



**Program of Studies  
2018-2019**

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الرجاء الإتصال بالمكتب الرئيسي في المدرسة إذا أردتم ترجمة هذه الوثيقة إلى اللغة العربية

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All students regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, limited English proficiency, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or housing status, have equal access to all programs, including athletics and other extracurricular activities.

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## ***BASIC INFORMATION***

### **About this Booklet**

This booklet is designed to provide the community with a description of the courses being offered at the Qualters Middle School for the 2018-2019 school year. Classes are presented in order, by grade, with on-team, full year, courses listed first, followed by off-team, trimester-long specials. At the end of the book are sequence grids, by department, that show the most likely path students will follow as they progress through each discipline in grades 6-12 in the Mansfield Public Schools.

### **School Structure**

The Qualters Middle School uses a team teaching system that is a foundational element of the middle school model. There are a total of nine teams, three per grade, at QMS. Each team is made up of six teachers: English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Special Education, and Literacy (grade 6) or World Language (grades 7 and 8). Each team has a designated Team Liaison who manages most matters on-team. All courses are heterogeneously grouped (unleveled), except for math courses.

**Core courses** include English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, Mathematics, and Literacy (grade 6) or World Language (grade 7 and 8).

**Enrichment courses** include Art, Performing Arts, Artistic Design, Health, Physical Education, Science and Engineering, Civics, Current Events, Successful Student, and Computers. These courses meet for a trimester and provide students with experiences in areas beyond the core subjects. Students participate in up to six specials per year. These courses vary by grade and are each described in this document.

**Elective courses** include band, chorus, and orchestra. These courses meet 2-3 times per cycle for the full year. Instruction is delivered during the school day, using a pull-out model. Students register for these courses in the fall of each school year, however, students who wish to participate are always welcome.

# ***SCHOOL STRUCTURE DIAGRAM***



## ***MASTER SCHEDULE***

The Qualters Middle School uses a seven-day schedule with seven fifty-minute periods per day. Each day, students take five on-team core courses and two specials. Students are expected to be seated in their first period class at 7:25 am. There is no homeroom period. Each day, courses rotate with the last period of the day becoming the first period the next day. There are three lunches per day; each grade has its own lunch.

## ***QMS COURSE OFFERINGS BY DEPARTMENT***

Department heads may be reached by email or by phone at Mansfield High School (508-261-7540).

Please note when emailing any staff member - use first.last name@mansfieldschools.com.

### **Business & Technology**

Department Head: Joseph Russo

Computers 6

Computers 8

### **English Language Arts (ELA)**

Department Head: Cindy Carli

English 6

Literacy, grade 6

English 7

English 8

### **Mathematics**

Department Head: Christine Kalinowski

Math 6

Math 6 Enriched

Math 7

Math 7 Enriched,

Pre-Algebra, grade 7

Math 8

Math 8 Enriched

Algebra I, grade 8

### **Social Studies**

Department Head: William Hocking

Social Studies 6 - Geography

Successful Student, grade 6

Social Studies 7 - Ancient History

Current Events, grade 7

Social Studies 8 - Western Civilization

Civics, grade 8

### **Visual Arts**

Department Head: Derek Harding

Visual Art 6

Visual Art 7

Artistic Design, grade 8

### **World Languages**

Department Head: Caroline DiBiasi

French 1A, grade 7

French 1B, grade 8

Spanish 1A, grade 7

Spanish 1B, grade 8

French or Spanish 1A, grade 8 (depending on student demand and teacher licensure)

### **Science**

Department Head: Janet Hogan

Science 6 - Earth Science

Successful Student, grade 6

Science 7 - Physical Science

Science & Engineering 7

Science 8 - Life Science

Science & Engineering 8

### **Performing Arts**

Department Head: Matt McGuire

Performing Arts 6 - Music & Theater

Performing Arts 7 - Drama & Theater

Artistic Design, grade 8

Band 6 – 8

Chorus 6 – 8

Orchestra 6 – 8

### **Wellness**

Department Head: Joseph Russo

Physical Education 6 – 8

Health Education 6 – 8

## ***GRADE 6***

### **CORE COURSES**

#### **English Language Arts 6**

Grade 6

Full Year

Students read a variety of genres, including selections from fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. The course will focus on multiple themes such as conflict and resolution, ethical and moral decision-making, diversity and multiculturalism. Students will read independently as well as participate in shared and whole-class reading. The whole-class novel in grade six is *The Cay*. Students examine the elements of a story such as plot and character development, conflict, theme and symbolism, as well as to analyze the author's use of figurative language through the different readings. Students will practice different types of writing, including narrative, persuasion, and analysis. Students will work on improving their vocabulary acquisition and their grammar usage throughout the year. Students entering grade 6 should have a solid command of their knowledge of the eight parts of speech in order to understand the parts of a sentence. This course helps students to develop their ability to read, write, and think critically about the literature as well as the world around them. This course is aligned with the Massachusetts 2017 English Language Arts and Literacy Framework.

