

Glacier Creek Middle School

**Middleton-Cross Plains
Area School District**



**Grades
7 and 8**

2012 - 2013

Course Description Handbook

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

February, 2012

Dear Parents:

It's registration time at Glacier Creek Middle School for your current 6th or 7th grade student. In the next several weeks we will provide information and registration materials to your student. The course description handbook is available on our web site (<http://www.mcpasd.k12.wi.us/gcms/>) and provides you with required and elective course information and a general description of curriculum. Please use it to help make decisions regarding course selections for your 6th and/or 7th grade student.

Grade level counselors will present course information and registration materials to all students. Students will bring this information home for parent discussion and approval.

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE TO BE TURNED IN TO STUDENT SERVICES BY FEBRUARY 14, 2012.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call your child's guidance counselor:

6th Grade – Ms Bowers 829.9434
7th Grade – Mr. Weitzel 829.9436

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Tim Keeler
Principal

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.

Student Services

The Student Services office is available to help with the many questions and concerns of students and parents during the middle school years. You may contact a counselor, psychologist, or social worker to discuss curriculum, registration, social/emotional/behavioral concerns, or other issues. Feel free to call Glacier Creek Student Services Office (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 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and at individually arranged times with the school nurse. For more information, please call 829-9427.

L.M.C. - Library Media Center

Our automated L.M.C. is an integral part of the curriculum and school life at the Middle School. The goals of the L.M.C. are to help students become independent library users familiar with library automation, to help students develop an appreciation of a variety of literary works, to assist teachers in preparing the curriculum and to help students in the study of the curriculum.

Teachers are encouraged to bring in their classes for research, material selection, recreational reading and study. Students may use the L.M.C. before and after school and after lunch.

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7TH GRADE REQUIRED CORE CLASSES

ENGLISH - The English program emphasizes reading, written and oral communication. The study of literature includes historical fiction, contemporary novels, and a variety of short stories and poems. Compositions are written in conjunction with the units of study. Lessons and practices dealing with the mechanics, the art and the types of writing are incorporated into the writing process. Opportunities for research and word processing are also offered during the course of the year.

MATH – The Middleton-Cross Plains School District uses the College Preparatory Math (CPM) curriculum and students in the middle school will follow an instructional path to take CPM Algebra in 7th OR 8th Grade. The seventh grade math curriculum consists of Making Connections to Algebra (2) and College Preparatory Math - Algebra.

- **Making Connections to Algebra (2)** – Concepts are based on memorable activities or concrete models so more students will be successful. Each chapter includes mental math and reviews previously developed concepts. All chapters contain a culminating “big problem” or summary activity to tie together and/or extend concepts. Specific concepts and topics can be found at <http://www.cpm.org>
- **Algebra** – Algebra is a fast-paced course covering a variety of concepts including linear sentences and systems, slopes and lines, polynomials, quadratic equations, square roots, and much more. Students will learn the necessary concepts to advance to Geometry.

SCIENCE - Students study Physical Science in seventh grade. Concepts covered include the scientific method of problem solving, measurement systems as tools of science, chemistry and the composition of matter, air and air pressure, heat energy, force, motion, light, sound, and electricity, Newton’s laws, and simple machines. Organization and observation are stressed and practiced as they relate to the practical applications of science. Throughout the course students are asked to apply and discover through hands-on, activity-oriented exploration. Opportunities and challenges facing scientists are related as we hope to build on students’ natural curiosity.

SOCIAL STUDIES (U.S. History) - The seventh grade Social Studies course will provide a general survey of United States history from the Revolutionary War toward the present, emphasizing significant events and various peoples’ contributions in the building of this nation. By studying the social, economic and political characteristics of the United States, students will gain a greater understanding of the United States and its role in the world today.

The following topics are included in the seventh grade United States History curriculum with emphasis on pre-20th century topics.

