge of a block-based coding format through participation in CoderZ Cyber Robotic Coding Competition and working through a community problem in eCybermission. We then embark on a journey through our brain learning about Neuroscience & Adaptive Technology, moving on to learn about Nanotechnology and Global Space Exploration.

Run on A/B schedule paired with either World Language 8 or Coding.

SPECIAL EDUCATION COURSES

Read 180	Grade 6, 7 & 8
Full Year Course	

Read 180 is a two-hour block of direct reading and writing instruction. This program is designed to teach student at their reading level, while still using middle school appropriate content. Using a blending learning model, students learn about other content areas while building reading, writing, language, vocabulary, comprehension, spelling, fluency, and grammar skills.

Learning Lab	Grade 6, 7 & 8
Full Year Course	

Learning Lab is a special education class designed to meet the individual needs of each student. The class is intended to help students learn the organizational and study skills necessary to become more productive learners. In Learning Lab, students will receive additional academic support in their general education classes as well as work on IEP goals.

Co-Taught Math & English	Grade 6, 7 & 8
Full Year Course	

Co-Taught Math/English are general education classes that have two teachers (one core teacher and one special education teacher). These classes are designed to help students who receive special education services succeed in their core classes. During these classes, the teachers collaborate to develop and implement appropriate lessons as well as differentiate, modify, and accommodate to ensure that ALL students are capable of succeeding.

System 44NG/Fundamental English	Grade 6, 7 & 8
Full Year Course	

System 44NG is a two-hour block of direct reading and writing instruction using the system of sounds and spellings. Students work through stations utilizing on-line programming to listen and record consonant and vowel/vowel team sounds. This program is designed to teach students at their reading level, while still modeling age/school appropriate content. Independent stations enforce positive reading models and strategies to build up the areas of reading comprehension, spelling, written expression, grammar, vocabulary skills and reading fluency, which are part of their IEP goals and objectives.

Fundamental Science/Social Studies	Grade 6, 7 & 8
Full Year Course	

The program is used to build reading and writing skills while learning current events in both areas of Science and Social Studies. This includes; History, Geography, Life Science, Earth Science, Physical Science, Health, and much more. The program includes interactive assignments as well as on-line assessments that students are able to access independently. The students also work with hands on projects to reflect what they learn and apply it to their daily lives.

Fundamental Math	Grade 6, 7 & 8
Full Year Course	

This class time is used to build on basic math functions and how they apply to real life situations as part of their IEP goals and objectives. Students use measurement, time, money, and other resources to be able to use their knowledge in day to day life. Students also participate in an online program designed to increase skills in their deficit areas.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Band 6: Brass/Percussion or Woodwinds	Grade 6
Full Year Course	3 Electives

Band 6 is designed for students who would like to learn to play an instrument for the first time. The primary focus for this class is on basic instrumental skill development and music reading. The aim is to develop the student so they can enter into the concert band the following year. This class is all about exploring music freely and learning at a natural pace for each individual student. Band 6 is separated by instrument: Woodwinds (flute, clarinet, saxophone, etc.) and Brass/Percussion (drums, trumpet, tuba, trombone, etc.).

Concert Band 7	Grades 7
Full Year Course	3 Electives

Concert Band 7 provides students with learning and performance opportunities on wind and percussion instruments. The primary focus is on the development, continuation, and expansion of basic skills begun the previous year that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in contests, festivals, honor bands, and private lessons. Although the curriculum is designed for students with one to two years of playing experience, students with no prior experience are welcome to participate. Beginners in seventh grade band must choose from one of the following beginning instruments: tuba, clarinet, and euphonium.

Concert Band 8	Grades 8
Full Year Course	3 Electives

Concert Band 8 is an ensemble that provides students with learning and performance opportunities on wind and percussion instruments. The primary focus is on the development, continuation, and expansion of basic skills begun the previous year that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in contests, festivals, honor bands, and private lessons.