#### **Science 6 - Earth Science**

Grade 6

Full Year

This course provides students with an overview of Earth and space science based on the Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Frameworks. Students will use scientific inquiry to develop an understanding of scientific ideas and how scientists study the natural world. Students will develop and analyze models of the universe, solar system and Earth to understand the formation of these systems, the role of gravity in the universe, and to explain eclipses, moon phases, and seasons. Students will also look for evidence as to how energy flows throughout Earth's systems. Using hands-on activities, students will learn about energy from the Sun and how it propels the water cycle and weather, including interpreting weather data to identify patterns in air mass interactions and how those relate to local weather. They will also study energy from the Earth's interior and how it has shaped and reshaped the surface of Earth via plate tectonics. Lastly, students will investigate our planet's natural resources and how human activities have altered our environment and work to find solutions to reduce humans' impact on Earth. This course is aligned with the Middle School Earth and Space Science strand of the Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework.

## **Mathematics 6**

### **Math Level Placement**

Middle school mathematics prepares students for success in learning Algebra and lays the critical foundation for advanced mathematical thinking in high school. Middle school is a time when concrete mathematical reasoning changes to abstract algebraic thinking. This change is a process that occurs at different times for each student. As a result, it is extremely important that students are in the right place at the right time so that they can develop a deep understanding of mathematics. Toward this end, teachers, the Mathematics Department chair, and administrators meet on a regular basis each spring to discuss placements for the following year. Data from various state and local assessments, term grades, teacher recommendations, and student profiles are all taken into consideration so that we can provide students with their best placement. The placement process begins in the spring for the following school year and is a collaborative process between the school and home.

### **Math 6**

Grade 6, by recommendation

Full Year

This comprehensive, standards-based course is intended to enable students to develop their conceptual understanding, computational facility, and problem-solving skills. This course will provide all students the opportunity to make continual progress in developing the mathematical skills they need to achieve success on important assessments. The focus in the beginning of the course will be on whole number, fraction, and decimal operations as well as number patterns. Later on, the focus of the course changes to topics such as ratios and proportional relationships, expressions, equations, inequalities, two- and three-dimensional geometry, statistics, and data analysis. Real-life applications will be presented throughout the course in order to show students the usefulness of mathematics in the real world. This course is aligned with the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics. This comprehensive, standards-based course is intended to enable students to develop their conceptual understanding, computational facility, and problem-solving skills. It is aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics.

## **Math 6 Enriched**

Grade 6, by recommendation

Full Year

The Math 6 Enriched course is designed to be quite similar to the Math 6 course, in terms of math content, however it delves deeper into mathematical concepts and moves at a more accelerated and rigorous pace as compared to Math 6. This course is aligned with the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics.

## **Social Studies 6 - Geography**

Grade 6

Full Year

This course will begin with an overview of map skills and how maps are used to express different kinds of geographic, economic, statistical, and climatological information. These skills will be applied during the second part of the course when students study Africa, Asia, and Latin America. In addition, students will examine the impact of geography through research, documentaries, and literary analysis. Throughout the course, students will have opportunities to enhance their reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills. This course is aligned with the Massachusetts History and Social Studies Framework.

## **Literacy 6**

Grade 6

Full Year

Students will gain additional practice with close reading and critical analysis, introduction to proper citation for sources, evaluation of sources, and opportunities to speak formally and informally. The units will include some of the following: speech and debate, research skills, media studies, drama, and personal reading using the STAR/Accelerated Reader program. This sixth grade course will expand upon and enrich the literacy and content literacy standards prescribed in the Massachusetts 2017 English Language Arts and Literacy Framework as well as curriculum standards covered in other disciplines such as Social Studies and Science.

## **ENRICHMENT COURSES**

### **Successful Student 6**

Grade 6

Trimester

The Successful Student course is designed to help students adjust to the changes of middle school and explore how their brains learn and grow. Over the course of the trimester, students will identify their learning styles, practice organization strategies, and review study strategies. Through project-based learning, students will apply concepts such as growth mindset, effective effort, and research strategies and skills. Students will also evaluate how successful people have overcome challenges and demonstrated a growth mindset.

