

STEFFEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Course Descriptions 2014-2015



Mission Statement

Steffen Middle School fosters students' intellectual, emotional, and social growth by promoting mutual respect, high expectations, and personal integrity. As a community, our staff, students, and families cultivate lifelong learning and responsible citizenship in today's global society.

Mequon-Thiensville School District Middle School Curriculum Overview

In the Mequon-Thiensville School District, every middle school student is engaged in rigorous coursework in the content areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and World Language (French, Latin and Spanish). In addition to the core academics and languages, the district also values preparing our students for college and career readiness. To develop proficiency in informational technology, middle school students also receive indirect instruction in keyboarding, database, spreadsheets, drawing tools, and multi-media presentation. Students and teachers in all grades are encouraged to apply their technology skills in classroom activities and projects. The English Language Arts curriculum is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Students are taught using the integrated literacy model of instruction. Reading, writing, speaking, thinking, and listening are interrelated. Sub skills of the literacy program, such as spelling, grammar, and vocabulary analysis are taught and reinforced through a unified curriculum. Technology is integrated throughout the ELA curriculum. Flexible grouping is also used to meet the needs of learners.

The middle school philosophy embraces the interdisciplinary approach to teaching...it facilitates a deeper, more engaged learning experience for all students. Middle school teachers in all curricular areas continually encourage students to make connections among disciplines.

Sixth	Seventh	Eighth
English Language Arts	English Language Arts	English Language Arts
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics
Science	Science	Science
Social Studies (Ancient Civilizations)	Social Studies (United States)	Social Studies (World History/Geography)
P.I.E. Positive Intervention & Enrichment	P.I.E Positive Intervention & Enrichment	P.I.E. Positive Intervention & Enrichment
Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education
<u>Related Arts/Exploration</u> Art Family and Consumer Science Financial Literacy Project Lead the Way Wellness	<u>Electives/Related Arts</u> Art Family and Consumer Science Project Lead the Way	<u>Electives/Related Arts</u> Art Family and Consumer Science Project Lead the Way
	<u>World Language</u> French Latin Spanish	<u>World Language</u> French Latin Spanish
<u>Fine Arts</u> Band Chorus Orchestra	<u>Fine Arts & AVID</u> AVID 7 Band Chorus Orchestra	<u>Fine Arts & AVID</u> AVID 8 Band Chorus Orchestra

6th Grade Course Descriptions

English Language Arts

The English Language Arts curriculum is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Students are taught using the integrated literacy model of instruction. Reading, writing, speaking, thinking, and listening are interrelated. Sub skills of the literacy program, such as spelling, grammar, and vocabulary analysis are taught and reinforced through a unified curriculum. Technology is integrated throughout the ELA curriculum. Flexible grouping is used to meet the needs of learners.

Math

The Common Core State Standards and the Standards drive sixth grade math for Mathematical Practice. The standards are taught using the MathThematics curriculum and a supplemental unit on Ratio & Proportional Reasoning. In addition, students will utilize Conceptua, a visual and conceptual online math curriculum, to learn division with fractions. Students are engaged in units that allow for the deeper understanding of one main domain at a time. Students will experience math through concrete models, visual representations, and abstract ideas, which allow for hands-on opportunities in the classroom and conversations which involve higher-level thinking skills. The Standards for Mathematical Practice are utilized to ensure students are gaining a deep and thorough understanding of concepts through perseverance, precision, communication, and the use of multiple strategies while solving problems.

Science

The science curriculum challenges all students to become scientifically literate. The science curriculum includes units in the areas of earth, life and physical sciences. The curriculum promotes curiosity about everyday experiences and the ability to describe, explain and predict natural phenomena. Units of study include a hands-on approach using inquiry, problem-solving, and critical/ creative thinking. Students become familiar with modes of scientific inquiry, rules of evidence, logical argument, and skeptical review. Flexible grouping is used to meet the needs of all learners.