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|---------------------------------|--|
| -Colonial America | -The Revolutionary War, Its Causes and Results |
| -The Westward Movement | -The Civil War |
| -The Roaring Twenties | -The Great Depression |
| -America’s Role in World War II | -Recent U.S. History |
| -United States Geography | |

7TH GRADE REQUIRED CORE CLASSES (continued)

ART - Art is a required course that meets every day for a semester. It is designed to further develop the students' art skills, perceptions, knowledge and creativity. Students will become familiar with the elements and principles of art and use them to improve the quality of their work.

Students will have the opportunity to experiment with a wide variety of art media and methods, including tempera and watercolor paints, clay, paper mache, relief print making, sculpture building, drawing methods and more. Students will also be required to complete a sketchbook in conjunction with their classroom work.

ACADEMIC LITERACY – A course designed to develop the literacy skills that students will need to be successful throughout their secondary school experience. It is a core course which is a companion to English 7. The curriculum emphasizes reading and writing of non-fiction text. Units covered include non-fiction reading strategies and text features, the research process, a demonstration speech and the study of Greek and Latin roots and phrases. This is a challenging yet pleasantly engaging course.

7th GRADE REQUIRED ENCORE COURSES

MUSIC The following music classes are available and meet **every other day year long**. You may choose one or two classes. Please note: Students will not be allowed to drop performing arts classes after the first two weeks of the semester (per school policy for all classes). Due to the collaborative nature of the classes and the performance requirements, a commitment to the group is essential. This applies to band, chorus, general music and orchestra

Band - An elective course for students interested in playing a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. In addition to the regular class, students attend a small-group lesson every week on a rotating schedule. All bands perform for two concerts per year and participate in the District Band Festival. Optional events include a field trip to the Varsity Band concert, participation in Solo/Ensemble, and a pep band event.

Beginners are welcome to start in 7th grade and will be encouraged to get extra help before school once per week during 1st quarter.

Percussion/Drums require two years of private study with an approved instructor.

For information contact Mrs. Wirch 829-9497, gwirch@mcpasd.k12.wi.us, or Mrs. Vanderbloemen 829-9680, AVanderbloemen@mcpasd.k12.wi.us.

Chorus – If you enjoy singing and the friendships that develop through teamwork, then Chorus is for you. Chorus members will sing a variety of styles of music such as pop, rock, Broadway musical, jazz, folk, spirituals, gospels, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, or contemporary. Students will continue to develop the ability to sing in two or three part harmony, play guitar, sing request songs, play piano, and note reading skills, along with developing 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 Concerts, as well as our Choral Festival (a school day event). As a choir member, you may choose these optional activities: *Broadway Express, **District Solo/Ensemble Festival, All-State Honor Choir auditions, solos and a field trip.

*Broadway Express members and **District solo/Ensemble participation is limited to enrollment in 7th grade choir.

General Music - Students will be involved in the following music activities: creating and performing rhythm using rhythm instruments; world drumming, introduction to play ukulele, guitar, and keyboard/piano; composing; and exploring the development of various styles of music throughout the ages, around the world and in U.S. history. General Music is a non-performance class, one that students will not be required to participate in a public performance.

Orchestra –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 other school events. Units include Baroque period, Classical period, Romantic period, Original Compositions, American music, International music, Solos/Ensembles, and the other rotating themes such as Bluegrass, Celtic, Dances, Jazz and Movies.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Physical Education meets every other day yearlong. ****Students may choose to take physical education five days a week as an elective class.****

Class activities will develop teamwork, strength, cardiovascular endurance, coordination, flexibility, and agility. Students will develop knowledge and an appreciation of physical activities which include ball skills (Soccer, Flag Football, Basketball, Volleyball, and Softball), Physical Fitness, Kinball, LaCrosse, Ultimate Frisbee, Frisbee Golf, Paddleminton, Eclipseball, Roller Skating, Aerobic Conditioning, Badminton, Weight Training, and Pickleball. Students are exposed to a wide variety of activities within the units in order to achieve the goals of the course.

