

REQUIRED FULL YEAR COURSES

Mathematics

Meeting the Common Core State Standards, our eighth grade math course offerings are as follows:

Integrated 1:

This is a 9th grade equivalent math course that combines Algebra 1, Geometry, and Statistical Concepts together in a collaborative, problem solving, and group-based curriculum.

College Preparatory Math 8:

This course focuses on introduction to Algebra, Geometry, and Statistical concepts.

Math Lab:

This *assigned* course is determined by teacher recommendation.

Math Lab is taken in conjunction with College Prep Math (two math classes per day). This class is designed to support and pre-teach concepts and skills that are being taught in the College Prep class.

*Students will continue in their current placement unless contacted by their math teacher.

Science (8th grade)

Students will apply their knowledge from previous years as they study changes in the Earth, energy transformations involved with chemical reactions in living systems, genetics and the impact of environmental conditions on organisms, and force, energy and motion. Students plan investigations, collect and analyze data, and use models to construct explanations in order to help explain the world around them.

Language Arts

This course integrates the art of reading, writing, listening, and speaking in a number of projects throughout the year. Projects will be conducted in research, science fiction, and historical literature. Study of the short story as a literary genre, written responses to books, various expository writing skills, as well as lessons on grammar, usage, spelling and vocabulary (as needed) will also be covered.

Social Studies

Eighth grade social studies focuses on American history, encompassing the era of the U.S. Constitution up to and including the Reconstruction Era following the Civil War. In addition to studying the content as it pertains to economics, civics, and geography, emphasis is on developing the necessary organizational, study and thinking skills required in high school.

ELECTIVES – FULL YEAR

World Language Full Year – counts as two electives

Students will continue their studies of French, Chinese or Spanish from the seventh grade. Emphasis will be on continuing the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, as well as the understanding of the Chinese, French, or Spanish speaking people and their culture. NOTE: Students in the full year French and Chinese courses will be expected to enter Level Two in high school. If a student takes Spanish all three years, there is an opportunity to place into Spanish 3 at the beginning of their freshmen year in high school. Students may have an opportunity to participate in a related language trip if they meet the trip eligibility requirement designated by the language teacher.

Music

Chorale (full year – counts as two electives)

This advanced mixed choir is for the voice student whose goal is to be part of an outstanding musical performing group. This performing group is open to all 8th graders that have taken choir for at least 2 years. Choir is open by **audition only** to 8th grade students who have not participated in 6th and 7th grade. Chorale is for highly motivated singers who want to be a part of an outstanding performance ensemble. This full year elective has a large performance schedule, including choral festival in March and travel to Chicago for an overnight trip in May to perform competitively, attend Six Flags Amusement Park and see the sites in and around Chicago. Each Choir member also has the opportunity to attend a solo and ensemble festival to orient his or her performance to a more individual and small group setting. The Derby choir consistently receives superior, outstanding, and excellent ratings at our choral competitions every year and is recognized as one of the top choral programs in the State of Michigan. Attendance is required at all performances.

Symphony Band (full year – counts as two electives)

Symphony Band is for wind and percussion players whose goal it is to be a part of an outstanding musical performing group. This performing group is open to all 8th graders that have taken band for at least 2 years. The focus for this group will be on performance. Symphony members will attend a band festival in March, and travel to Mackinac Island in May where they will perform, attend a music clinic and experience other sites in and around the Island. The band will participate in other special activities during the school year to build camaraderie within the group and develop teamwork concepts. Each band member also has the opportunity to perform at MSBOA Solo and Ensemble Festival as a soloist or in a small ensemble. Symphony Band (full year – counts as two electives) students must complete 8th grade band in order to elect high school band the following year.

Symphony Orchestra (full year – counts as two electives)

Symphony Orchestra is for string players whose goal it is to be a part of an outstanding musical performing group. This performing group is open to all 8th graders that have taken orchestra for at least 2 years. Symphony members will attend an orchestra festival in March, travel to Chicago for an overnight trip in May where they will perform competitively, attend Six Flags Amusement Park and see the sites in and around Chicago. The orchestra will plan several social events throughout the school year to build camaraderie within the group and develop teamwork concepts. Members of this ensemble will have an opportunity to perform with the Seaholm Orchestra in the annual “Masquerade” concert in October. Each orchestra member also has the opportunity to perform at MSBOA Solo and Ensemble Festival as a soloist or in a small chamber ensemble. For more information about the Derby Orchestra Program, please visit <http://www.derbyorchestra.weebly.com>.