### **Computers 6**

Grade 6

Trimester

This course will provide students with an introduction to technology. Students will become knowledge constructors using digital tools skillfully and critically in order to create artifacts that showcase their understanding. Students will also learn how to be compliant with Mansfield Public Schools' Responsible Use Policy, gain an understanding of digital citizenship, improve their typing skills, and be introduced to code. Additionally, students will learn how to use the technology tools and the Google suite of applications and apply these tools to their daily practice. This course is aligned with the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standards.

### **Visual Art 6**

Grade 6

Trimester

This introductory course is intended to help students develop their creative skills. An emphasis is placed on the principles and elements of design, observational drawing, and portraiture. Using light, shadow, shade, tone, and color, students learn to manipulate design elements in a variety of two- and three-dimensional media to create representational and abstract artwork. Various techniques are introduced and students are encouraged to develop their own style of work. Students become familiar with the challenges of design, basic art elements, and proper use of scale and perspective, and are introduced to specialized media.

## **Performing Arts 6 - Music & Theater**

Grade 6

Trimester

In the sixth grade Performing Arts course students will be given an opportunity to create, perform, devise, and collaborate on dramatic work, with an emphasis on incorporating music into their work. Students will study units in improvisation, script performance, staging techniques, script writing, and general performance practices. Modules and discussions revolving around music appreciation, lyric interpretation, the purpose of music, music performance, and interpretation of the mood and style of different genres of music are also covered as part of this course.

## **Physical Education & Health 6**

Students will spend two trimesters each year in Physical Education and Health. Both courses spend time covering the physical education and health curriculums.

### **Physical Education 6**

Grade 6

Trimester

During the Physical Education component of the course, students will combine fundamental skills into more complex movement forms in modified games, rhythmic activities, recreational activities, team sports, and individual and dual sports. The objective of this course is for students to improve their fitness and to further develop fundamental sports skills to allow them to successfully participate in various games and activities. Major aspects of this course are goal-setting, targeted and developmentally appropriate training activities, and instruction in a wide range of activities, sports skills, and movement patterns along with social skill development including cooperation, teamwork, sportsmanship, and confidence. Some units may include fitness, soccer, target games, basketball, badminton, volleyball, and basketball. Physical education teachers use the QMS gym, fitness center, multipurpose room, outdoor track, and the turf field to cover these topics.

### **Health Education 6**

Grade 6

Trimester

Students will start with an introduction to the wellness triangle and how it incorporates the combination of different areas of physical, social, and mental/emotional health. Sixth graders will then transition into our interactive *Second Step* social-emotional learning program covering topics that focus on introducing them to middle school. These topics include communication skills, being an ally, disagreeing respectfully, and recognizing bullying. Students will also learn to identify and explain characteristics for the nine stages of the human life cycle, explore the importance of sleep, and learn about the forms/functions of human body systems. Additional topics included in the curriculum are fire safety, exploring the four

parts of physical fitness, understanding what makes up the environment and how to keep it healthy for our survival, and identifying risky behavior to prevent injury.



## ***GRADE 7***

### **CORE COURSES**

#### **English Language Arts 7**

Grade 7

Full Year

Students will continue their study of a variety of genres, including selections from fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama throughout this year. This course will focus on the themes of self-discovery and overcoming obstacles. Through the different readings, students will practice the skills that they need to read critically and to write independently. The major works that the students will read as a whole class are *Walk Two Moons*, *The Miracle Worker*, and *The Hobbit*. Students will write frequently and learn to develop a multi-paragraph essay. Types of writing will include narrative, argument, and analysis. Students will study vocabulary and grammar to improve their reading comprehension and writing skills throughout the year. Students should have a strong command of their knowledge of the parts of a sentence in order to be best-prepared to understand the grammar units on clauses and phrases. This course is aligned with the Massachusetts 2017 English Language Arts and Literacy Framework.

#### **Science 7 - Physical Science**

Grade 7

Full Year

Physical Science at the middle school level prepares students to engage in scientific inquiry methodology and process. Students develop the skills of asking scientific questions, defining problems, developing and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, and communicating evidence. Students work cooperatively completing hands-on laboratory investigations, as well as independently completing research-based projects. Course work is based on investigations of the interaction between matter and energy. Students use a wide variety of tools to build their vocabulary and scientific understanding of mass, volume, weight, density, states of matter, elements, compounds, mixtures, and physical and chemical properties. In the corresponding concept of energy, students delve into energy's effects on temperature and heat, the mechanics of motion, and mechanical and electromagnetic waves. The students also investigate the application of the transfer of energy through waves. We strive to make this course engaging, rigorous, and centered around real-world examples. This course is aligned with the Middle School Physical Science strand of the Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework.