7th GRADE REQUIRED ENCORE COURSES (continued)

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION - Meets every other day for the school year. Tech. Ed. students will develop drafting, engineering, and problem solving skills. They will learn safe practices using tools and machines, and learn how materials are processed and used. Students will also explore the impact technology has on our ever changing society.

The every other day program will consist of the following units:

Communications
Manufacturing
Engineering/Construction
Transportation and Energy

WORLD LANGUAGES - Students must enroll in a 5-day World language course in either 7th or 8th grade. (French, German or Spanish) Students taking a language in 7th grade may choose to continue taking a level II language class in 8th grade. Students taking level I language as an 8th grader will most likely be scheduled in a 7th grade course I offering. Students who successfully complete the 7th and 8th grade language sequence may continue their language study with level III in high school. This provides students with the opportunity to achieve proficiency in a foreign language through level VI during high school. Students may also choose to retake either level I or level II if they feel it is necessary.

- **French I:** This course introduces students to basic conversation and self-expression in French. The students learn to communicate in French about situations found at home, at school, and during leisure time with family, friends and peers. As students learn to understand, speak, read and write French on a basic level, they will also be introduced to aspects of French culture. Vocabulary acquisition, grammar structures and cultural comparisons will help prepare students for further study in the French language. This course is open to all students who are interested in learning about France and other French-speaking countries, the people and their language.
- **German I** – From the very first day of class, the students communicate in German. Sounds, rhythms, and intonations, as well as vocabulary of German dialogue are studied. The student communicates in German on the topics of home, family, school, city, and work. Class activities include vocabulary and grammar exercises, dialogues, German music, internet activities, and exploration of German culture. Active participation in German is important. German has something to interest everyone desiring to learn about the German language and culture.
- **Spanish I** – An introductory language class. No previous Spanish experience is necessary. The course teaches reading, writing, speaking and listening with an academic focus to prepare students for further language study. Class work consists of listening, repeating, responding to visual aids, creating original dialogues, and short readings. The grammar and writing emphasis is on sentence structure moving into short paragraphs. Cultural materials on holidays and Spanish speaking countries are a part of the course. Active participation in Spanish is important.

7th GRADE ELECTIVE ENCORE CLASSES

COMPUTER / DIGITAL EXPLORATION Are you curious about Animations? Stop-motion video? Photo editing? Do you have an interest in 3-D Drawing or Computer programming? If so, this is the class for you. The 7th grade elective computer class meets every other day for the year and is project-based. Students investigate graphic design, scanning and photo-editing using Photoshop Elements as well as online web tools. Projects include the use of GarageBand for music creating and podcasting, iMovie for video production, visual programming using Scratch and 3-D drawing with Google SketchUp. Students learn to be problem-solvers while using a variety of applications and web sources. They strengthen computer skills and learn to use the internet as a tool for the future.

DISCOVERING LIFE SKILLS Family Consumer Science (FCS) - Discovering Life Skills meets every other day year long. Students will analyze their own eating habits and the relationship to future health and wellness. Students will cook in labs, understand serving size, vitamins and minerals and meal planning. Students will also practice 21st century skills in problem-solving and decision-making with hands-on activities such as interior design and fabric construction which includes hand sewing and machine sewing. In today's multicultural society, students will develop an awareness of the different family structures and norms in many cultures around the world. One way of gaining independence is to understand personal finance. Students will also look at how to be a wise consumer in today's world. FCS will give students the basic life skills needed in today's world.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION Meets every day for the whole school year. This class gives students an opportunity to further their knowledge, appreciation, and skill level in the various units and fitness activities. Students will have the opportunity to refine their physical skills, as well as, participate in more games and tournaments.

7th GRADE SELECTIVE – (Staff Recommendation Required)

ELL – English/Bilingual Language Learners Program

The ELL program offers assistance for non-native English speaking students who are in need of academic English language support.

