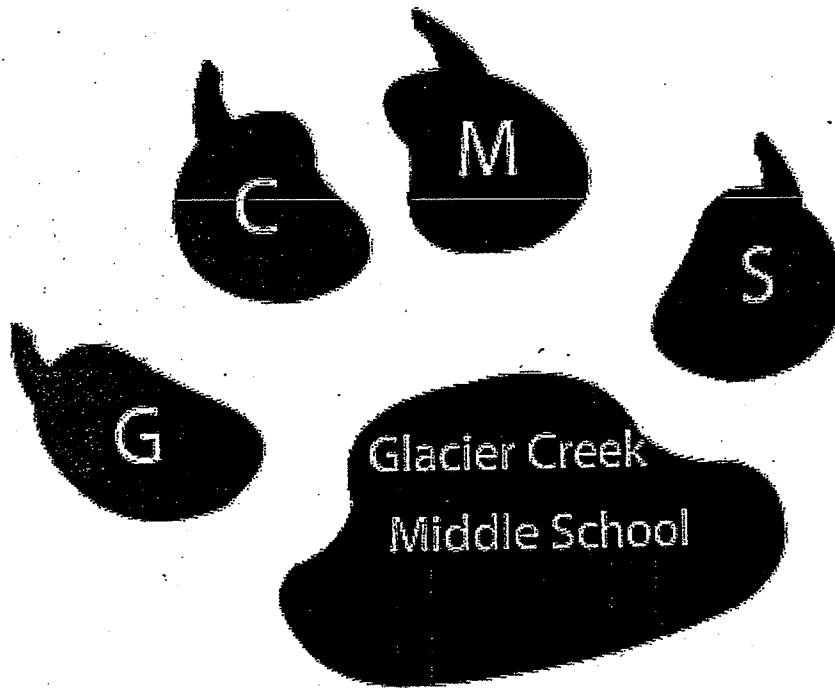


Glacier Creek Middle School  
Middleton-Cross Plains  
Area School District  
6th Grade



Created by:  
Zach Thomson

2011 – 2012  
Course Description Booklet

## **MIDDLETON-CROSS PLAINS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **Non-Discriminatory Statement**

The Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District is committed to equal educational opportunity for all students in the district.

It is the policy of the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District, pursuant to s.188.13, WI Status., and PI 9 that no person, on the basis of sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability, may be denied admission to any school in this District or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extra curricular, pupil services, recreational, or other program. This policy also prohibits discrimination as defined by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 (sex), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race and national origin), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District has adopted a policy and procedure on nondiscrimination. If you believe the District is discriminating against one of the protected classes listed above, please obtain a copy of the policy, procedure and complaint form from the District Administrative Center.

Questions or concerns regarding nondiscrimination should be directed to the Director of Curriculum/Assistant Superintendent for Educational Programs, District Administrative Center 7106 South Avenue, Middleton, Wisconsin 53562, 608-829-9000.

## **GLACIER CREEK POLICY CONCERNING SPECIFIC ACADEMIC BLOCK PLACEMENT REQUESTS**

**Due to program limitations (i.e. specific math programs, support structures provided to teacher teams, or reading programs scheduled in alignment with individual blocks) we cannot honor requests from parents regarding specific block placement.**

The following example will help clarify the complexity of the situation.

If an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student is recommended for a specific math class that student must attend that specific math course in the block that it is scheduled. If only one section of a particular math class will be taught a student is restricted to the block that has the specific class.

Because of these limitations, it is not possible at times, practical, or fair for us to honor block placement requests.

We divide our grade levels into blocks of "G" or "W". "G" stands for Green and "W" stands for White – our school colors. There are approximately 100 students assigned to each block. The block structure provides the organization for an effective educational program and enhances a student's sense of belonging. We are confident that your child will receive a quality education in either block and will work toward that end.

Thank you very much for your understanding of the necessity of this policy.