Social Studies

Sixth grade social studies introduces world history, culture, and geography. Students explore the methods and techniques geographers, archaeologists, historians, and other scholars use to analyze and learn about the past. The various units of study provide a chronological overview of the major ancient civilizations in world history from early hunter-gatherer societies to the Renaissance. Current events are also a component of the sixth grade social studies curriculum.

P.I.E

P.I.E. stands for Positive Intervention and Enrichment. P.I.E. was added to the schedule this year to support the State of Wisconsin's commitment to ensuring all students are college and career ready. RTI, or Response to Intervention, focuses on remediation in the areas of math and reading for those students that are not performing at grade level. Additionally, it provides time to provide enrichment opportunities (called Anchor Programming) for the remainder of the student body, focusing on topics that may not otherwise be part of the curriculum. Students will be placed in intervention groups based on their NWEA MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) scores. When they have attained the skills they need to sufficiently close the achievement gap between their achievement and their grade level peers, they will return to the Anchor Programming. Anchor programming provides students with a variety of engaging enrichment opportunities. Students demonstrating

the need for additional acceleration through the Gifted and Talented Program will also be served during this time through the enrichment opportunities, as well as specific programming that is in the process of being identified at the district level. Tier 1, tier 2 and tier 3 interventions are in place to support the academic success for all students through high quality instruction, continuous review of student progress and collaboration.

Physical Education

This course provides each student the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive program consisting of skill development, lead up games, team sports and physical fitness activities. The curriculum is designed to enhance the cognitive, motor, affective and fitness development of each student. Students will receive instruction in rules and strategies associated with a variety of sports, as well as learning experiences that prompt students to question, analyze and communicate concepts. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in individual sports, which encourage lifelong involvement in physical activity. The program promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play and friendly competition. Sixth grade students will develop the motor skills and movement patterns necessary to perform a variety of physical activities.

Related Arts Exploration

Art

Sixth grade students meet daily for 7 1/2 weeks. Art class is a time for students to develop and enrich basic art skills such as drawing, composition, design and color theory. A variety of media choices are explored through both two and three-dimensional projects. All students keep a journal of design plans, demonstration/process notes, sketches and ideas. Besides continuing to develop general art skills, students learn about the impact of art on their daily lives through hands-on art activities. A variety of media choices, such as papier-mâché, paint and drawing are explored in both two and three-dimensional projects. The work of established artists, along with art from others around the world, is used for study and reference.

Family and Consumer Science (FACS)

The sixth grade Family and Consumer Science curriculum consists of a variety of topics, such as babysitting safety and Shaken Baby Syndrome, goal setting, kitchen safety and sanitation, nutrition and sewing. The babysitting and Shaken Baby Syndrome unit will allow students to learn about proper care of young children and the danger associated with Shaken Baby Syndrome. The kitchen safety and sanitation units will allow the students to work in small groups and they will have the ability to prepare food products. The sewing unit requires students to purchase a sewing kit and complete their "pillow" project by the end of the rotation. This rotation is 7 1/2 weeks long and is filled with hands on activities that help promote and build lifelong skills for the future.

Financial Literacy

Financial Literacy is a course designed to provide students with practical money management skills and as an introduction to career assessment and financial planning. Course work covers the fundamentals of money management and responsibility, bank services, career research, risk management, comparison-shopping and consumer protection.

Project Lead the Way (PLTW)

Students meet daily for 7 1/2 weeks in the PLTW course Design & Modeling. Students are exposed to a variety of projects in the field of technology and engineering. Students will work independently and in teams to utilize computer aided drafting, geometry, problem solving, and project management skills to complete projects that are reflective of real world problems and issues.

Wellness

The six dimensions of Wellness will be introduced in this course. These include physical, social, intellectual, mental, emotional, spiritual and environmental wellness. Students will take an individual Wellness Assessment to determine their level of wellness as relates to each dimension. During this course, students will learn basic nutrition information, appropriate first aid techniques, the components of fitness and how drugs affect the body. Depending on time, other topics such as environment, how to form meaningful relationships, and how the brain influences our behaviors and decisions might also be introduced.