The following ELL classes are offered to 7th and 8th graders.

ELL Study Skills – Resource time in which they receive support in studying, assignment and project completion, and test preparation for their CORE and ENCORE classes. Students are given individual attention or may work in small groups.

ELL students may also receive in-class support by an ELL teacher or a para-educator in their math, science, language arts, and social students classes.

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 87 minutes. This class requires a recommendation.

8th GRADE REQUIRED CORE CLASSES

ENGLISH - The English program emphasizes reading, writing and oral communication (speaking and listening). We read three full class novels, and the reading is supplemented by articles of the week and various short stories. Our writing program is designed to integrate conventions and grammar into persuasive, expository and narrative writing projects. With special attention paid to the writing process, students develop revision and editing strategies that are applicable to all writing. Students are required to participate in discussions and both formal and informal speeches. Finally, students are encouraged to be creative in the writing and presentations that are a part of the course.

MATH - Math in 8th grade is a continuation of math concepts and ideas students experience in seventh grade. Areas of math study in eighth grade include pre-algebraic skills, algebra, and geometry. Students will be recommended for specific courses in the spring of seventh grade and a more specific curriculum emphasis will be share at that time. Courses offered in 8th grade math include:

- **Algebra** – Algebra is a fast-paced course covering a variety of concepts including linear sentences and systems, slopes and lines, polynomials, quadratic equations, square roots, and much more. Students will learn the necessary concepts to advance to Geometry.
- **Geometry** – Geometry is the study of concepts in two and three dimensional space and connects mathematics to the real, physical world. Coordinates, transformations, and proofs are used to develop the topics studied. Topics include angles, parallel and perpendicular lines, triangles, polygons, area, and volume, similarity and congruence, circles and right triangle trigonometry.

SCIENCE - Eighth Grade Science consists of the study of the earth and its environment. Emphasis is placed on the scientific method in individual and small group, hands-on activities that expose students to the topics of astronomy, geology, meteorology, and life's dependence on water. Included in the course are several field trips to Black Earth and/or Brewrey Creeks, Devil's Lake, and Cave of the Mounds. Course work is structured for students to gain a better understanding, appreciation, respect, and enjoyment of the world around them.

SOCIAL STUDIES - The eighth grade Social Studies course will focus on world geography with emphasis on the five themes of geography (movement, region, human-environment interaction, place, and location). Areas to be studied will be drawn from the following regions: Latin America, Australia & Oceania, Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Europe.

CHOICES & CAREERS – Meets every day for a semester. Choices and Careers is a required 8th grade course. Students explore concepts about the world of work and learn to make informed choices about their futures. The average person changes jobs seven times in their lifetime so students need to be prepared for many job opportunities. One of the most difficult things in a lifetime is learning how to balance a job with a family. This as an excellent course for guidance and future planning, Students will use the online Career Cruising program to research possible careers that match up with their own interests and skills. They will also use this information to research post high school educational opportunities (technical college and universities) through career software and the internet. We all possess multiple intelligence that help us in our work and relationships. Students will test various strengths through games to find out how these skills are used in different jobs. Everyone loves to have money, but how do students learn how to budget it? Students will practice “living on their own” for six months. Will they budget wisely? Students will also work in simulated job experiences where they will be an entrepreneur responsible for sales, marketing, design, manufacturing, and distribution of a product they produce and sell. Students will be taking another step closer to making informed choices and decisions about their future. Lastly, students will create both a paper and an online e Portfolio that will be transferred to the high school for use with graduation requirements.

COMPUTER LITERACY – Digital Tools for Learning. For one semester during the 8th grade year students have the opportunity to develop skills related to technology and its use in education and beyond. The class includes activities to improve existing skills in word processing, research, and collaborative project creation. Specific units may also include animation, global mapping, multimedia exploration, and the use of computer peripherals (scanners, cameras, printers, audio equipment, etc.). Emphasis will be placed on critical thinking, problem solving, and computer skill development for use in school now as well as in the future.

