

STREETSBORO MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRADES 6-8

Curriculum Guide

2018-2019

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ADMINISTRATORS

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Students in 6th through 8th grades will be required to take 4 core classes: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

6th Grade Classes:

6th Grade Language Arts

Language Arts is a course in which students will embark on a journey of self-discovery through language, reading, and writing. The course stresses the independent use of reading strategies to comprehend and respond to a variety of literary and informational texts. In addition, this course emphasizes to students that writing is a process. Students will also acquire vocabulary through both reading practice and explicit instruction.

6th Grade Math

In Grade 6, instructional time focuses on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; 3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking.

6th Grade Science

6th Grade Science engages students in scientific inquiry as they explore topics in Earth, Physical and Life Sciences. In this course, students will learn to describe rocks, minerals and soil that make up Earth's lithosphere, applying the content by inferring past, present and future environments on Earth. They will study the basics of the Modern Cell Theory, recognizing that all living organisms are made of cells that carry on functions to sustain life. Students also investigate the foundational concepts of the nature of matter; that the atom makes up all objects with mass. They will explore introductory concepts of motion and energy, specifically learning about potential and kinetic energy and ways to describe and graph the motion of objects.

6th Grade Social Studies

6th Grade Social Studies focuses on the study of the people and regions of the Eastern Hemisphere. Students become aware of the geographic features, early history, cultural development, and economic change of the regions. Students learn about the development of the early river civilizations in Africa and Asia. The geographic focus of the course includes the study of contemporary regional characteristics, the movement of people, products and ideas and cultural diversity. Students develop understanding of the role of consumers and the interaction of markets, resources and competition.

Specials: Students will take 4 of the following 9-week classes: Physical Education (required), Health (required), Computers, Living Skills, and STEM. They are also required to take a period of Fine Arts all year. Students may choose to fulfill this requirement by taking a full year of Band or Choir, or they may take a semester of Art and a semester of Music.

- Sixth grade Health, Living Skills, STEM and Computers are all new classes for the upcoming school year. The specific curriculum for these classes is still being developed. However, seventh and eighth grades have courses in the same subject areas to help parents/students get a basic idea of what will be learned.

6th Grade Band

Different from 5th grade beginning band, 6th grade band is a class that meets every day all year long. All students that were members of the 5th grade beginning band are eligible to join 6th grade band. Any student interested in joining 6th grade band that has not previously played a band instrument must receive permission from the band director prior to enrolling in the class. The main focus of this class is to develop the fundamentals of an instrumental musician, like developing basic music literacy skills (the reading of music), instrument specific technique, and a characteristic tone on their instrument.

- **Required Materials:**
 - Quality/Functioning Instrument, Pencil
 - **Required Text:** *Essential Elements Book 1*
 - Quality Reeds, Valve/Slide Oil
- **Performance Schedule:**
 - 6th Grade Band students should expect to have 3-4 performances **spread across the school year.**
- **Concert Attire:**
 - “*Concert Black & White*”. White shirts, black pants/skirts, black shoes.
- **Instrument Maintenance:**
 - All band students are responsible for the “upkeep” of their instrument.
 - It is suggested that instruments are taken to a local instrument vendor 2 times a year for a cleaning and check-up.
 - If an instrument is not working, the band director will do his best to help, but rather it is suggested to take the instrument to an instrument repair specialist.
- **Switchovers:**
 - Opportunities to try new instruments are provided for select students.

Choir 6

Students learn to read music, vocal technique, singing in harmony, and have the opportunity to perform a fall and spring concert. Choir members will also have the opportunity for field-trip performances for singing in the community. There is a requirement of a white shirt and black pants or skirts for performances.

Music 6

Students will have the opportunity to learn about functional music harmony through singing, and playing ukulele, guitar, and classroom percussion instruments. The class will focus on music theory related to chord progressions, understanding tablature and chord charts through a variety of musical genres.

7th Grade Classes:

Language Arts 7

This class focuses on the following domain categories from state content standards:

- **Reading Literature**, focusing on key comprehension skills such as: citing textual evidence to support analysis of the text, determining the theme and central idea, analyzing the plot, determining the meaning of words/phrases, including figurative language, etc.
- **Reading Informational Text**, focusing on key comprehension skills such as: determining/analyzing the author’s point of view or purpose, tracing/evaluating the argument and specific claims in a text, analyzing how two or more authors write about the same topic and shape their presentations of key information, etc.
- **Written Expression**, focusing on the following types of writing:

- Argumentative Writing
- Informational (Expository) Writing
- Narrative Writing

Students will integrate technology through conducting research projects, publishing their written work electronically, and engaging in the writing process through prewriting, revising, editing, and rewriting.

