LAKE ORION MIDDLE SCHOOLS
Oakview • Scripps • Waldon

Middle School Curriculum Handbook

8th Grade

Dear Student:

This curriculum handbook is designed to introduce you to our middle school program. You will find information that describes our required courses and elective opportunities for each grade level. Take some time to familiarize yourself with these courses so you will be able to make appropriate decisions to achieve your educational goals.

The Lake Orion middle school program provides a structure for you to explore, academically, areas of interest and talents. As you progress through middle school, you will have increased opportunities to select a variety of courses. We are committed to providing positive learning experiences for our students to develop a foundation for success in high school.

Please make thoughtful, well-informed choices because schedule changes are discouraged.

Our counseling staff is available to advise you. If you need assistance, please contact the counseling office.

Sincerely,

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Sarah Manzo
Oakview Principal

Dan Haas
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Randy Groya
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Welcome to Middle School

8th Grade

Course Availability:

Courses described in this Curriculum Handbook are offered based upon sufficient student requests and teacher availability determined by administration.

Academic Schedule:

Marking Periods – 4 per year, 2 per semester (approximately 10 weeks)
Semester – 2 per year (approximately 20 weeks)
Report Cards are issued at the end of each marking period.
Academic Updates are available on Power School mid-marking period.

Schedule Changes:

The counselors will make schedule changes when the following exist:

1. Incomplete schedule
2. Medical reason (with documentation)
3. Correcting class overloads

All other schedule change requests must be directed to the Principal.

8th Grade Required Courses:

- STAR~Student/Teacher Affective Relationships
- English Language Arts
- Science
- American History
- Computer Literacy
- Mathematics (Teacher recommendation required)
  Math 8, High School Algebra 1

Math Sequencing

(Please Note: Teacher recommendation is required for all math classes)

6th Grade	Math 6	Advanced Math 6
7th Grade	Math 7	Accelerated Math 7
8th Grade	Math 8	High School Algebra 1

Elective Courses: Students need to select a combination of yearlong and semester classes based on the following guidelines:

One yearlong class *and* one semester class <u>OR</u> three semester classes.

Yearlong Classes

Cadet Band (8)	(teacher recommendation)
Chorale (8)	
High School French I	(Oakview/Waldon)
High School French II	(Oakview/Waldon)
High School Spanish I	(Oakview/Scripps/Waldon)
High School Spanish II	(Oakview/Scripps/Waldon)
High School German I	(Scripps)
High School German II	(Scripps)
Publications	(application required)
Media Productions	(application required)

Semester Classes

Creative Art (8)
Language Arts Exploration
Physical Education (8)
Publications (Waldon only - application required)
Theater (8)

Required Course Descriptions – 8th Grade

STAR

STAR-Student/Teacher Affective Relationships **Year**

The STAR program is designed to meet the diverse needs of Lake Orion Community Schools' middle school students as they interact with peers and adults through their adolescent years. The goals for the STAR program are to build relationships between students and staff and for every student to have an adult advocate in the building.

English Language Arts

English Language Arts 8 **Year**

This course includes a study of various genres, while focusing on comprehension, interpretation and appreciation of literature. Students will explore their own style of writing and find their voice in order to use writing as an effective form of communication. Each student will develop oral communication skills and become active listeners.

Science

Science 8 **Year**

This course teaches the high school Earth Science Content Expectations. Earth science units focus on energy in the Earth systems, biogeochemical cycles, the interior of the Earth, plate tectonics, earthquakes & volcanoes, hydrogeology, oceans & climate change, severe weather, the sun, Earth history, and geologic time.

Social Studies

American History 8 **Year**

The eighth grade American History course covers the period from 1754-1877, with emphasis on the following: American Revolution, Constitution and the New Nation, Expansion and Reform, Civil War & Reconstruction. Projects, films, debates, plays, reading and writing strategies, and simulation are utilized to stimulate thought and discussion.

Computers

Computer Literacy 8 **Semester**

Computer Literacy is designed to develop informational technology skills for the 21st century learner interacting in our digital society. The course is constructed to guide students beyond simply consuming technology but learning how to design and manage it. The course facilitates an integrated and collaborative approach to Microsoft Office programs to teach presentation, spreadsheet, and database skills. Students will learn and utilize Cloud file management and digital communication skills. Students will apply proper syntax to design and compile a computer program. Computer programming and STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) projects incorporate the use of authentic problem solving skills.

Mathematics

Math 8 **Year**

Students use both concrete and abstract thinking skills to apply mathematics to real-world contexts. Formal and informal algebra methods are used to solve problems. Topics of study include: rational numbers, reasoning about expressions and equations, linear equations and systems, function relationships, geometry, bivariate data analysis. This course is designed to prepare students for Algebra 1 at the high school.