8TH GRADE REQUIRED ENCORE CLASSES

HEALTH – Health meets every other day year long OR every day for a semester. The topics covered will include:

Coping with Emotions – This unit will cover self-concept, decision-making, stress management, communication skills; healthy vs. risky behavior choices.

Physical Growth and Development - This unit covers decision-making, sex roles, heredity, anatomy- physiology of males and females, changes in adolescence, reproduction, and sexually transmitted diseases.

Consumer Health – This unit, sometimes incorporated into other units, will discuss advertising, labeling, selection and comparison of health products, frauds and consumer agencies.

Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs – This unit explores categories of drugs (including alcohol, Tobacco and marijuana), facts and myths about drugs, ways of dealing with abuse in the community, decision-making and making healthy choices.

Nutrition and Fitness – This unit includes benefits of healthy eating habits, dietary guidelines, food choices, exercise and nutrition-related disease reduction fitness as a part of very day living.

Mini –units may include the following: First Aid, Health Careers and Community/Environmental Health, Diseases and Disorders.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Physical Education meets every other day yearlong. ****Students may choose to take physical education five days a week as an elective class.****

Class activities will develop teamwork, strength, cardiovascular endurance, coordination, flexibility, and agility. Students will develop knowledge and an appreciation of physical activities which include ball skills (Soccer, Flag Football, Basketball, Volleyball, and Softball), Physical Fitness, Kinball, LaCrosse, Ultimate Frisbee, Frisbee Golf, Paddleminton, Eclipseball, Roller Skating, Aerobic Conditioning, Badminton, Weight Training, and Pickleball. Students are exposed to a wide variety of activities within the units in order to achieve the goals of the course.

8TH GRADE ELECTIVE CLASSES

ART - Eighth grade students interested in art will have the opportunity to elect one of classes:

Art - This art course is an elective and will meet every other day year long OR for one semester. This program will build on prior art experiences and develop into more detailed and complicated processes and techniques. Students will work with a wide variety of materials, including the potters' wheel, pastels, charcoal, colored pencils, watercolor and acrylic paints, multi-color prints, fibers and sculpture materials.

Students will also be required to complete a sketchbook in conjunction with their classroom work.

Year Long Every Day Art - This art course is an elective and will meet every day year long. It is assumed that students selecting Year Long will have a high level of interest in art. The curriculum offers greater in-depth instruction with provision for students to develop proficiency and understanding appropriate to their individual skill level. Students will have the opportunity to work with a wide variety of materials and techniques. Some of the art experiences include acrylic painting, potters' wheel, advanced drawing methods, batik, watercolor, calligraphy, and sculpture methods.

Students will also be required to complete a sketchbook in conjunction with their classroom work.

CREATIVE PERFORMING ARTS - Creative Performing Arts is an **ACTION** course that meets every day for one semester. Students are introduced to the art of improvisation, acting, story telling, puppetry, and of course, play production and performance. Special workshops for character make-up and behind the scenes technical support may also be offered. Students will not be allowed to drop after the first two weeks of the semester.

Field trips include professional performance experiences, visiting local theaters and the Middleton High School drama department.

Participants will work in small and large groups as well as individual participation. This course offers students the opportunity to learn the art of performance and presentation in a positive group situation.

The semester concludes with a class production performed for classmates and the community. Rehearsals for the performances are held during class and after school.

FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE

Fabric & Design – Fabric and Design meets every other day year long OR every day for a semester. Fabric & Design offers students the opportunity to explore and enhance their creative abilities in the areas of fabric and design. Students will use their basic knowledge of sewing along with new concepts to make projects that use basic design principles for the career areas of fashion design and interior design. Students will also learn some timeless arts by constructing projects such as: patchwork pillow, a quilt, fleece hat and mittens, a knit scarf, and cross-stitch. Students will also gain more knowledge in careers related to this field.