- **Speaking and Listening:** Students will engage in a range of collaborative discussions, analyze main ideas, and present claims/findings.
- **Language:** Students will practice the conventions of Standard English, use knowledge of language when writing, speaking, reading, and listening, and develop vocabulary acquisition and use.

Accelerated Language Arts 7

Qualifications: Gifted identification as Superior Cognitive or in Reading/Writing or outstanding performance in 6th grade as measured by: Final grade, STAR Reading score, teacher recommendation. This class focuses on the Language Arts 7 domain categories from the state content standards, but is differentiated with more rigor. This class has a high level of expectation that all of the students will excel at higher levels. Accelerated students should be self-motivated and are expected to be independent and focused learners. The class offers academic challenges that will promote deeper meaning and in depth thinking about the content. Students will read material above grade level and will be expected to perform learning tasks related to the material.

Math 7

Seventh grade math is an extension of basic math skills combined with the following state standards:

- Ratios and Proportions: Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real world and mathematical problems.
- Number Sense: Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers.
- Expressions and Equations: Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions. Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations.
- Geometry: Draw, construct, and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationship between them. Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume.
- Statistics and Probability: Use random sampling to draw inferences about a population. Draw informal comparative inferences about two populations. Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models.

Algebra I

Qualifications: Successful completion of Math 7 in 6th grade. This course is designed to lay the foundation for all other high school math courses. Students will solve, write, and graph linear equations and inequalities. Other topics will include functions, systems of equations, polynomials, and quadratics. Students are expected to use problem solving skills for applications problems. A TI 83 Plus or TI 84 graphing calculator is recommended.

7th grade Science – General topics covered include: Scientific Method, Earth's Water, Topography, Earth's Atmosphere, Biomes/Ecosystems/Populations, Earth/Sun/Moon System, Atomic Theory, Mixtures/Compounds/Solutions, Acids/Bases, and Energy/Electricity/Magnetism.

7th grade Social Studies

This class is a study of the ancient world between 1500 BC through 1500 AD. The course will cover economic, political, religious and cultural impacts as they relate to our country today. Areas covered are Ancient Greece, Rome, West Africa, Mongolia and other European areas. Time periods discussed will be Renaissance, Reformation, the Middle Ages and Exploration.

Specials: Students are each required to take 4 9-week classes: Computers, Living Skills, STEM, and Physical Education. They are also required to take a period of Fine Arts all year. Students may choose to fulfill this requirement by taking a full year of Band or Choir, or they may take a semester of Art and a semester of Music.

7th Grade Computer (Required):

The Computer Technology curriculum for grade 7 was designed to address the technology standards developed by the state of Ohio and is a *required* class. The standards address both technology content and skills. The following is a list of the assignments that a student in grade 7 can expect to cover throughout the 9-week rotation.

- Email Etiquette – Google Documents
- Understanding Computer Parts – Inspiration
- Locating Information – Internet Search Safety and Skills
- Citing Sources – District guidelines for MLA format
- History of Technology Project – Inspiration
- Create basic apps using MIT App Inventor

7th Grade Living Skills (Required):

Living Skills is a required 9-week course which focuses on helping middle school students meet the challenges of daily living with confidence. Students will learn basic information and practical skills related to such topics as food preparation, life management, and sewing skills.

Food Preparation

- Kitchen and Food Safety
- Kitchen Tools
- Measuring
- Recipe Terms
- Table setting/table manners
- Multicultural Foods
- Microwave Cooking

Sewing Unit

- Sewing Safety
- Sewing Tools
- Sewing Projects- String Art, Sock Monkey, Rockets Banners

7th Grade Physical Education/Health (Required):

7th grade Physical Education/Health is a *required* 9-week class for all students and focuses on the state of Ohio Physical Education Standards. The class will concentrate on a variety of physical activities ranging from lifetime skills to physical fitness. Students are required to have appropriate dress to be physically active. Some activities that could be covered are:

- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Badminton
- Soccer
- Physical Fitness
- Team building

7th Grade STEM Education (Required):

In this required 9-week class, students begin to recognize the value of engineering. They are introduced to and use the design process to solve problems and understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on our lives. Students use industry-standard 3D modeling software to create virtual images of their designs and creative solutions to engineering challenges.

7th Grade Art:

Each seventh grade art student will cover a unit on shading and one point perspective, as well as numerous other topics, during this semester-long class. The concentration will be on two-dimensional works, but they will also have one three dimensional experience (such as clay masks). Projects may include:

- Pencil drawing
- Colored pencils
- Clay or Paris craft
- Watercolors

7th Grade Music/Electronic Music I

Electronic Music I is a semester long course that integrates technology and music composition. Students will learn electronic keyboarding skills and create a variety of group and individual music compositions.