High School Algebra 1 **Prerequisite Accelerated Math 7** **Year**

This course thoroughly investigates the structures, techniques, and applications used in basic algebraic reasoning. Students will further the study of linear functions and their graphs. In addition, students will cover non-linear functions such as quadratic and exponential functions. Additional topics will include inequalities, polynomials, and systems of equations. This course is designed to prepare students for Honors Geometry at the high school.

Elective Classes – 8th Grade

Yearlong Classes

Cadet Band (8) **Year**

Cadet Band is a course for the advanced musician. In order to be placed in this course, students must demonstrate the appropriate ability, skill, and commitment to accommodate a high degree of musical independence. All performances are required and graded. Band is a year-long commitment. Students are expected to remain in band for the entire year. Students are expected to have an instrument and provide supplies (book, reeds, oil, etc.) Band Director approval is needed to enroll in this course.

Chorale (8) **Year**

Chorale is open to any 8th grade student interested in singing, and will focus on continued development of the voice while at the same time promoting self-confidence and musicianship. No previous experience is necessary. Students will develop proper singing technique and proficiency in music theory, harmony, and choreography. Chorale students will be given the opportunity to sing a varied repertoire of music, including choral, popular, Broadway, world and jazz selections. Along with attending regional choral workshops and MSVMA events, Chorale members will be given the opportunity to audition for honors choirs and take a culminating choir trip. This ensemble will perform at least four times during the year. Participation in all performances is required and a part of student evaluations. Special concert attire may be required.

High School French I **Year**

**This class is available at Oakview and Waldon*

Students will speak, read, write and understand basic French using greetings and courtesy, applying numbers to tell time, quantity and dates. They will become comfortable describing their interests and surroundings, themselves, family, and friends. They will discover and analyze French culture and values. Students will acquire a geographic knowledge of the Francophone world. Dynamic, multi-faceted activities will promote real world application of the language**. Successful completion of this course will result in earning 1.0 high school credit.**

High School French II **Prerequisite HS French I** **Year**

**This class is available at Oakview and Waldon*

Students will speak, read, write and understand basic French using the past, present, and near future tenses. They will be exposed to weather, food, clothing, chores, and household items. They will discover and analyze French and African culture in the context of their own. A mélange of activities will promote global awareness and real world application of the language. **Successful completion of this course will result in earning 1.0 high school credit.**

High School Spanish I **Year**

**This class is available at Scripps, Oakview and Waldon*

Students will speak, read, write and understand basic Spanish using greetings and courtesy, applying numbers to tell time, quantity and dates. They will become comfortable describing their interests and surroundings, themselves, family, and friends. They will discover and analyze Hispanic culture and values. Students will acquire geographic knowledge of the Spanish-speaking world. Dynamic, multi-faceted activities will promote real world application of the language. **Successful completion of this course will result in earning 1.0 high school credit.**

High School Spanish II **Prerequisite HS Spanish I** **Year**

**This class is available at Scripps, Oakview and Waldon*

Students will speak, read, write and understand basic Spanish using locations, events, family members and celebrations, restaurant etiquette, household items and chores, clothing, shopping and colors. They will become comfortable describing their interests and surroundings, themselves and others. They will discover and analyze Hispanic culture and values in the context of their own. Students will acquire a deeper knowledge of the Spanish-speaking world. Dynamic, multi-faceted activities will promote real world application of the language. **Successful completion of this course will result in earning 1.0 high school credit.**

High School German I **Year**

**This class is available at Scripps*

Students will speak, read, write and understand basic German. Students will become comfortable describing themselves, family and friends, free time activities, school, weather, food and clothing. Students will discover and analyze German culture and values in the context of their own. Students will acquire a geographic knowledge of the German-speaking world. Dynamic, multi-faceted activities will promote real world application of the language. **Successful completion of this course will result in earning 1.0 high school credit.**

High School German II **Prerequisite German I** **Year**

**This class is available at Scripps*

German 2 students will speak, read, write, and understand basic German. Students will become comfortable describing birthdays, holidays, gift-giving, movies, music, books, sports and travel. Students will discover and analyze German culture and values in the context of their own. Students will acquire a deeper knowledge of the German-speaking world. Dynamic, multi-faceted activities will continue to promote real world application of the language. **Successful completion of this course will result in earning 1.0 high school credit.**

Publications (8) **Year**

Publications is an elective course for 8th graders which focuses on the creation and development of the school yearbook and related publications. Students will learn to use digital cameras, scanners, and other related equipment. A desktop publishing program will be used to create professional publications. Good writing and organizational skills are a necessary prerequisite for this class; some background in computers is recommended but not necessary. **Students must complete an application form and have a teacher recommendation**.

