



**LAKE ORION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**MIDDLE SCHOOLS**  
**Oakview • Scripps • Waldon**

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## Middle School Curriculum Handbook

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Dear Student:

This curriculum handbook is designed to explain 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 Community Schools middle school program provides a structure for you to explore academic areas of interest. 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.

If you need assistance, please contact the counseling office.

Sincerely,

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 Sarah Perry  
 Oakview Principal

*Dr. Dan Haas*  
 Dr. Dan Haas  
 Scripps Principal

*Dr. Randy Groya*  
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## Welcome to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Course Availability

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

### Academic Schedule

**Report Cards issued at the end of each semester – 2 per year** (approximately 20 weeks)

- For rotation classes (10 week, quarter classes) final grades will be issued at the end of the 10 weeks

**Academic Updates** are available on Power School mid-semester

### Schedule Changes

The counselors will make schedule changes when the following exist:

- Incomplete schedule
- Medical reason (with documentation)
- Correcting class overloads

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

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Required Classes

- STAR ~ Student/Teacher Affective Relationships
- English Language Arts
- Science
- Social Studies
- Mathematics 7 or Accelerated Math 7 (Teacher recommendation required)
- Exploratory Rotation (**Art 7, Physical Education 7, Technology and Computer Science for the Digital Citizen, Civic Life**)

### Math Sequencing

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

Grade	Course Title	Course Title
6	Math 6	Advanced Math 6
7	Math 7	Accelerated Math 7
8	Math 8	High School Algebra 1

### Elective Courses:

- Band 7 (yearlong commitment)
- Chorus 7 (yearlong commitment)
- DSET 7 – Designing Solutions through Engineering and Technology (semester)
- Engineering and Mobile Robotics (semester)
- High School French I (Oakview/Waldon)
- High School German I (Scripps)
- High School Spanish I (Oakview/Scripps/Waldon)

## Required Course Descriptions – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Yearlong Classes

#### **STAR – Student-Teacher-Affective Relationships**

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 7**

This course uses a reading and writing workshop model to study both fiction and informational texts. The course focuses on the development of a community of readers and writers with an emphasis on student choice. A combination of direct instruction, independent practice and dynamic grouping provide a venue for comprehension, interpretation and appreciation of literature. Additionally, students explore multiple writing genres in preparation for various kinds of academic writing. Students will also develop oral communication skills and become active listeners.

#### **Science 7**

Science 7 is a required science course designed around the Michigan Science Standards that focuses on topics in Physical Science, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, and Engineering and Design. Science 7 will help prepare students for the 8th grade M-Step as well as Science 8. Students will engage in Science and Engineering Practices and use Cross-Cutting Concepts to explore: Structure and Properties of Matter, Chemical Reactions, Structure, Function, and Information Processing, Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems, Space Systems, Human Impacts on Earth Systems, and Engineering, Technology and Applications of Science.

#### **Social Studies 7**

7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies focus is on an Introduction of World History from Era 1 – Era 4 (Early Man to the Medieval Ages). Students will learn common themes such as what makes a civilization, and empire, and a world religion. The four areas of Social Studies (economics, geography, government and history) are integrated into the curriculum.

### Mathematics

#### **Math 7**

Students will continue developing problem-solving skills and strategies to solve mathematical as well as real world problems. Students will communicate mathematical ideas; search for alternate or additional methods of solving problems; and be able to explain, orally or in writing, procedures used to find solutions. Topics will include: proportional relationships, operations with rational numbers, expressions and linear equations, scale and geometric constructions, surface area, volume, and statistical reasoning.

#### **Accelerated Math 7**

This course includes the study of algebra and geometry. Students will use more abstract thinking skills as well as formal and informal algebraic methods to solve problems. Connections will be made between components of mathematics and other disciplines of formal education. Topics will include: rational numbers, equations & terms, geometry, rates & percentages, functions, equations & inequalities, linear systems, and data & probability. This course will cover grade 7 standards in addition to the following grade 8 concepts: linear and non-linear relationships, the Pythagorean Theorem, and irrational numbers. Upon successful completion of this course, students will take High School Algebra I at the 8th grade level.