Fine Arts (Band, Orchestra, Choir)

This class provides the opportunity for students to study instrumental and/or choral music. The literature used exposes students to a variety of forms and styles, as well as instruction in musical elements. In addition to two full group rehearsals per week, students will receive small-group sectional rehearsals as well.

7th Grade Course Descriptions

English Language Arts

The English Language Arts curriculum is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Students are taught using the integrated literacy model of instruction. Reading, writing, speaking, thinking, and listening are interrelated. Sub skills of the literacy program, such as spelling, grammar, and vocabulary analysis are taught and reinforced through a unified curriculum. Technology is integrated throughout the ELA curriculum. Flexible grouping is used to meet the needs of learners.

Mathematics

The Common Core State Standards and the Standards drive seventh grade math for Mathematical Practice. The standards are taught using the MathThematics curriculum and a supplemental unit on Ratio & Proportional Reasoning. Students are engaged in units that allow for the deeper understanding of one main domain at a time. Students will experience math through concrete models, visual representations, and abstract ideas, which allow for hands-on opportunities in the classroom, and conversations which involve higher-level thinking skills. The Standards for Mathematical Practice are utilized to ensure students are gaining a deep and thorough understanding of concepts through perseverance, precision, communication, and the use of multiple strategies while solving problems.

Science

The science curriculum challenges all students to become scientifically literate. The science curriculum includes units in the areas of earth, life and physical sciences. The curriculum promotes curiosity about everyday experiences and the ability to describe, explain and predict natural phenomena. Units of study include a hands-on approach using inquiry, problem-solving, and critical/ creative thinking. Students become familiar with modes of scientific inquiry, rules of evidence, logical argument, and skeptical review. The seventh grade units of study include Earth and Space, Organisms-Macro to Micro, and Sound/Light.

Social Studies

U.S. History is the primary emphasis for seventh grade. Seventh grade utilizes a thematic approach to the teaching of social studies. Political science and citizenship, economics and the behavioral sciences are taught within the context of U.S. History, which includes the Constitution to the present with an emphasis on the years 1787-1877. Geography is taught within the context of the history of the United States. Current events are also a part of the seventh grade social studies curriculum.

P.I.E.

P.I.E. stands for Positive Intervention and Enrichment. P.I.E. was added to the schedule this year to support the State of Wisconsin's commitment to ensuring all students are college and career ready. RTI, or Response to Intervention, focuses on remediation in the areas of math and reading for those students that are not performing at grade level. Additionally, it provides time to provide enrichment opportunities (called Anchor Programming) for the remainder of the student body, focusing on topics that may not otherwise be part of the curriculum. Students will be placed in intervention groups based on their NWEA MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) scores. When they have attained the skills they need to sufficiently close the achievement gap between their achievement and their grade level peers, they will return to the Anchor Programming. Anchor

programming provides students with a variety of engaging enrichment opportunities. Students demonstrating the need for additional acceleration through the Gifted and Talented Program will also be served during this time through the enrichment opportunities, as well as specific programming that is in the process of being identified at the district level. Tier 1, tier 2 and tier 3 interventions are in place to support the academic success for all students through high quality instruction, continuous review of student progress and collaboration.

Physical Education

This course provides each student the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive program consisting of skill development, lead up games, team sports and physical fitness activities. The curriculum is designed to enhance the cognitive, motor, affective and fitness development of each student. Students will receive instruction in rules and strategies associated with a variety of sports, as well as learning experiences that prompt students to question, analyze and communicate concepts. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in individual sports, which encourage lifelong involvement in physical activity. The program promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play and friendly competition.

Seventh grade students will acquire knowledge related to movement concepts, principles and strategies that apply to the learning and performance of physical activities.

