



LAKE ORION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
MIDDLE SCHOOLS
Oakview • Scripps • Waldon

Middle School Curriculum Handbook

8th 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,

Sarah Perry
Sarah Perry
Oakview Principal

Dr. Dan Haas
Dr. Dan Haas
Scripps Principal

Dr. Randy Groya
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Welcome to 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

Semester – 2 per year (approximately 20 weeks)

Report Cards are issued at the end of each semester

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.

8th Grade Required Classes

- **STAR ~ Student/Teacher Affective Relationships**
- **English Language Arts**
- **Science**
- **American History**
- **Technology & Computer Science for the Empowered Learner**
- **Math 8 or High School Algebra 1 (Teacher recommendation required)**

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:

Students need to select a combination of yearlong and semester classes based on the following guidelines: 1 yearlong class and 1 semester class OR 3 semester classes.

Yearlong Classes

- Cadet Band (8) *(teacher recommendation)*
- Chorale (8)
- High School French I *(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)*
- Web *(Oakview application required)*

Semester Classes

- Creative Art (8)
- Forensics
- Physical Education (8)
- Media Productions

Required Course Descriptions – 8th 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 8

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 8

Science 8 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 8 will help prepare students for the 8th grade M-Step as well as Physical Science, Biology, and Earth Science in high school. Students will engage in Science and Engineering Practices and use Cross-Cutting Principles to explore: Energy, Earth Systems, History of Earth, Weather and Climate, Human Impacts on Earth Systems, Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms, Natural Selection and Adaptations, and Engineering, Technology and Applications of Science.

Social Studies

American History

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

Technology & Computer Science for the Empowered Learner

Semester

This course is designed to challenge students to become empowered learners through designing and managing technology. Students will explore and create innovative projects, emphasizing problem solving skills, concept integration, and collaborative activities. Projects will incorporate engaging activities such as robotics, computer programming, and an introduction to 3D printing and CADD (computer aided drafting and design). Students will gain the necessary skills for 21st century careers through communication technology, STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) concepts, software applications, and the design process.

Mathematics

Math 8

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

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

Full year Classes

Cadet Band Full 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 Full 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 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.

High School German II Full year

** This class is available at Scripps*

German II 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 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 Spanish II Full 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 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.

Publications/Yearbook Full year

Publications is an elective course for 8th graders which focuses on the creation and development of the Scripps Middle School yearbook. Students who apply to this class should have a strong ability to work independently, good organizational skills, quality writing skills, and basic computer skills. Students will learn to take quality pictures, develop concepts, create yearbook pages, work with others, and develop a true publication. Student laptops will be used daily to access a web-based publishing program. Application needed.

WEB (Where Everybody Belongs 8) Full year

** This class is available at Oakview*

This class has a goal of making the school a better place, especially for our 6th graders. As a member of WEB you'll be a leader at Oakview Middle School, you'll gain leadership experience, learn about different leadership styles, and practice leadership skills like public speaking, active listening, asking important questions, and developing a vision for how to help others. Application is needed.

Semester Classes

Media Productions Semester

In this class, students write, direct, and produce a news program that is broadcast on a weekly basis. This broadcast will include school announcements, special reports, sports, concerts, and other school and/or community events. Students will communicate information to the students and staff making use of television and video technology.

Creative Art 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.

Physical Education 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.

Forensics Semester

Forensics similar to a speech class. Throughout the semester students will learn skills to improve their public speaking (both content and presentation). They will prepare 4 presentations - Storytelling (putting on a "one man show" retelling a children's story), Sales (researching a product/delivering a sales pitch), Poetry (editing together and presenting a set of poems on a common theme), and Informative (researching a topic/delivering a speech on it) - as well as making multiple impromptu speeches. There is a lot of independent work time to prepare and memorize speeches, and the small class size provides multiple opportunities to practice public speaking skills.

Academic Literacy Semester

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 Semester

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).

Yearlong 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.