7th Grade Chorus:

7th Grade Chorus is a year-long course in which students sing a variety of choral music from past and present in 2 and 3 part harmonies. Good vocal tone, intonation, and singing in harmony are basic goals in this class along with the study of the voice. Students learn basic music theory and basics of sight singing while using listening skills to improve on these basic skills in preparation for 8th grade Choir. This group performs a minimum of one concert per semester. Prior musical experience is not required.

7th Grade Band:

Seventh grade band is a class that meets every day all year. The fundamentals learned in sixth grade are reviewed and further mastered. Instruction will begin to occur at a faster pace. The focus is to improve technical proficiency with the addition of more advanced exercises and concepts. Seventh Grade Band students will begin to play more scales, flexibility exercises, rhythmic patterns, and be progressively introduced to more expressive markings of music notation. Additional performance opportunities are offered beginning in 7th Grade. **This is a third year level class, not beginning band.** Permission from the band director is needed for students who do not have previous band experience. Also, a student in this position should expect to take private lessons outside of the normal school day.

- **Required Materials:**
 - Quality/Functioning Instrument, Pencil
 - **Required Text(s):** *Essential Elements Book I, Essential Elements Book II*
 - **Students are required to purchase book II around MP2.**
 - Quality Reeds, Valve/Slide Oil
- **Step-Up Instruments:**

- A better instrument correlates with improved ability. Many students and their parents may consider purchasing step-up model instruments. Please do not purchase an instrument without the band director knowing. We want to avoid buying an instrument from poor quality instrument manufacturers.
- **Performance Schedule:**
 - 7th Grade Band students should expect to have 4 performances **spread across the school year.**
- **Jazz Band:**
 - All 7th grade band students may consider joining Jazz Band.
 - Meets Bi-weekly (Tu/Th) from 2:25pm to 3:15pm.
 - Auditions are held for the rhythm section (Piano, Bass, Guitar, Drum Set)
- **OMEA JH Solo & Ensemble:**
 - Any 7th Grade Band student taking private lessons is eligible for to prepare a solo.
 - Select 7th Grade students will be asked to participate in an ensemble.
- **Concert Attire:**
 - “*Concert Black & White*”. White shirts, black pants/skirts, black shoes.
- **Instrument Maintenance:**
 - All band students are responsible for the “upkeep” of their instrument.
 - It is suggested that instruments are taken to a local instrument vendor 2 times a year for a cleaning and check-up.
 - If an instrument is not working, the band director will do his best to help, but rather it is suggested to take the instrument to an instrument repair specialist.

8th Grade Classes:

Language Arts 8

Various genres of literature, including fiction and nonfiction, short stories, poetry, and drama/plays will be read and studied in this course. Students will refine and expand upon all of Ohio’s Learning Standards (based on the Common Core) for reading and writing skills, specifically: reading comprehension and strategies, vocabulary acquisition, writing conventions, and communication (oral and visual). Students will complete a variety of writing assignments (five paragraphs essays, creative narratives, argumentative, persuasive and informative). Special attention will be paid to preparing students for the Reading and Writing portions of the AIR Test. Literary works may include: *The Giver*, *The Outsiders*, *Flowers for Algernon*.

Accelerated Language Arts 8

Qualifications: Gifted identification as Superior Cognitive or in Reading/Writing or outstanding performance in 7th grade as measured by: Final grade, STAR Reading score, teacher recommendation. Ohio’s Learning Standards (based on the Common Core) for ELA 8 will be covered at an accelerated pace and rigor. Students will explore various genres of literature, including fiction and nonfiction, short stories, poetry and drama/plays. Students will complete a variety of writing assignments (five paragraphs essays, creative narratives, argumentative, persuasive and informative). Special attention will be paid to preparing students for the reading and writing portions of the AIR Test. Literary works may include: *The Outsiders*, *Flowers for Algernon*, and *The House of Scorpions*. Independent Study topics will be investigated in the spring.

Math 8

8th grade math is a building block for Algebra 1. Topics include Real Numbers and Exponents, Equations and Expressions, Linear and Functional Relationships, Systems of Linear Equations, Congruency and Similarity, Geometry, and Patterns and Bivariate Data.