Related Arts

Art

Art class is a time for students to develop and enrich basic art skills such as drawing, composition, design and color theory. A variety of media choices are explored through both two and three-dimensional projects. All students keep a journal of design plans, color study, drawing techniques, demonstration/process notes, sketches and ideas. Besides continuing to develop general art skills, students learn about the impact of art on their daily lives through hands-on art activities. A variety of media choices, such as drawing materials, clay, painting, bookmaking, scratch art and ink are explored in both two and three-dimensional projects. The work of established artists, along with art from others around the world is used for study and reference. The curriculum articulates the knowledge, skills and understandings developed in our art program. The specific art experiences and projects may differ each year, but the learning goals and outcomes remain the same. 7th grade Art is an elective that meets every other day for the entire year, or students may elect to take Art every day for the entire year.

Family and Consumer Science (FACS)

The seventh grade Family and Consumer Science curriculum consists of a variety of topics related to nutrition. Students will have an in-depth study of abbreviations/ measuring equivalents, vegetarian diets, dietary guidelines, MyPlate, teen issues and eating disorders, and nutrition labels. In addition, we will discuss meats, grains, snacks, fruits and vegetables, and essential nutrients. Students will have the opportunity to prepare food products related to the topic of study. We will also discuss topics related to community service, family and leadership. 7th grade FACS is an elective that meets every other day for the entire year, or students may elect to take FACS every day for the entire year.

Project Lead the Way (PLTW)

The seventh grade curriculum is divided into the following areas of concentration: Science of Technology, Magic of Electrons, and Energy & the Environment. The Project Lead the Way curriculum addresses the interest and energy of middle school students and incorporates national standards for science, technology, mathematics and language arts. Student lessons, activities, and projects are designed to show students how technology is used to solve problems and is reflective of their everyday lives. Students are encouraged to work collaboratively in teams with definitive structure and goals to solve technological issues. Seventh grade PLTW

is an elective that meets every other day for the entire year, or students may elect to take PLTW every day for the entire year.

World Language

French

Seventh grade is the beginning of the equivalent of French I at the high school. During this year we look at the basis of the French language and culture. We explore and consider how the French live and compare and contrast it with how we live. Construction and memorization of basic sentences while moving towards creative use of the language are the goals of 7th grade. Students need to be willing to review and study a little bit every day so as to create a strong language base upon which a rich study of French can be built! Students who have successfully completed 7th grade French will have a solid foundation in the language for study in the 8th grade and beyond. This course is a yearlong course and meets every other day.

Latin

Seventh grade Latin introduces the language, history, and culture of the ancient Romans by following the adventures of Caecilius Iucundus, a Roman citizen who lived in Pompeii before it was destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. This course develops Latin vocabulary, introduces grammar such as the formation of subjects and objects, and hones the ability to recognize Latin roots in English words. In addition, a large portion of curriculum focuses on the cultural background of the ancient Romans. Highlights include mythology, daily life in Pompeii, the ancient theater, and gladiators. Students who have successfully completed 7th grade Latin will have a solid foundation in the language for study in the 8th grade and beyond. This course is a yearlong course and meets every other day.

Spanish

Seventh grade Spanish is an every other day program in which students will learn basic conversation, how to communicate their likes and dislikes, describe themselves and others and talk about their class schedules and classroom objects. A variety of grammar points, verb conjugations and cultural aspects are incorporated to ensure student success. Students will focus on speaking, reading and writing of the language in order to have a comprehensive understanding of integral concepts. This course represents the first part of Spanish 1 at the high school and continues with the 8th grade Spanish program. This course is a yearlong course and meets every other day.

AVID 7, Band, Orchestra & Chorus

AVID 7

The seventh grade AVID Elective course is a college readiness system. Students receive instruction utilizing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum provided by AVID Center, tutor facilitated study groups, motivational activities and academic success skills. In AVID students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading to support their academic growth. Students will refine short and long-term goals and, as a result, begin to understand the value in taking charge of their actions. Students will work on intrapersonal and interpersonal skills, as well as formal and informal speech. Students will complete self-evaluations and peer evaluations related to reading, writing, organization and speaking. In broadening their writing practice, students will begin considering audience, purpose and form in their writing. Students will take an active role in their learning. They will expand their knowledge bases of note taking in relation to studying and test preparation.