## **Mathematics 7**

### **Math Level Placement**

Middle school mathematics prepares students for success in learning Algebra and lays the critical foundation for advanced mathematical thinking in high school. Middle school is a time when concrete mathematical reasoning changes to abstract algebraic thinking. This change is a process that occurs at different times for each student. As a result, it is extremely important that students are in the right place at the right time so that they can develop a deep understanding of mathematics. Toward this end, teachers, the Mathematics Department chair, and administrators meet on a regular basis each spring to discuss placements for the following year. Data from various state and local assessments, term grades, teacher recommendations, and student profiles are all taken into consideration so that we can provide students with their best placement. The placement process begins in the spring for the following school year and is a collaborative process between the school and home.

### **Math 7**

Grade 7, by recommendation

Full Year

This comprehensive, standards-based course is intended to enable students to develop their conceptual understanding, computational facility, and problem-solving skills. This course will provide all students the opportunity to make continual progress in developing the mathematical skills they need to achieve success on important assessments. The focus in the beginning of the course will be on rational numbers and their operations as well as their algebraic representations. Later, the focus of the course changes to ratio and proportional relationships, the geometry of two- and three-dimensional objects, statistics, and data analysis. Real-life applications will be presented throughout the course in order to show students the usefulness of mathematics in the real world. This course is aligned with the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics.

### **Math 7 Enriched**

Grade 7, by recommendation

Full Year

The Math 7 Enriched course is designed to be quite similar to the Math 7 course, in terms of math content, however it delves deeper into mathematical concepts and moves at a more accelerated and rigorous pace as compared to Math 6. This course is aligned with the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics.

## **Pre-Algebra 7**

Grade 7, by recommendation

Full Year

This course is primarily intended for those students who have achieved mastery of the basic mathematical skills and concepts of a grade 6 mathematics course and can demonstrate a thorough grasp of mathematical practice and theory. It will provide students with an in-depth and rigorous approach to the foundation necessary for algebraic thinking. It will also prepare them for future study of quadratic and exponential functions, geometry, probability, and data analysis. Problem solving will be emphasized throughout this course. Students are recommended for this course based on data from various state and local assessments, term grades, and teacher recommendations. Real-life applications will be presented throughout the course in order to show students the usefulness of mathematics in the real world. Upon successful completion of this course, students will have a strong foundation in the mathematical skills necessary for the Algebra 1 course offered in the eighth grade. This course is aligned with the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics.

## **Social Studies 7 - Ancient History**

Grade 7

Full Year

The Ancient History course begins with students studying hunter – gatherer societies; the 4 main hydraulic civilizations, Mesopotamia/Fertile Crescent, Ancient Egypt, Ancient India and Ancient China. During the second half of the year students begin their study of the Mediterranean civilizations of Phoenicia, Israel, Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome. Throughout the course instructional strategies will allow students to enhance their reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills. Students will be asked to analyze primary sources (written documents, pictures, and other historical artifacts) and draw conclusions about the creators of the source. Within each unit students participate in hands-on interactive activities, high-interest projects and a variety of assessments. Students will further enhance their research skills through a capstone project on the Roman Empire. This course is aligned with the Massachusetts History and Social Studies Framework.

## **World Languages (Spanish or French)**

### **World Language Placement**

In the spring of 6th grade, most students will select a world language for their 7th and 8th grade academic year. Language selections made at the end of the 6th grade year are expected to remain in place through 8th grade. The two-year middle school sequence leads ultimately to higher proficiency at the high school level and to greater academic opportunity such as Advanced Placement courses. For any students who are new to QMS or for those who did not take a foreign language in 7th grade, a first year language is offered in 8th grade.

### **French or Spanish 7**

Grade 7

Full Year

In the grade 7 language course, students learn basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a foreign language, as well as cultural exploration. Emphasis on the aural/oral skills is encouraged, in addition to stressing the basic grammatical patterns of the language, through in-class and online activities. Diverse sources introduce the student to the culture, customs, and civilization of the French- or Spanish-speaking world.

In the first year language course, students can expect to learn the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a foreign language, as well as cultural exploration. Emphasis on the aural/oral skills is encouraged, in addition to stressing the basic grammatical patterns of the language. The student acquires these skills by in-class and online activities. Diverse sources introduce the student to the culture, customs, and civilization of the French/Spanish-speaking world.