If you feel, after careful consideration, that your child has "extraordinary needs" and specific block placement should be considered, please contact Tim Keeler, GCMS Principal

## **GLACIER CREEK STUDENT SERVICES**

Student Services staff is available to help with the many questions and concerns of students and parents during the middle school years. You may contact a counselor, school psychologist, or school social worker to discuss curriculum, registration, social/emotional/behavioral concerns, or other issues. Feel free to call Glacier Creek Student Services Staff (829-9428) any time during regular school hours (7:15 - 3:30). To find out more about Gifted and Talented programming at Glacier Creek, you may contact the Glacier Creek G&T Coordinator at 829-9433. School nursing services are available throughout the day and at individually arranged times with the school nurse. For more information, please call 829-9427.

# GLACIER CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL

## MIDDLETON-CROSS PLAINS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

2800 Military Road Cross Plains, WI 53528-9224 - (608) 829-9420 -Fax (608) 798-5425  
Tim Keeler, Principal - Susan Piazza, Associate Principal

March, 2011

Dear Parents of 5<sup>th</sup> Graders:

Soon your child will be entering Glacier Creek Middle School. I hope you are as excited to have your child coming to our school as we are to have our sixteenth new class of sixth graders. Over the next few months we will be communicating with you about Glacier Creek Middle School. Please watch for information on the following:

- **Registration Materials** - You will receive this information from your child's current 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in March.
- **Spring Parent Information Night – Tuesday, April 19** from 6:45 – 7:45 p.m. This is a general information and question/answer session presented by principals and counselors.
- **Summer Informational Mailing** - Start looking for this in mid-July.
- **Student Information Day – August (specific date TBD)** (student pictures, student schedules, sign up for clubs and activities, tour school, try lockers etc.) Each grade will be scheduled at various times throughout the day. Times and specific information will be included in our summer mailing.

I hope the mailings, materials, and programs are helpful to you and your child. If at any time your child would like to visit school to relieve anxiety about next year, please feel free to contact us.

In the past we have received questions about selection of academic block teachers by parents. To clarify our position I have reprinted on the page facing this letter a newsletter article on the subject of parent requests for specific teachers. Please review it and if you have any questions, call me at 829-9421.

On behalf of the GCMS staff, we look forward to working with your child and making the 2011-2012 school year exciting and full of great learning.

Sincerely,

Tim Keeler, Principal

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## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE REQUIRED CORE CLASSES

**Communication Arts** - The Communication Arts program in 6<sup>th</sup> grade emphasizes reading skills. We focus on increasing reading comprehension with these strategies: *predicting, inferring, questioning, connecting, summarizing, visualizing, synthesizing, and evaluating*. Our units of study include elements of both fiction and non-fiction, and use novels, short stories, and a variety of other texts. Student choice and small group discussions are an integral part of instruction.

**English** - The English program in 6<sup>th</sup> grade emphasizes writing skills. We focus on the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing: *Ideas, Organization, Word Choice, Voice, Sentence Fluency, Conventions, and Presentation*. Our units of study include writing a personal narrative, short story, poem, research paper, and persuasive essay. Grammar and usage (also called Conventions) are studied throughout the year.

**Science** - The Science program emphasizes involving students in the active process of reading, thinking and doing science. Hands-on-activities will enable students to practice science, process skills, and learn information through experimentation. Basic themes include life, physical, and earth science.

**Social Studies** - The Social Studies program emphasizes Mapping, Civics, Early Man, River Civilizations, Ancient Greece and Rome, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the Age of Exploration.

### **Mathematics -**

- **Making Connections to Algebra 1** – Takes students from arithmetic to algebra and geometry by using real world applications. The program emphasizes reading, note taking, application, review, and use of technological tools. Units will continue to incorporate basic skills along with measurement, problem solving, recognition of patterns, and the use of variables.
- **Making Connections to Algebra 2** - This is the first textbook in the College preparatory Math (CPM) curriculum. Sixth graders will begin to master pre-algebra concepts using problem-based learning, utilize structured study teams, and spaced practice. These three key elements of the text are intended to develop mastery over time and promote better long-term learning.

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE REQUIRED ENCORE CLASSES

**Art** - Meets daily for 9 weeks. Students will build on basic art concepts mastered in elementary school. Sixth grade art is about experience and creativity. Each student will experience different mediums and techniques. They will work in several creative modes including: drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and ceramics. The work itself will tap into students' creative ability and self-expression. A sketch book with specific assignments will also be required.