Teen Cuisine - Teen Cuisine meets every day for one semester and builds on basic knowledge of nutrition and cooking skills with a fun twist including cooking lab experiences. The class is geared to typical teen eating habits and styles. Students in this class will run their very own restaurant, cook foods from other countries, experience traditional holiday and special occasion foods (such as cake decorating), role play how to prepare food based on health concerns, sample foods through taste testing, advertise a food commercial, and try out their own creative recipes in a simulation test kitchen. Lab experiences take place 1-2 times per week. Students who love food, nutrition, and cooking will enjoy this class. Teen Cuisine is a hands-on class that stresses the importance of developing good eating habits for now and in the future.

8TH GRADE ELECTIVE CLASSES (continued)

MUSIC - The following music classes are available and meet **every other day year long**. You may choose one or two classes. Please note: Students will not be allowed to drop performing art classes after the first two weeks of the semester (per school policy for all classes). Due to the collaborative nature of the classes and the performance requirements, a commitment to the group is essential. This applies to band, chorus, general music, music theater, creative performing arts and orchestra.

Band – Band meets every other day all year. In addition to the regular class, students attend a small-group lesson every week on a rotating schedule. All bands perform for two concerts per year, and take part in District Band Festival and the Kalahari Band Festival. Optional events include a field trip to the Varsity Band concert, participation in Solo/Ensemble, and a pep band event.

Permission is needed for beginners to start in 8th grade due to the skill level necessary to participate.

Percussion/Drums require two years of private study with an approved instructor.

Year Long, Everyday Band – In addition to the above, 5-day band students will receive instruction through special units. Units usually include World/African Drumming, jazz band, percussion ensemble, music with computers, composing, conducting and learning a secondary instrument.

For more information contact Mrs. Wirch 829-9497, gwirch@mcpasd.k12.wi.us.

Chorus – Chorus meets every other day year long OR for one semester. If you enjoy singing and the friendships that develop through teamwork, then Chorus is for you – no audition necessary! Chorus members will sing a variety of styles of music such as pop, rock, Broadway musical, jazz, folk, spirituals, gospels, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, or contemporary. Students will continue to develop the ability to sing in three and four part harmony; learn new guitar chords/songs; sing request songs; play piano; and sight read music along with developing self confidence. There will be field trips to see a Broadway musical and may also work on and present scene(s) from a show. Singers are graded on effort and participation in rehearsals, as well as musicianship.

Singers are required to participate in the Winter and Spring Concerts as well as the Choral festival which takes place during the school day. As a choir member, you may choose these optional activities: *Broadway Express, **District solo/Ensemble Festival, All-State Honor Choir auditions, solos, and a field trip.

*Broadway Express membership and **District Solo/Ensemble participation is limited to enrollment in 8th grade choir.

General Music, “Music Matters” – General music meets every other day for the school year OR every day for a semester. Students will be involved in a hands-on approach to learning about music through the following activities: continuing guitar instruction; continuing keyboard/piano instruction; **STOMP/Blue Man Group**-like rhythm ensembles; composing using **Apple’s Garage Band** program and **FINALE** software; studying a brief history of rock and roll music; and creating and producing a music video, podcast, or radio broadcast. “Music Matters” is a “non-performance” class, students will not be required to participate in a public performance.

Music Theatre - Music Theatre meets every other day year long OR every day for a semester. If you enjoy being a part of a performance you will enjoy Music Theater. You do not have to be a singer to take Music Theatre. Students will be involved in two performances during the semester, the Mime/Variety Show (this is not a musical production) and the Musical. Rehearsals for these performances are held during class and after school (depending on the part the student receives). When not preparing for the public performances, students will study the following – basic acting techniques, elements of musical theatre (composing, lyrics writing, choreography, conducting, etc), history of musical theatre, miming techniques, production of radio dramas and surveying important musicals. Special workshops for character make-up and behind the scenes technical support may be offered.