## **ENRICHMENT COURSES**

### **Current Events 7**

Grade 7

Trimester

In Current Events, students will analyze different issues impacting people locally, statewide, nationwide, and worldwide. Students will examine news topics and issues impacting the environment, politics, trade, culture, migration, and technology. Students will develop discussion and cooperative-learning skills throughout this course. They will learn how to identify the point of view presented by a source, determine whether the source contains reliable information, and decipher real news from fake news. Students will also develop debate skills as they analyze current issues in domestic policy.

### **Visual Art 7**

Grade 7

Trimester

This course involves advanced investigation of the principles and elements of art. Students develop critical thinking and visual problem-solving skills, advanced artistic knowledge, and vocabulary based upon the foundation established in grade six . Continued color mixing, analysis, and application will be fundamental skills taught in this class. Research and class critiques help students to internalize specialized arts vocabulary and habits of mind.

### **Performing Arts 7 - Drama & Theater**

Grade 7

Trimester

In the seventh grade Performing Arts course, students will be given the opportunity to devise, perform, collaborate, and continue their studies with a focus on theatre. Modules in this class will include improvisation, public speaking, story adaptation, and performance, as well as directing, technical directing, stage managing, and acting in a one-act comedy.

## **Science & Engineering 7**

Grade 7

Trimester

Grade seven students will utilize all steps of the engineering design process to identify criteria and constraints of a design problem by solving challenges using a variety of materials. Specific focus will be on technical drawing, orthographic projection, and model building. Projects will also focus on systems design encompassing communication, structural, transportation, and manufacturing systems. This course is aligned with the Middle School Technology Strand of the Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework.

## **Physical Education & Health 7**

Students will spend two trimesters each year in Physical Education and Health. Both courses spend time covering the physical education and health curriculums.

### **Physical Education 7**

Grade 7

Trimester

Students will continue to develop competence in modified versions of various games as well as rhythmic and recreational activities and will apply similar concepts from one sport or movement setting to another. Students continue to develop responsible personal and social behaviors by demonstrating decision-making skills, conflict-resolution skills, appropriate etiquette, and respect for others. Major aspects of this course are goal-setting, targeted and developmentally-appropriate training activities, and instruction in a wide range of activities, sports skills, and movement patterns along with social skill development including cooperation, teamwork, sportsmanship, and confidence. Some units may include fitness, soccer, football, floor hockey, handball, volleyball, speedball, basketball, and Frisbee. Physical education teachers use the QMS gym, fitness center, multipurpose room, outdoor track, and the turf field to cover these topics.

### **Health 7**

Grade 7

Trimester

Students will learn about the Wellness Triangle, Empathy and Communication, building self-esteem, and a study of alcohol, tobacco, and other substance abuse prevention. During the human development unit, using the Advocates for Youth *Rights, Respect, and Responsibility* Curriculum, students will learn about changes that occur in adolescents, gender roles, boundaries, romantic relationships, and the differences between liking and loving. Additionally, the health curriculum explores bullying prevention, emotion management, growth and development, and infectious and non-infectious diseases. Each unit includes note-taking, discussions, handouts, projects, and assessments.

## **GRADE 8**

### **CORE COURSES**

#### **English Language Arts 8**

Grade 8

Full Year

The eighth grade English curriculum focuses on themes of survival, conflict and resolution, and relationships. These themes are taught through a variety of genres, including short stories, novels, poetry, nonfiction, and drama. Some of the major texts students may read this year include: *The Pearl*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Students will write multi-paragraph essays as well as shorter responses to the literature. Writing will include narrative, argument, compare/contrast, and analysis. They will continue to study vocabulary and grammar to improve reading comprehension and writing skills throughout the year. Students will make formal and informal presentations and will continue to develop their research skills. This course is aligned with the Massachusetts 2017 English Language Arts and Literacy Framework.

#### **Science 8 - Life Science**

Grade 8

Full Year

During a full year of study, students engage in challenging activities designed to explore the fundamental structures and functions of living organisms and the relationships of living organisms to their environment. Students investigate the characteristics of all living organisms, the cell as the basic unit of life, cell structure and function, energy transfer in and out of cells, cell growth, cell division, organization of multicellular organisms, energy and matter flow in cells and organisms, reproduction of cells and organisms, inheritance and variation of traits, natural selection, adaptation, interdependent relationships in ecosystems, and the cycles of matter and energy transfer in ecosystems. Through extensive use of hands-on labs, activities, and demonstrations students work to develop more precision and independence in making observations, critical thinking, data collection, data analysis, and the use of scientific language. Life Science grade eight prepares students for more advanced investigations in high school and sets the stage for deeper student understanding of the natural world. This course is aligned with the Middle School Life Science strand of the Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework.