**Computer** – Meets daily for 9 weeks. Students will continue developing and improving keyboarding skills. With emphasis on advancing speed and accuracy. In addition, students will learn to format reports, outlines, bibliographies, and letters. Students will apply the use of spreadsheets, databases, multimedia, and the Internet in various curriculum areas.

**Family Consumer Science** – Meets daily for 9 weeks and is an action-based course. At the same time middle school students are becoming more independent, they also need to be reminded of the importance of the family. Students in this class explore such daily living skills as how to communicate and cooperate with their family (minding manners), basic kitchen techniques to begin cooking, understanding the need for shelter and the meaning of home, making a hand-sewing project, evaluating and comparing clothing styles, and entertaining your children with games and books. Career information will be introduced for students to begin to understand the concept of work and how it relates to families and adult life.

**Health I & II** - Meets daily for 9 weeks. Students will be required to take two different 9 week classes. Each course will cover a variety of topics including but not limited to:

- Wonders of the Human Body
- Body Systems
- Nutrition
- Fitness
- Diseases
- Alcohol, Tobacco and other drugs, Resistance Skills
- Communication Skills, Responsible Decision making and Stress Management

**Music** – Meets daily for 9 weeks. Students will experience the joy of singing, composing and playing a song on the xylophone or keyboard, movement, learning to play melody on the guitar, and listening to/learning about different musical styles and composers throughout history as well as instruments of the orchestra. Students will continue to build on the concepts and skills learned in grades one through five.

**Physical Education** - All sixth grade students are required to attend Physical Education classes every other day. (Students may choose physical education every day as an elective making it an every day class that meets throughout the year). Class activities will be conducted which develop teamwork, strength, aerobic capacity, coordination, flexibility, and agility. Students will develop knowledge and appreciation of activities which include ball skills (soccer, flag football, basketball, volleyball, and softball), physical fitness, kinball, LaCrosse, ultimate frisbee, paddleminton, eclipse ball, roller skating, bowling, aerobic conditioning, badminton, weight training, line dancing, and pickle ball. Students are offered a choice of activities within the various units in order to achieve the goals of the course.

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE REQUIRED ENCORE CLASSES (continued)

**Technology Education** – Meets daily for 9 weeks. Technology Education is exploratory in nature and deals with the four major systems of industry. Hands on activities and experiences in the fields of construction, transportation, manufacturing and communication will be emphasized.

**World Languages** – Meets daily for 9 weeks and is designed to give a brief introduction to the German, French, and Spanish languages. Basic vocabulary relating to daily living in the home, school, and community will be introduced through activities, songs, and dialogues. Emphasis will be on listening and speaking skills, with an overview of the role of each language in the world.

The sixth grade exploratory language course is divided into three-three week sessions, one each of German, French, and Spanish. This course will allow a sampling of all three languages in order for sixth graders to choose which language to continue with for seventh grade and/or eighth grade.

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES

**Band** - Meets every other day year long. Band is an elective that begins for many in grade five. If students wish to participate in the band program in grade six through eight, they may begin in the fall. (Special before school help is offered for the first few weeks). In addition to their regular band rehearsals, students attend a small group lesson every week. All bands perform for concerts. All participating band students are expected to attend all scheduled yearly events. Beginners are welcome.

Please Note: Percussion/Drums are not available unless studying privately.

**Chorus** - Chorus is an elective that meets every other day for the entire school year. If you enjoy singing with your friends in a group, then Chorus for you! Chorus members will sing a variety of styles of music such as pop, rock, Broadway musical, jazz, folk, spiritual, gospels, Baroque, Classical, romantic, or contemporary. Singers may have the opportunity to audition for parts in a musical revue! Students will learn to sing in two and three part harmony, piano skills and develop self confidence. Singers are graded on effort and participation in rehearsals, as well as musicianship.

Singers are required to participate in the Winter and Spring Concert. As a chorus member, you may choose these optional activities: Broadway Express, District Solo/Ensemble Festival, All-State Honor Choir auditions, solos, and a field trip.