Algebra I

Qualifications: Superior performance in 7th grade math as measured by final grade, teacher recommendation, STAR Math score, and performance on the Iowa Test of Algebra readiness. This course is designed to lay the foundation for all other high school math courses. Students will solve, write, and graph linear equations and inequalities. Other topics will include functions, systems of equations, polynomials, and quadratics. Students are expected to use problem solving skills for applications problems. A TI 83 Plus or TI 84 graphing calculator is recommended.

Honors Geometry

Pre-requisite: Algebra I

This course is designed to expand the topics covered in the basic course. Other topics that will be included law of sines, law of cosines, and vectors. Transformations, coordinate geometry, proofs, and construction will be stressed throughout the course. A TI 83 Plus or TI 84 graphing calculator is recommended.

8th Grade Science

8th Grade Science is an integrated science class that focuses on the broad topics of Earth, Life and Physical Science. Earth science is the largest part of the year with topics covered such as the formation of the Earth, plate tectonics and geologic time. Life science pertains mostly to heredity and genetics with a unit on natural selection and adaptation. Physical science highlights forces and the nature of motion.

Accelerated 8th Grade Science

Qualifications: Gifted identification as Superior Cognitive or in Science or superior performance in science as determined by final grade, teacher recommendation, STAR Math and STAR Reading scores. This class covers the entire 8th Grade curriculum. Students in this class are expected to extend the content of the 8th grade class and go deeper into the physical science concepts. It will be possible for students in this class to take Biology in 9th grade in lieu of 9th grade Physical Science.

8th grade American History

8th grade American History is filled with learning about how our country was founded. The class begins with European Exploration and ends with The Civil War and Reconstruction. Students will cover the French and Indian War, the struggle for American independence, and the War of 1812. They also analyze important documents that helped shape our country; such as, The Mayflower Compact, The Declaration of Independence, The Constitution, and various compromises. In May, students have the opportunity to travel to Washington DC so that they can view our country's history in person and see our federal government at work. The class is based on a combination of interactive notebooks, graphic organizers, projects and research.

Spanish I

Qualifications: Students must have high academic performance as evidenced by 7th grade language arts grade, teacher recommendation, and STAR Reading score or have Superior Cognitive gifted identification. Students in Spanish I will not have room for recreation time in their schedule. This course serves as an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. It is designed for beginning students with little or no previous exposure to the language. The main emphasis of the Spanish I course is on the systematic development of communicating in Spanish by focusing on the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These skills are reinforced through the use of the textbook, workbook, CD's, DVD's, communication activities, projects, and songs. Students learn to express themselves and comprehend in the present tense of regular and irregular verbs.

At the end of level 1, students will be able to express themselves and engage in simple conversation in Spanish within the limits of their knowledge of vocabulary and structure. Students will be able to describe themselves and others, including physically, personality, their likes and dislikes, etc. Comparisons between the cultures of Spanish speakers and our own are made through the discussion of topics such as the family, friends, weather, foods, sports and more.

This course also provides the opportunity for growth in the English language. Students will compare and contrast English and Spanish, enhancing the understanding of grammar in both languages. This includes such grammar concepts as verbs and verb tenses, adjectives, nouns, sentence structure, etc.

The student can expect short daily assignments, quizzes on vocabulary and grammar, unit tests, and projects.

Specials: Students are each required to take 4 9-week classes: Computers, Living Skills, STEM, and Physical Education. They are also required to take a period of Fine Arts all year. Students may choose to fulfill this requirement by taking a full year of Band, Choir, or Show Choir, or they may take two of the following semester classes: Art I, Art II, and Music Appreciation.

8th Grade Computer (Required):

The Computer Technology curriculum for grade 8 was designed to address the technology standards developed by the state of Ohio, and is a *required* class. The standards address both technology content and skills. Students will be expected to build on those skills developed in the grade 7 program. The 8th grade program is also designed for the students to work together. The following is a list of the assignments that a student in grade 8 can expect to cover throughout the 9-week rotation.

- Review: Locating Information, Understanding Computer Parts, Website Evaluations, Citing Sources
- Technology in Our Everyday Lives – Movie Maker Project
- Safe Community Project – Google Presentation
- Computer Programming – Python
- Develop an app to analyze data

8th Grade Living Skills (Required):

Living Skills is a required 9-week course which focuses on helping middle school students meet the challenges of daily living with confidence. Students will learn basic information and practical skills related to such topics as career exploration, personal finance, food and nutrition and a sewing unit. Specific topics/projects will include:

Career Preparation

- Career Exploration
- Job applications/Resumes
- Interviewing
- Paycheck/Taxes/Check Writing

Personal Finance

- Spending and Savings Plans- Values, Needs vs. Wants, Goal Setting, Decision Making
- Depository Institutions