ELECTIVES – ONE SEMESTER ONLY

Please understand that if you are signing up for a class that you have already taken in 7th grade, the curriculum will not be modified.

ART

Art by Design (7th and 8th Grade One Semester)

Art by Design is a course focusing on digital Graphic Design, Digital Photography and Computerized Art using Adobe Creative Suites: Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop and Digital SLR cameras. Students will work with the Elements of Design and the Principles of Art. This class will primarily focus on small and large scale two dimensional art. Some projects may include: Typography, Portrait Grid Drawing, Cover Design, Poster Design, Digital Photography and Editing, Computerized Layout, and more. The highlights of this class will include: Digital Portfolio Development, Digital Photography and Editing, Logo Design and Development, Advertising, and Magazine/Book/Game/CD Cover Design, Computerized Portraits, and Typography designs. Students will be able to take home large scale prints they create.

Adventures in Art (7th and 8th Grade One Semester)

Students will be exposed to a variety of two and three dimensional art work in this class. Experiences in this class will increase creative thinking skills. Some projects may include: Tessellations, the study of Art History, the study of Color Theory focusing on Monochromatic Acrylic Painting, Digital Photography, Large Scale Rubber Carving, and Water Based Printmaking. The highlights of this class will include: Silk Screening, Magazine Bowls, Metals with Etching and Letter Stamping, Dry Point Etching with Oil Based Printmaking, a Graphic Design project using Adobe Creative Suites: Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop, and more.

Art Exploration (7th and 8th Grade One Semester)

The course will increase students' skill levels in art with each unit presented. Students in this course will be exposed to, and will work with two and three dimensional works of art. Some projects may include: Sketchbooks, Color Theory and Watercolor Painting, Large Scale Clay vessels, Glazing, Triptych Rubber Carving and Water Based Printmaking, and the refinement of Drawing skills. The highlights of this class will include: Metals with Etching and Letter Stamping, Digital Photography with Computerized Art, and an Andy Warhol style Graphic Design project using Adobe Creative Suites: Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop, and more.

Engineering Technology

Applied Engineering Technology

This course is for 7th & 8th grade boys or girls who would like to further apply their skills in the exciting field of engineering. Individually, students will design and manufacture a robotic gripper to apply their knowledge of simple machines. In teams students will use a VEX robotic system to be introduced to the world of robotics in an engaging manner. Students will research, design, and manufacture an automated robot to meet a specific challenge. Autodesk Inventor 3D CAD software is included with the VEX kits. This 3D software can be used by students to produce 3D mechanical designs, and to perform product simulations to test their design ideas before attempting fabrication of the actual model. This is a direct correlation to the real world; STEM is a prominent component of the entire process. No student is left behind, emphases is placed on the students' opportunity to work within their strengths to contribute to the team goal.

Computer Aided Design

This course is for 7th & 8th grade boys and girls interested in engineering drawing and design. Students will be exposed to a variety of drawing techniques and computer aided design programs (2-D, 3-D, pattern development software) to learn the fundamentals of communicating engineering ideas. Students will demonstrate their communication and engineering skills through the development of a Magnetic Levitation Vehicle.

Exploring Engineering Technology

This course is for 7th & 8th grade boys and girls who wish to continue the Engineering Technology experience. Students will enhance their knowledge of the engineering process through a variety of applications, including, but not limited to, computer drawing, CO2 car design and fabrication and biotechnology. Students' engineering skills will be demonstrated when they race their CO2 cars in a competition against others in the class.

Life Skills

Engage

The design and purpose of this course is to provide a collaborative space for students to inquire, design and create through inquiry-based learning. Students will explore questions, challenges, topics or technologies of interest, at their own pace, and in directions of their choosing with the guidance of the teacher. Students will plan and reflect on their creations, processes, successes and difficulties through multimodal learning. The goal of this program is to prepare students for global learning opportunities by engaging their interest and imagination in science, technology,

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engineering, arts and math. Students will develop their cognitive processes of analysis, comparison, inference, evaluation, and synthesis applied to a range of academic domains and problem solving contexts.