**Orchestra** - Meets every other day year long. Students who play violin, viola, cello and bass are all welcome, including beginners. Students study instrument techniques, music theory, music history and a wide variety of music styles. All orchestra classes perform in four concerts a year (November, January, March and May) plus some school events. Units include Baroque period, Classical period, Romantic period, original compositions, American music, international music, solos/ensembles, and other rotating themes such as Bluegrass, Celtic, dances, jazz and movies.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION** – This class meets every other day year long. (Add this to the every other required encore and it will meet every day throughout the school year). This class offers students an opportunity to further their knowledge, appreciation, and skill level in the various skill and fitness activities offered in the required very other day physical education class.

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SELECTIVE CLASSES Staff Recommendation Required

**READ 180** – Read 180 is an intensive intervention program designed to meet the needs of students whose reading achievement is below grade level. The program addresses individual needs through instructional software, high-interest paperbacks and audio books, and direct small-group instruction. The READ 180 class meets for 2 consecutive periods for a total of 97 minutes. This class requires a recommendation from school staff.

**Glacier Creek Middle School  
Sixth Grade Registration 2011-2012**

|                  |            |               |                        |
|------------------|------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Last Name        | First Name | Date of Birth | Sex M _____<br>F _____ |
| Parent Signature |            | Date          |                        |

*The course handbook containing description of classes and curriculum can be found on website ([www.mcpsd.k12.wi.us/gcms/](http://www.mcpsd.k12.wi.us/gcms/)). If you do not have internet access please contact our student services office at 829.9428.*

**Core Required Courses**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Communication Arts</b>                                 |  |
| <b>English</b>  |  |
| <b>Math</b>   |  |
| <b>Science</b>  |  |
| <b>Social Studies</b>                                     |  |
| <b>PE</b><br>Required every other day throughout the year | <b>Elective</b><br>Choose 1 from the list to the right |

Every other day throughout the year  
**\*Band**  
**\*Chorus**  
**\*Orchestra**  
**\*Extended PE-converts to every day class**

**Required Encore – each 9 weeks**

|                 |   |                 |  |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|--|
| <b>Art</b>      | <b>Music</b>                                | <b>Health I</b> | <b>Health II</b>   |
| <b>Computer</b> | <b>FCS</b><br>Family<br>Consumer<br>Science | <b>Tech Ed</b>  | <b>Intro to World Language</b><br>3 weeks each of<br>French/German/Spanish |

Updated 2/1/11

## SUPPORT CLASSES

Sixth grade students identified as having exceptional education needs are eligible for support class services. An Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is developed for every student with exceptional needs on an annual basis. This plan includes learning objectives and goals, methods for attaining goals, modifications provided within the regular education environment to enhance learning and success, and specific services to be provided.

Every attempt is made to provide the assistance necessary for students to succeed in mainstream classes. However, some students will need additional skill development which is provided by Special Support teachers outside the regular classroom environment. Students should register for classes based upon the recommendations of the previous Special Support Education teacher or multi-disciplinary team at GCMS.

Specific skill development classes include:

**Life Skills** – This class is designed to help students develop the basic skills necessary to achieve independence and success in everyday life. These include: social/emotional, pre-vocational, occupational, daily living and functional academic skills. This course is offered every other day.

**Communication Skills** – This course is designed for students with receptive and expressive language needs. To be eligible, students must have Speech and Language identified as an exceptional need on the most recent educational evaluation. Specific skills include grammar, description, word recall, sequencing, vocabulary and other language skills. This course is offered every other day.

**Study Skills** – This course is designed to aid students individually in developing time management, organizational, test and note-taking strategies as well as offer additional time for assignment completion. This class is offered either every other day or every day. Please ask for a recommendation.

**Reading** – This course is designed to teach reading skills through a variety of different instructional approaches. Students work on phonics, vocabulary, literal and inferential comprehension skills. This is offered either every other day or every day. Please ask for a recommendation.

**Math** - This course is designed to teach math skills and strategies through a variety of different instructional approaches. Students work on skills on individualized programs emphasizing steps and strategies to complete a variety of math problems. This is an every day course.

**Adaptive Physical Education** – This course is designed for students who are not able to participate fully in the regular physical education program. To be eligible, students must have this identified as an exceptional need on the most recent educational evaluation. This is an every other day course.