## **Mathematics 8**

### **Math Level Placement**

Middle school mathematics prepares students for success in learning Algebra and lays the critical foundation for advanced mathematical thinking in high school. Middle school is a time when concrete mathematical reasoning changes to abstract algebraic thinking. This change is a process that occurs at different times for each student. As a result, it is extremely important that students are in the right place at the right time so that they can develop a deep understanding of mathematics. Toward this end, teachers, the Mathematics Department chair, and administrators meet on a regular basis each spring to discuss placements for the following year. Data from various state and local assessments, term grades, teacher recommendations, and student profiles are all taken into consideration so that we can provide students with their best placement. The placement process begins in the spring for the following school year and is a collaborative process between the school and home.

### **Math 8**

Grade 8, by recommendation

Full Year

This comprehensive, standards-based course is intended to enable students to develop their conceptual understanding, computational facility, and problem-solving skills. This course will provide all students the opportunity to make continual progress in developing the mathematical skills they need to achieve success on important assessments. Major concepts such as rational number and real number operations, expressions and equations, systems of linear equations, functions, congruence, similarity, volume formulas, the Pythagorean Theorem, and mathematical models are emphasized so that students will enter the next grade with a strong foundation in mathematics as well as the necessary prerequisite skills for an Algebra I course in high school. Real-life applications will be presented throughout the course in order to show students the usefulness of mathematics in the real world. This course is aligned to the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics.

### **Math 8 Enriched**

Grade 8, by recommendation

Full Year

The Math 8 Enriched course is designed to be quite similar to the Math 8 course, in terms of math content, however it delves deeper into mathematical concepts and moves at a more accelerated and rigorous pace as compared to Math 8. This course is aligned to the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics.



## **Algebra I**

Grade 8, by recommendation

Full Year

This standards-based course is primarily intended for those students who have achieved mastery of the skills and concepts of an advanced Pre-Algebra course and can demonstrate a thorough grasp of mathematical practice and theory. This course will provide students with an in-depth and rigorous approach to algebraic thinking. Problem-solving will be emphasized and the graphing calculator will be introduced and used throughout much of the course. Students are recommended for this course based on data from various state and local assessments, term grades, and teacher recommendations. Real-life applications will be presented throughout the course in order to show students the usefulness of mathematics in the real world. Topics to be studied include polynomial operations and all factoring techniques, systems of equations, inequalities and absolute values, rational and radical expressions and equations, relations and functions, and quadratic equations. Upon successful completion of this course, students will have a strong foundation in the mathematical skills necessary for advanced courses at the high school. This course is aligned to the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics.

## **Social Studies 8 - Western Civilization**

Grade 8

Full Year

This course will give students a historical survey of the development of Western Civilization from the Middle Ages through the Enlightenment. The course begins with an examination of three religious traditions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam) that influenced developments on the European continent and is followed by an evaluation of the decline of the Roman Empire and the consequences of the end of that empire. As the course moves through the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Reformation, Exploration, and Enlightenment, students will evaluate how religious and political institutions shaped the formation of culture and society. Throughout the year students can expect to enhance their reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills through projects, primary sources, and literary analysis. This course is aligned with the Massachusetts History and Social Studies Framework.

## **World Languages (French or Spanish)**

### **World Language Placement**

Language selections made at the end of the 6th grade year are expected to remain in place through 8th grade. The two-year middle school sequence leads ultimately to higher proficiency at the high school level and to greater academic opportunity such as Advanced Placement courses.

### **French or Spanish 8**

Grade 8

Full Year

As a continuation of the seventh grade French or Spanish course, this course will reinforce and expand upon the basic skills of learning a foreign language (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) as well as cultural exploration. Emphasis on the aural/oral skills is encouraged, in addition to stressing the basic grammatical patterns of the language. The student acquires these skills by in-class and online activities. Diverse sources introduce the student to the culture, customs, and civilization of the French- or Spanish-speaking world.

### **First-Year French or Spanish 8**

Grade 8

Full Year

A first-year language class (either French or Spanish) is offered each year, based on student enrollment and teacher licensure. Students can expect to learn the basic skills of a foreign language (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) as well as cultural exploration of French- or Spanish-speaking countries around the world. Emphasis on the aural/oral skills is encouraged, in addition to stressing the basic grammatical patterns of the language. The student acquires these skills by in-class and online activities. Diverse sources introduce the student to the culture, customs, and civilization of the French- or Spanish-speaking world.