8TH GRADE ELECTIVE CLASSES (continued)

Orchestra – Orchestra meets every other day all year. 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

Every Day Physical Education – Meets every day for the whole school year. This class gives students an opportunity to further their knowledge, appreciation, and skill level in the various units and fitness activities. Students will have the opportunity to refine their physical skills, as well as, participate in more games and tournaments.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Now is your chance to have fun while exploring various fields of technology! Have you ever wanted to produce and star in your own movie? Design and build a CO2 powered dragster that hits speeds in excess of 100 mph? How about taking and manipulating funny photos of you and your friends? Would you like to make useful products for your home, or create and screen-print your own t-shirt? You could experience all of these things and more in 8th grade Technology Education.

Tech. Ed. - An elective course which meets every day for one semester. This course is exploratory in nature and deals with areas found throughout four systems of industry (communication, manufacturing, engineering/construction, and transportation). After students complete machine safety they will complete eight ten-day modules during the semester. **Units Taught:** Digital Photography and Editing, Woodworking, Computer Aided Drafting, Digital Video and Editing, Screen Printing, CO2 Dragster, Pen Crafting, and Radio Broadcasting

Year Long, Every Day Tech. Ed. – An elective course that meets every day throughout the school year. This course is exploratory in nature and also deals with areas found throughout four systems of industry (communication, manufacturing, engineering/construction, and transportation). Students enrolled in year long Tech. Ed. will complete all units taught in half-year tech. ed., as well as another semester worth of units.

Units Taught: Digital Photography and Editing II, Welding & Foundry, Sheet Metal, Small Engines, Digital Video and Editing II, Advanced Woodworking, Plastic Engineering, and Independent Study.

8TH GRADE ELECTIVE CLASSES (continued)

WORLD LANGUAGES

All World Language classes are taught every day for the whole school year. Students are required to take a world language class in either 7th or 8th grade and if taken in 7th grade students may elect to take a second year of language.

French II: All students who successfully complete French I and are interested in learning more about the French language and culture are encouraged to take French II. This course continues to emphasize the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, but involves more extensive readings and more self-expression through writing and conversation. A continued study of French vocabulary and grammar is accompanied by a variety of cultural topics such as French adolescents, food, fashion, film, art, theatre and sports.

German II – After having completed German I successfully, students are encouraged to enroll in German II. The students will continue to speak German in the classroom and will add more vocabulary and grammatical structure to their knowledge. The class will perform dialogues and skits, read short stories, do cultural projects, and broaden their language skills. The geography and folklore of Germany are studied. Films and internet activities are part of the German II program.

Spanish II - Students who successfully complete Spanish I may take Spanish II. In level II, a student will continue to learn the basic language skills. The emphasis, however, becomes more evenly distributed among the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. There is a strong emphasis on grammar at this level, as students will need this background if they intend to continue in the intermediate and advanced levels of Spanish. Dialogues have more sophisticated ideas that the student is encouraged to vary to meet his/her needs. The student will have more opportunities to create with the language. The study of the culture of Spanish speaking countries continues. Active participation in Spanish is essential.

8th GRADE SELECTIVES – (Staff Recommendation Required)

ELL – English/Bilingual Language Learners Program

The ELL program offers assistance for non-native English speaking students who are in need of academic English language support.

The following ELL classes are offered to 7th and 8th graders.

ELL Study Skills – Resource time in which they receive support in studying, assignment and project completion, and test preparation for their CORE and ENCORE classes. Students are given individual attention or may work in small groups.

ELL students may also receive in-class support by an ELL teacher or a para-educator in their math, science, language arts, and social students classes.

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.

SUPPORT CLASSES

Seventh and eighth grade students identified as having exceptional education needs are eligible for support classes. 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 Support Class teachers outside the regular classroom environment. Students should register for classes based upon the recommendations of the previous Support Classes 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 either every other day or every 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 offered 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 comprehensive 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 a exceptional need on the most recent educational evaluation. This is an every other day course.