## Required Exploratory Rotation Classes – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Art 7 10 Weeks

Students will expand upon skills and techniques experienced in 6<sup>th</sup> grade art through assignments and projects utilizing two-dimensional and three-dimensional media and concepts. Students will not only delve deeper into the elements and principles of art and design, but expand upon their application. 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 experience art history and culture as well as gain awareness of how art is integrated into the world around us.

### Technology & Computer Science For the Digital Citizen 10 Weeks

This course is designed to develop Digital Citizenship skills for the 21st century learner. Students will gain an understanding of their impact on our interconnected digital world. Students will demonstrate HTML and CSS skills to produce a web page and will be challenged to design and create applications for mobile devices. These STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) based activities will allow students to become innovative designers and creative communicators.

### Physical Education 7 10 Weeks

The emphasis in seventh grade continues to be on increasing student knowledge and participation in activities that promote physical fitness. Seasonal sports and related skills are taught at a more advanced level, building on student experiences in sixth grade.

### Civic Life 10 Weeks

Active and responsible citizens identify and analyze public problems; deliberate with other people about how to define and address issues; take constructive, collaborative actions; reflect on their actions; create and sustain groups; and influence institutions both large and small (C3 Framework state standards for social studies). These skills are crucial to success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace and in college. Students need the capacity to work together to apply knowledge to real problems.

## Elective Classes – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Full Year Classes

#### Band 7 Full Year

7<sup>th</sup> grade band is a course for the developing musician. 6<sup>th</sup> grade band is a pre-requisite for this course. Classes may be in like-instrument groups. 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.

#### 7th Grade Beginning Band Full Year

*\* is intended for students who could did not start in 6th Grade, or for students who would benefit from re-starting*

Students are expected to provide an instrument that is in good working condition, a method book, and supplies (oil, reeds, etc.) Students do not need prior music experience to take this course. Music fundamentals are taught, including tone production, posture, breath control, note & rhythm reading, and musical terms. There may be several evening performances throughout the year. All performances are required and graded. Band is a year-long commitment. Students are expected to remain in band for the entire year. Families that are financially unable to provide necessary equipment may contact the Band Director.

## **Chorus 7 Full Year**

The Chorus is open to any 7<sup>th</sup> 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 further explore music theory, harmony, and choreography. Chorus members will be given the opportunity to sing a varied repertoire of music, including choral, popular, Broadway, world and jazz selections. Chorus students will also have the opportunity to attend regional choral workshops and events. This ensemble will perform at least two times during the year. Participation in all performances is required and a part of student evaluations. Special concert attire may be required.

## **DSET 7 – Designing Solutions through Engineering and Technology & Engineering and Mobile Robotics**

(Each class is one Semester)

### **Designing Solutions through Engineering and Technology Semester**

Student engineers will use the design process and the technology to solve selected societal problems. Various elements of science, technology, engineering mathematics, and career exploration will be incorporated into the projects and activities conducted throughout this 20 week class.

### **Engineering and Mobile Robotics Semester**

To provide students with positive experiences in Engineering and Robotics through the design process and hands-on projects. They will engage in exploration opportunities with open-ended challenges throughout this 20 week class.

## **High School French I Full 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 Spanish I Full 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 German I Full 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.**

## Semester Classes

### **Academic Literacy    Half year**

Academic Literacy focuses on increasing student reading engagement, accuracy, fluency and comprehension. Students will analyze key idea and details, study author's craft and develop strategies for comparing and contrasting multiple texts by the same author or on the same topic. Students will benefit from individualized learning plans and small class sizes focused on closing literacy achievement gaps. This course is available to students based on student data and teacher recommendation only.

### **Math Lab    Half year**

Math Lab focuses on providing students with a variety of essential skills and experiences to support and enrich their mathematics development. It is designed to help students improve on their mathematics work, through improving mathematics reasoning and number sense. This course includes, but is not limited to computational and problem solving skills, the number system, and ratios and proportional relationships. Math Lab is available to students based on student data and teacher recommendation only.

## Special Education – Course Descriptions

All Learning Resources Center (LRC) courses follow the general education curriculum and are designed to meet a student's individual needs. A student's placement is determined by an Individual Education Planning Committee (IEPC).

## Full Year Classes

### **LRC English Language Arts**

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**

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**

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**

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

### **LRC Lab**

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.