*Note:* Students enrolled in this course have not had prior experience with French or Spanish.

## **ENRICHMENT COURSES**

### **Civics 8**

Grade 8

Trimester

In Civics, students will learn about the powers, roles, and responsibilities citizens have in a democratic society. The course includes a study of government at the national, state, and local levels, and will begin by identifying and exploring the purpose of government. Students will examine essential documents from the founding of our government such as the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. They will analyze the three branches of government to determine the limits of our government's power and the benefits of checks and balances. Through in-class simulations the students will examine how citizens participate in government and how they can propose and initiate changes to society through their local, state, and national government.

### **Computers 8**

Grade 8

Trimester

Students will engage in project-based learning to gain an understanding of digital citizenship. They will also engage with in-depth units of coding and web design, including instruction on web searches, copyright, and proper citation and attribution. They also learn how to make quizzes and surveys with Google Forms. At the end of the course students will explore an avenue of interest in the computer science field. These may include coding, web design, drawing, image editing, animation, or 3D modeling. This course is aligned with the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standards.

### **Science & Engineering 8**

Grade 8

Trimester

The eighth grade course will provide students the opportunity to creatively solve problems using sketches, solid materials, and mathematical models. Students will use tools such as dynamic mathematics software, computer-assisted design programs, computer simulations and engineering notebooks to design, model, and build objects. Students will engage in hands-on activities using the design process to fabricate, test, and modify a product to optimize the design solution. This course is aligned with the Middle School Technology Strand of the Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework.

## **Artistic Design 8**

Grade 8

Trimester

This class is an exploration of methods of creative thinking and creative process. Students will split time between performing arts and visual arts teachers. Emphasis will be on idea generation, design, and projects that reflect varied and independent student interests. Students will learn to approach creativity and design through both the performing and visual arts mediums with a focus on collaboration. Students will complete final projects that relate to both disciplines.

## **Physical Education & Health 8**

Students will spend two trimesters each year in Physical Education and Health. Both courses spend time covering the physical education and health curriculums.

### **Physical Education 8**

Grade 8

Trimester

Students demonstrate competence in skillful movement in modified game situations and a variety of rhythmic and recreational activities, transitioning from modified versions of movement forms to more complex applications across all types of activities. Students set goals, track progress, and participate in activities to improve health-related fitness. Major aspects of this course are goal-setting (setting up for interests in high school sports), targeted and developmentally-appropriate training activities, and instruction in a wide range of activities, sports skills, and movement patterns along with social skill development including cooperation, teamwork, sportsmanship, and confidence. Some units may include fitness, soccer, pickle ball, floor hockey, football, handball, speedball, basketball, ultimate Frisbee, and advanced volleyball. Physical education teachers use the QMS gym, fitness center, multipurpose room, outdoor track, and the turf field to cover these topics.

### **Health 8**

Grade 8

Trimester

This course will cover various topics related to adolescent health and well being. Students will investigate proper nutrition, learn about body image and eating disorders, and explore the impact drugs, such as marijuana and opioids, have on individuals and communities. In the latter half of the course, students will cover physical fitness, consumer science, mental illness, chronic disease, and human development. During our human development unit using the *Advocates for Youth Rights, Respect, and Responsibility* curriculum, students will learn about the influences on decision making, healthy relationships, communication skills, sexual abuse, birth control and sexually-transmitted diseases. Each unit includes note-taking, discussions, handouts, projects, and assessments.

## ***COURSES AVAILABLE AT ALL GRADES***

### **MUSIC ELECTIVES**

Students will develop a sincere appreciation for a varied repertoire of music, an informed ear that can assess both one's own performance and the performance of others, an improved ability to play their instrument or sing with musicality, proper technique, and accuracy, and the skills to function as a positive member of both the ensemble and the greater community. Students may have opportunities to audition for festivals but must be enrolled in the respective class to be eligible. Lessons and ensembles occur during the school day, and there may be additional, optional ensembles that take place after school. There is no fee for lessons or ensembles. For Band or Orchestra, students may rent or purchase instruments privately, though some large instruments may be provided by the school. Information on instrument rentals is available from the directors.

*Note:* Open to all students at any grade level; prior music experience not necessary.