Media Productions (8) **Year**

Students will communicate information to the students and staff by making use of television and video technology. Students will write, direct, and produce a news program that will be broadcast to students and staff on a daily basis. The daily news program will include school announcements and incorporate special reports on classroom projects, sports, concerts and other school and/or community events. **Students must complete an application form.**

Semester Classes – 8th Grade

Creative Art (8) **Semester**

Creative Art students will develop their creative potential by becoming involved with hands-on experiments and exposure to a variety of art materials and processes at a more advanced level. Emphasis will be placed on creative enjoyment and individual expression as well as the continuation of building skills and concepts of art elements, principles, and composition in preparation for higher levels of art. The art curriculum is designed to enhance self-esteem, provide the opportunity for students to discover their potential in new areas, and provide emotional and creative outlets. Students will also continue to experience art history and culture as well as increase their awareness of how art is integrated into the world around us.

Language Arts Exploratory (8) **Semester**

Language Arts Exploratory is open to those students with a strong interest in reading. This course will focus on the reading, listening, and speaking aspects of the ELA curriculum. Students will be expected to read a large quantity of both classic and contemporary reading material, and will be asked to respond to it in a variety of ways. Students will also be challenged to discuss and respond to literature in a more mature and analytical way. This is a student elective for those who enjoy reading.

Physical Education (8) **Semester**

This is an elective course designed for eighth grade students who desire to increase their fitness awareness as well as develop their skills in a variety of team and individual sports. Students are exposed to concepts, strategies, rules, and basic movement skills. Emphasis will be placed on individual improvement through goal setting, development of teamwork, sportsmanship and respect for self and others which will encourage life-long participation in physical activity.

Publications (8) **Semester**

**This class is available at Waldon.*

Publications is an elective course for 8th graders which focuses on the creation and development of the school yearbook and related publications. Students will learn to use digital cameras, scanners, and other related equipment. A desktop publishing program will be used to create professional publications. Good writing and organizational skills are a necessary prerequisite for this class; some background in computers is recommended but not necessary. **Students must complete an application form and have a teacher recommendation**.

Theater (8) **Semester**

Theater is a class for students who wish to gain a basic understanding and appreciation of theater arts. This course is designed to improve students' understanding of the dramatic and theatrical traditions found in the history of drama. The student will participate in dramatic experiences. These experiences will develop leadership abilities as well as understanding for a cooperative endeavor. Students will learn standards and skills with which they can judge drama as literature and dramatic productions in theater, television, and motion pictures.

Curriculum Support

8th Grade Curriculum Support **Semester/Year**

This course is designed to provide students with a variety of essential skills and experiences to support and enrich their academic development. Specific attention will be given to students' needs in core academic areas. Approval and/or required placement is determined by School Administration.

Special Education - Course Descriptions

Placement is to be determined by an Individual Educational Planning Committee (IEPC).

LRC English Language Arts **Year**

This course continues to build English skills begun at the elementary level. The curriculum includes proper sentence structure, grammar, and variety of writing, study skills and spelling. Practical application of these skills will be used whenever possible. The LRC Reading program contains basic reading in both vocabulary and comprehension. Both fiction and non-fiction materials are used for learning and enjoyment. Specialized instruction is provided to reinforce the lessons given within the general education curriculum and achieve the goals and objectives in the IEP.

LRC Mathematics **Year**

This course is designed to reinforce and expand mathematical concepts including computation and understanding of whole numbers, fractions, decimals and measurement. Special emphasis is placed on applying knowledge of these concepts to problem solving, using calculators when necessary. Specialized instruction is provided to reinforce the lessons given within the general education curriculum and achieve the goals and objectives in the IEP.

LRC Science **Year**

This course parallels that of general education science with its focus on life, physical and earth sciences. Substance awareness, human sexuality, health and nutrition are also included. Hands-on experiences are provided whenever possible along with modifications for individual needs.

LRC Social Studies **Year**

This course is designed for students who need basic knowledge of self, their community, their state and nation, and the world.

LRC Lab **Year**

The primary purpose of LRC Lab is to support special education students so that they may achieve the goals written in their Individual Educational Plans as well as become successful in their general education classes. Specialized instruction is provided to reinforce the lessons given within the general education curriculum and achieve the goals and objectives in the IEP.

Pre-Vocational Language **Year**

This course is designed to cover functional reading and writing skills. In this course students will increase vocabulary and word recognition skills. In addition, students will increase reading comprehension and handwriting skills.

LRC Science – Prevocational **Year**

This course deals with basic science survival skills that the student will need to know in everyday life. Human sexuality may be covered. Instructional content and method address the individual needs of the student.

LRC Math– Prevocational **Year**

This course covers basic skills needed for daily living. Students will increase math computation skills and money skills. Students will apply what they learn through many hands-on activities.

Pre-Vocational Social Studies **Year**

Students will study family and school, as well as their local community. This course will also cover regional communities and Michigan.

* All LRC classes follow the general education curriculum and are designed to meet students' individual needs.