Band, Orchestra & Chorus

This class provides the opportunity for students to study instrumental and/or choral music. The literature used exposes students to a variety of forms and styles, as well as instruction in musical elements. In addition to two full group rehearsals per week, students will receive small-group sectional rehearsals as well.

8th Grade Course Descriptions

English Language Arts

The English Language Arts curriculum is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Students are taught using the integrated literacy model of instruction. Reading, writing, speaking, thinking, and listening are interrelated. Sub skills of the literacy program, such as spelling, grammar, and vocabulary analysis are taught and reinforced through a unified curriculum. Technology is integrated throughout the ELA curriculum. Flexible grouping is used to meet the needs of learners.

Mathematics

Pre-Algebra

The Common Core State Standards and the Standards drive eighth grade math for Mathematical Practice. The standards are taught using the Glencoe Pre-Algebra book with supplemental units on linear equations. Students are engaged in units that allow for the deeper understanding of one main domain at a time. Students will experience math through concrete models, visual representations, and abstract ideas, which allow for hands-on opportunities in the classroom and conversations, which involve higher-level thinking skills. The Standards for Mathematical Practice are utilized to ensure students are gaining a deep and thorough understanding of concepts through perseverance, precision, communication, and the use of multiple strategies while solving problems.

Foundations of Algebra

The Common Core State Standards and the Standards drive eighth grade math for Mathematical Practice. The standards are taught using the Glencoe Pre-Algebra book with supplemental units on linear equations. Extensions with algebraic reasoning will allow students to engage in higher-level reasoning needed to be successful in honors algebra. Students will experience math through concrete models, visual representations, and abstract ideas, which allow for hands-on opportunities in the classroom and conversations, which involve higher-level thinking skills. The Standards for Mathematical Practice are utilized to ensure students are gaining a deep and thorough understanding of concepts through perseverance, precision, communication, and the use of multiple strategies while solving problems.

Honors Algebra

This is a rigorous mathematics course stressing deductive reasoning. This course is structured to challenge mathematical minds. Major topics of the Honors Algebra 1 curriculum will include linear equations, linear systems, factoring of polynomials, algebraic fractions, and techniques of graphing, radicals and exponents, quadratic equations, an introduction to functions, mathematical induction, and probability. Grade 8 is the same curriculum as the Honors Algebra 1 course taught at the high school. Some middle school concepts are reviewed with more depth to ensure mastery for the middle school students.

Science

The science curriculum challenges all students to become scientifically literate. The science curriculum includes units in the areas of life and physical sciences with emphasis on the study of the Human Body and Properties of Matter. The year concludes with a culminating project integrating life, physical and earth sciences. The curriculum promotes curiosity about everyday experiences and the ability to describe, explain and predict natural phenomena. Units of study include a hands-on approach using inquiry, problem-solving, and critical/creative thinking. Students become familiar with modes of scientific inquiry, rules of evidence, logical argument, and skeptical review. Within the classroom, flexible grouping helps to meet the needs of all learners.

Social Studies

The major theme for social studies is world geography. Content of the course addresses physical geography and cultural, economic, social and political developments in the major regions of the world: Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and Eurasia. Students also integrate knowledge of specific historical eras into their study of regions of the world. Students are expected to monitor current event magazine, specific Internet sites, newspapers and other media to develop an understanding of current issues affecting these areas. Map skills and geographic literacy are incorporated throughout the year. Research skills utilizing technology and nonfiction text is an integral part of the curriculum.

P.I.E

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Physical Education

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Related Arts

Art

Art class is a time for students to develop and enrich basic art skills such as drawing, composition, design and color theory. A variety of media choices are explored through both two and three-dimensional projects. All students keep a journal of design plans, color study, drawing techniques, demonstration/process notes, sketches and ideas. Besides continuing to develop general art skills, students learn about the impact of art on their daily lives through hands-on art activities. A variety of media choices, such as clay, plaster, paint, art metals (jewelry), collage, printmaking and mixed media are explored in both two and three-dimensional projects. The work of established artists, along with art from others around the world is used for study and reference.