Choir 6	Grades 6
1 - 3 Trimesters	1-3 Electives

Choir 6 provides students the opportunity to explore various musical styles through singing. From classical to rock we sing it all. No previous vocal experience is necessary. In the course, we will understand how to read music, hold a part and how to manipulate their voice in many different styles.

This is a trimester class, but can be taken more than one time during the academic year.

Choir 7 & 8	Grades 7 & 8
Full year course	3 Electives

Choir 7 & 8 provides students the opportunity to explore various musical styles and further build their singing skills. From classical to rock we sing it all. No previous vocal experience is necessary. In the course, we will understand how to read music, hold a part and how to use your voice in many different styles.

Jazz Band	Grades 7 & 8
1 - 3 Trimesters	1-3 Electives

Students will take their previous band experience and use their skills in a new way. Jazz focuses on tricky rhythms and articulation as well as improvisation. Students who play flute, clarinet, or French horn will need to learn a secondary instrument for jazz instrumentation. Open to all 7th and 8th grade concert band students. Non-band students will need special permission from Ms. Walsh to join.

This is a trimester class, but can be taken more than one time during the academic year.

Music Appreciation Courses
1-3 Trimesters

Grades 6, 7 & 8
1 - 3 Electives

World Music:

Students will discover, listen to, and play music from all different parts of the world. Students will learn about instruments, styles of music, and how music is incorporated into diverse societies. Music performance will be a small part of this class, no previous ability is required. Open to all grades.

This is a trimester class, but can be taken more than one time during the academic year.

Guitar:

Students will broaden their knowledge of guitar performance. Student led learning is great for learning at all ability levels, from beginner to advanced. Students will learn chords, as well as how to read music and how the notes translate onto the guitar. ACOUSTIC GUITAR REQUIRED, SCHOOL DOES NOT PROVIDE INSTRUMENTS. Open to grades 6, 7, and 8.

This is a trimester class, but can be taken more than one time during the academic year.

Piano:

Students will broaden their knowledge of piano performance. Student led learning is great for learning at all ability levels, from beginner to advanced. Students will learn both treble and bass clef reading for right and left hand playing. STUDENT PIANOS ARE PROVIDED, BUT AN INSTRUMENT AT HOME TO PRACTICE ON IS RECOMMENDED. Open to grades 6, 7, and 8.

This is a trimester class, but can be taken more than one time during the academic year.

Drama
1 - 2 Trimesters

Grades 6, 7 & 8
1 - 2 Electives

Do you like to act? How about design sets? Drawing? Makeup? Lights? Sound? If so you have come to the right place. In drama, you will get to experience the jobs available in the theater. The final project is a production put on by the students. Come join our exciting class!

This is a trimester class, but can be taken more than one time during the academic year.

Drama Tech
1 Trimester

Grades 7 & 8
1 Elective

This course is designed to give students knowledge of the “behind the scenes” of putting on a play through hands on experience with building props, painting backgrounds, costume construction/sewing, sound and lighting production, directing, and stage management. Approval from Mr. Hoying is required to be a part of the class. Course aligns with annual school play.

Art
1 Trimester

Grades 6 - 8
1 Elective

Art 6:

The first year of Art instruction is based heavily upon exposure to wide range of media and techniques. The student learns art terminology, basic design elements and principles, and art history. A major goal is to stimulate confidence in self-expression so that the students do not feel intimidated or set limits in their work.

This is a trimester class, but can be taken more than one time during the academic year.

Art 7:

Classes will focus on environmental awareness and development of self-expression, creativity and problem solving through hands on projects. Students will continue to explore many art media with advanced concepts and techniques. Artists and art history will help serve as inspiration and understanding of the arts.

This is a trimester class, but can be taken more than one time during the academic year.

Art 8:

Classes continue instruction in the elements and principles of design. Students will learn further advanced techniques and concepts. New materials and media is introduced.

This is a trimester class, but can be taken more than one time during the academic year.