#### **Band 6, 7, 8**

Grades 6-8

Elective

Full Year

QMS Band is a performing ensemble open to all students who wish to learn a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. Students are required to attend weekly group lessons and bi-weekly full ensemble rehearsals during their school day, in addition to creating a daily at-home practice routine. Lessons are scheduled on a pull-out rotation throughout the students' school day. Students will perform in evening concerts, in-school concerts, and participate in regional music competitions. Students will also attend field trips throughout the school year and have the opportunity for advanced, extra-curricular musical opportunities through the band program. Students will develop a sincere appreciation for a varied repertoire of music, an informed ear that can assess both one's own performance and the performance of others, an improved ability to play their instrument with musicality, proper technique, and accuracy, and the skills to function as a positive member of both the ensemble and the greater community.

#### **Chorus 6, 7, 8**

Grades 6-8

Elective

Full Year

QMS Chorus is a performing ensemble open to all students who wish to learn to create vocal music. Students are required to attend weekly full ensemble rehearsals during their school day, in addition to creating a daily at-home practice routine. Students will perform in evening concerts, in-school concerts, and participate in regional music competitions. Students will also attend field trips throughout the school year and have the

opportunity for advanced, extra-curricular musical opportunities through the chorus program. Students will develop a sincere appreciation for a varied repertoire of music, an informed ear that can assess both one's own performance and the performance of others, an improved ability to sing with musicality, proper technique, and accuracy, and the skills to function as a positive member of both the ensemble and the greater community. Students may have opportunities to audition for festivals but must be enrolled in the class to be eligible.

## **Orchestra 6, 7, 8**

Grades 6-8

Elective

Full Year

QMS Orchestra is a performing ensemble open to all students who wish to learn a stringed orchestra instrument (violin, viola, cello, double bass). Students are required to attend weekly group lessons and bi-weekly full ensemble rehearsals during their school day, in addition to creating a daily at-home practice routine. Lessons are scheduled on a pull-out rotation throughout the students' school day. Students will perform in evening concerts, in-school concerts, and participate in regional music competitions. Students will also attend field trips throughout the school year and have the opportunity for advanced, extra-curricular musical opportunities through the orchestra program. Students will develop a sincere appreciation for a varied repertoire of music, an informed ear that can assess both one's own performance and the performance of others, an improved ability to play their instrument with musicality, proper technique, and accuracy, and the skills to function as a positive member of both the ensemble and the greater community.

## **OTHER COURSES**

### **Academic Intervention**

Students are enrolled in this class through a referral process at the recommendation of teachers and school staff. Enrollment in this class is due to medical/other extended absences, persistent academic weaknesses, or for other situations as determined by administration. The goal of this course is to help students get caught up after absences or remediate skill deficits in academic areas of need. This class takes the place of a special (Physical Education, Health, Artistic Design, Civics, Science/Engineering, Art, Computers, Successful Student, Performing Arts) for a specified number of days during each seven-day cycle, as determined by each student's needs. The length of participation in this class is varied, dependent on student needs, and is assessed on a regular basis.

## **The Academic Learning Center (ALC)**

This is a separate classroom, coordinated by a licensed educator, where a variety of academic supports are provided to students in need. Students are referred to the ALC through a cooperative effort of their teachers, administrators, Guidance Counselors, and School Nurses. When students are receiving services through the Academic Learning Center, parents/guardians are notified and given the option to opt their child out of these services.

## **English Language Learners**

QMS offers instruction for English Language Learners using a pull-out model. The frequency and duration of services is determined by individual student proficiency levels and in accordance with state requirements. Instruction focuses on developing the English language skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing, with an emphasis on using academic language so students can participate meaningfully in their content area classrooms.

## **Study Skills**

This class is offered by recommendation only for special education students. Instruction focuses on developing self-advocacy, self-determination, and executive functioning skills while supporting student success across content-area classes through specially designed instruction. The reinforcement of skills and concept development in the core curriculum areas are emphasized. Students in this class focus on developing strategies to improve self-awareness, self-advocacy, organizational skills and to gain independence in managing their academic responsibilities.

## **Reading**

This class is offered by recommendation only and is designed for special education students with significant difficulties with decoding and encoding. This course follows a structured, multi-sensory, language-based approach, with an emphasis on sound and syllable segmentation. Taught by a highly-qualified special education teacher, it incorporates essential reading components, including instruction in decoding, encoding, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

## ***SECONDARY DEPARTMENTAL COURSE SEQUENCES***



**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS SEQUENCE GRID**

## **SCIENCE SEQUENCE GRID**

## MATH SEQUENCE GRID

## **SOCIAL STUDIES SEQUENCE GRID**

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE SEQUENCE GRID**