Skills for Success

This semester course is designed to give students practical experiences in food preparation and management. There is an emphasis on kitchen safety, utilizing different types of equipment, and kitchen math and measurement. Lab experiences build upon this knowledge throughout the semester as students move from preparing simple snacks, to learning about the differences in quick breads and yeast breads, to demonstrating knife cuts and proper usage when preparing and making stir fry; just to name a few! Financial literacy and nutrition topics are infused throughout the semester as well. Financial literacy provides basic understanding of needs versus wants and budgeting through the use of online simulations. Communication, decision making, problem solving, and positive social skills are the building blocks to success in this course.

World Language

World Language

Students will continue their studies of French, Chinese or Spanish from the seventh grade. Emphasis will be on continuing the development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills as well as the understanding of the Chinese, French or Spanish speaking people and their culture.

Other

Literacy RS 8 (Reading Specialist recommendation only)

Literacy is a small group reading intervention that provides students with an opportunity to strengthen their vocabulary skills, practice fluency and focus on using comprehension strategies (inferring, making connections, questioning, visualizing, etc.) within narrative and informational texts. Students also have an opportunity to strengthen their writing skills through writer's workshop sessions. Students who qualify for this course are typically less than one year below grade level in reading and would benefit from additional reading instruction. A certified Reading Specialist, who is a member of the district reading department, will instruct this course.

**Note – Literacy 6 students meet every other day for the whole school year. Literacy 7 and Literacy 8 students meet for one semester of the school year.*

Yearbook

Eighth grade students have the opportunity to help record the history of Derby Middle School by enrolling in the Yearbook class. Students enrolled in the Yearbook class will create the Derby Yearbook from scratch. Yearbook will allow students to gain skills in areas such as drawn and computerized page design and layout, digital and manual photography, copy writing, headline creation and caption writing. Students will receive the opportunity to work with many technological programs using an online platform, and will learn to use programs such as Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, and the Walsworth Yearbook Online Design program. Students will learn to apply the skills learned pertaining to deadlines, creativity and teamwork to their daily routines while creating a lasting school history. Students enrolled in the yearbook class will also have the opportunity to design and develop the 8th grade movie using Apple iMovie.

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Digital Media Production (Previously called *Newspaper*)

Offered to 7th and 8th graders, students will learn and apply skills for writing newspapers, both digital and print, and directing broadcast shows. Additionally, students will market and distribute their papers and shows. Technical skills will be taught and honed using industry-standard software such as Adobe InDesign and Newtek Tricaster. In addition to in-class projects, optional extracurricular opportunities will be available for broadcasting shows and running tech during school events.

Physical Education 8

8th grade students only will participate in activities that are designed to help them understand and value physical fitness and its contribution towards a healthy lifestyle. They will also develop skills and game strategies in Frisbee golf, badminton and more traditional lifetime sports such as volleyball, soccer, basketball and swimming.

Strategies (Teacher/Counselor Recommendation Needed)

Strategies is a small group intervention that supports students in their particular area(s) of need such as organization, goal setting, time management, study skills, test taking and homework completion.

AARI

AARI is a semester long, intensive intervention that accelerates reading comprehension and critical thinking in informational text. AARI emphasizes small group instruction that meets students where they are and accelerates their reading through instruction built around community, text-based inferencing and critical thinking, question/answer relationships, questioning the author and text structure. Students who qualify for this course are typically more than one year behind their peers in reading. This course is taught by a trained AARI instructor.

(Teacher/Counselor Recommendation Needed)

LINKS

Students may elect to work with Special Needs students during an elective hour. Students will assist in supporting the students during academic and vocational activities, including special needs PE. All students will need a counselor recommendation to take this course.

Reading Enrichment

This course is intended for already *strong readers* to enrich their reading skills through class discussions about novels and informational texts. Students will be challenged to use critical thinking skills to dig deeper into texts in order to gain a deeper understanding of what they are reading. This course requires students to read additional novels/texts and work on literacy-based projects.

Revised 1/13/20