Food and Nutrition

- My Plate- Fruits, Vegetables, Grains, Dairy and Protein Foods
- Healthy Lifestyle

Sewing Unit

- Pillow Project- Sewing Machine
- String Art Project

8th Grade Physical Education (Required):

8th grade Physical Education/Health is a *required* 9-week class for all students and focuses on the state of Ohio Physical Education Standards. The class builds on the activities from the 7th grade course and includes assessments in biomechanics and Fitness Gram. Students are required to have appropriate dress to be physically active. Some activities that could be covered are:

- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Badminton
- Soccer
- Physical Fitness
- Fitness Gram
- Team building

8th Grade STEM Education (Required):

In this *required* 9-week class, students will learn the history and development of automation and robotics. The structures of robots, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems will be studied through hands-on projects. Students will explore careers in engineering and will develop skills in solving engineering problems.

8th Grade Art I:

In a semester-long class, all of the principles studied in seventh grade art will be used as building blocks for eighth grade art. Pencil shading will progress to shading with color. Value will be interpreted using different media and methods (line, shading, pen, and ink are a few examples). Each student will have the opportunity to use clay or create an acrylic painting. During the rotation, students will also learn about different artists and their techniques, while refining their own skills. Projects and mediums may include:

- Pencil/colored pencil
- Pen and ink
- Chalk
- Portraits
- Clay
- Watercolors

8th Grade Art II

Art II is an extension of the eighth grade art class for anyone who has a sincere interest in art and developing their art skills. Students will continue to expand upon the techniques they have been learning in art 8, including shading in charcoal, pencil and other media. They will also have the opportunity to do portraits, figure drawing, clay and painting while working a bit more independently.

8th Grade Music-Electronic Music II

Electronic Music II is a semester-long course that is a continuation from Electronic Music I. In this course basic keyboard and music reading skills are utilized to assist in providing more project based learning opportunities. In this course students will compose electronic music compositions relating to looping, film scoring, and animation.

8th Grade Choir:

8th Grade Choir is a year-long class that sings a variety of choral music from past and present in 2, 3, and 4 part harmonies. Good vocal tone and intonation in preparation for singing in high school music ensembles are basic goals in this class along with the study of the voice. Students continue to develop music theory, sight singing and listening skills. This group performs a minimum of one concert per semester and will also have the opportunity to participate in a "Solo & Ensemble" festival. Singing in the 7th grade chorus is preferred but not required.

8th Grade Band:

Eighth grade band is a class that meets every day, all year. Fundamentals learned in previous years are continuously expanded upon. More advanced musical concepts become prominent in this course. The focus for this class is to prepare students for a continuing education in high school band. Eighth Grade Band students will have developed a maturing tone, increased flexibility and dexterity, proficiency of scales in various key signatures, proficiency of rhythmic patterns in various time signatures, competency of various expressive markings of style/dynamics/articulation, and a developing understanding of concepts related to musicality. **This is a fourth year level class and not a beginning level band.** Permission from the band director is **required** for students not currently enrolled in band. Students who have never participated in band and are interested must schedule a parent/teacher conference with the band director.

- **Required Materials:**
 - Quality/Functioning Instrument, Pencil
 - **Required Text(s):** *Essential Elements Book II, Essential Elements Book III*
 - ***Students may be required to purchase a new method book.***
 - Quality Reeds, Valve/Slide Oil
- **Step-Up Instruments:**
 - A better instrument correlates with improved ability. Talk to director for assistance!
- **Performance Schedule:**
 - 8th Grade Band students should expect to have 4+ performances dates **spread across the school year.** (Including Veterans Day Assembly & OMEA JH Large Group)
- **Jazz Band:**
 - All 8th grade band students may consider joining Jazz Band.
 - Meets Bi-weekly (Tu/Th) from 2:25pm to 3:15pm.
 - Auditions are held for the rhythm section (Piano, Bass, Guitar, Drum Set)

- **OMEA Adjudicated Events:**
 - Any 8th Band student taking private lessons is eligible to prepare a solo for Solo & Ensemble event.
 - 8th Grade Band students may participate in an ensemble for Solo & Ensemble.
 - The 8th Grade Band will perform at OMEA JH Large Group Event in May.
- **Concert Attire:**
 - “*Concert Black & White*”. White shirts, black pants/skirts, black shoes.
- **Instrument Maintenance:**
 - All band students are responsible for the “upkeep” of their instrument.
 - It is suggested that instruments are taken to a local instrument vendor 2 times a year for a cleaning and check-up.
 - If an instrument is not working the band director will do his best to help, but rather it is suggested to take the instrument to an instrument repair specialist.