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Readers Workshop 1 Trimester	Grade 6 1 Elective
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Students learn close reading strategies and develop analytical skills using reading materials of their choice. The course is designed to guide students in finding books they love and to engage the books with creative projects. The class is a blend of reading, writing, innovation and technology, and choice.

This is a trimester class, but can be taken more than one time during the academic year.

Creative Writing 1 Trimester	Grade 6 1 Elective
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Creative Writing explores different genres of writing. This course is designed with the goal of inspiring students to develop original pieces and ideas. Through writing and thinking students will learn to become better writers and thinkers. The skills focused on in this course will help students in other courses as well, especially English. Writing genres covered are autobiographies, family storytelling, fairy tales, fantasies, short stories, and journals.

STEM Make It or Break It 1 Trimester	Grade 6 & 7 1 Elective
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STEM is an acronym that represents the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. STEM is a project-based learning environment in which students are challenged to actively engage in the learning process through critical thinking, analytical observation, experimentation, research and teambuilding.

STEM Make It or Break It:

This course is a STEM elective for 6th & 7th grade students that combines MakerSpace Projects using the Engineering Design Process and BreakerSpace projects using Reverse Engineering.

This is a trimester class, but can be taken more than one time during the academic year.

Modern Space Exploration 1 Trimester	Grade 6, 7 & 8 1 Elective
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STEM is an acronym that represents the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. STEM is a project-based learning environment in which students are challenged to actively engage in the learning process through critical thinking, analytical observation, experimentation, research and teambuilding.

Modern Space Exploration:

This course is a STEM elective for 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students that are interested in learning about Modern Space Exploration. Course activities center around the current efforts being made by NASA & other global space agencies. Course changes every trimester.

This is a trimester class, but can be taken more than one time during the academic year.

Innovation 1 Trimester	Grades 6, 7 & 8 1 Elective
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Innovation 6:

Innovation 6 helps students focus on becoming responsible digital citizens, while increasing their knowledge of the Microsoft Suite of products. This includes word processing, spreadsheets & presentation skills.

Innovation 7:

Students are introduced to Virtual Reality & Augmented Reality, coding and a deeper dive into Excel & Spreadsheets.

Innovation 8:

Students focus their learning on the use of microcontrollers & adaptive technologies, as well as in-depth usage of Word & Excel. Additionally, students are challenged with learning Photoshop & Greenscreen.

These are trimester classes, but can be taken more than one time during the academic year.

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Physical Education
1 Trimester

Grades 6, 7 & 8
1 Elective

Gym 6, 7 & 8:

Classes are separated by gender (Girls Gym & Boys Gym). Students are expected to change into appropriate attire – a separate lock can be used to secure belongings in locker room while attending class. Students are introduced to various aspects of physical education such as nutrition, physical fitness, and team activities. Health education will be integrated into physical education for all 7th grade students.

**One trimester is required at all grade levels, but can be taken more than one time during the academic year.*

Eco Hope
1 Trimester

Grade 8
1 Elective

ECO HOPE is a trimester long class that will allow students to explore and investigate current environmental issues around the world and right in their own back yard. We will explore and investigate the human-environment interactions and evaluate their impacts on each other. Opportunities will be given to present alternative solutions for resolving and preventing problems we may see in these relationships. Activities may include such things as working with Wayne County on a macroinvertebrate testing in our community, visits to the local landfill, recycling at Seitz and Huntington, energy conservation, and many other environmental locations.

This is a trimester class, but can be taken more than one time during the academic year.

Mindfulness
1 Trimester

Grade 8
1 Elective

A trimester-long course to explore Mindfulness through the use of breathing exercises, yoga, and other Mindful practices. This course is designed to teach 8th grade students techniques to help them manage the stressful emotions that every teen faces. Other techniques will encourage self-compassion and emotion regulation, allowing for students to experience more feelings of happiness and calmness. Students will be introduced to new experiences such as short periods of meditation, body-mind awareness, and simple yoga poses. As with sports or any other new activity, this topic requires practice and a willingness to try it out.

This is a trimester class, but can be taken more than one time during the academic year.