The curriculum articulates the knowledge, skills and understandings developed in our art program. The specific art experiences and projects may differ each year, but the learning goals and outcomes remain the same. This course meets every day for a semester, or students can elect to take Art both semesters.

Family and Consumer Science (FACS)

The eighth grade Family and Consumer Science class students expand on their knowledge of nutrition and expand their skills in the kitchen. Throughout the nutrition unit, we discuss dietary concerns, safety in the kitchen and proper food handling techniques. We discuss foods from other lands and connect material in my class to their 8th grade social studies curriculum. Students get a chance to learn about another culture by creating a restaurant in a small group. Throughout the project, students use knowledge gained in their ELA courses to enhance their writing skills. Throughout this unit students will learn menu planning skills and about entrepreneurship. Students will have the ability to prepare food products related to their topic of study. This course meets every day for a semester, or students can elect to take FACS both semesters.

Project Lead The Way (PLTW)

The eighth grade PLTW program expands what students have learned in the 6th and 7th grades. The program helps students understand what robots are used for and the effect they have on our lives. Students will also experience how a robot receives information through various sources. Students will end the robotics course by constructing robots and writing computer code to program. They will build, model, and test solutions to solve complex automated problems. Students will work in teams to construct a fluid powered device and use their device to compete against other middle school students. Students will also experience the opportunity to design and wind tunnel test a F1 race car, discover green architecture, and end the year studying the history of aerospace through hands-on activities and research. This course meets every day for a semester, or students can elect to take PLTW both semesters.

World Languages

French

Eighth grade French places emphasis on vocabulary acquisition, verbs, and grammar. Students take more control of their learning and strive to use French frequently. With regards to culture, we look specifically at how the French view friendship, how they shop, how they value travel and vacations, and how food plays a critical role in their lives. Students successfully completing 8th grade French are well on their way to an AP curriculum as seniors in high school! This course is a yearlong course and meets every day.

Latin

Eighth grade Latin will study the Roman world from the perspective of Caecilius and his family. This course will further develop the student's Latin vocabulary and his/her ability to recognize Latin roots in English words. A large portion of this course examines the cultural background of the ancient Romans. Highlights include Roman elections, mythology, Roman Britain, and Egypt. Students who have successfully completed 8th grade Latin will be well equipped to move on to Latin 2A at the high school. This course is a yearlong course and meets every day.

Spanish

Eighth grade Spanish is a continuation of seventh grade curriculum. Together these two courses are the equivalent of the Spanish 1 program at the high school level. The main themes studied include a food and restaurant unit, talking about places to go and what to do, describing family relationships, and discussing rooms of the house along with household chores. All of these themes have cultural connections from a variety of Spanish-speaking countries. Students who successfully complete the Spanish seventh and eighth grade language programs are eligible to enroll in Spanish 2 as freshmen. This course is a yearlong course and meets every day.

AVID 8, Band, Orchestra & Choir**AVID 8**

The eighth grade AVID Elective course is the year of preparation for high school. The students will regularly exhibit and utilize the skills and strategies learned in the seventh grade AVID course. Students will refine previous goals focusing on their transition to high school as part of a college preparatory path. Their writing will focus on completing all steps of the writing process and varying style, word choice, vocabulary, structure and voice. Major writing assignments include persuasive, expository, descriptive and timed writing. Students will transition from active learners to leaders. Other areas of focus include increasing the use of technology and building upon their test preparation and test-taking knowledge. They will broaden their experiences with analyzing text and utilizing appropriate reading strategies in various settings. Students will become more involved in the presentations of guest speakers and field trips, particularly as they relate to preparation and prior knowledge. Students will also participate in college preparatory testing and build connections with the high school they will attend.

Band, Orchestra & Chorus

This class provides the opportunity for students to study instrumental and/or choral music. The literature used exposes students to a variety of forms and styles, as well as instruction in musical elements. In addition to two full group rehearsals per week, students will receive small-group sectional rehearsals as well.