7th & 8th Grade
Transitional Academic Guide
2019-2020
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Antioch Middle School
Maple Park Middle School
New Mark Middle School
Northgate Middle School
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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Families,

This is an exciting time in the life of your middle school child. It’s when students are asked to make decisions that will shape their future school years and beyond.

In our changing society, it is crucial that students prepare well and wisely for careers and college. This course description booklet has been created to assist you and your student in this important process. The booklet provides information about courses your child must take to meet state and local requirements. In addition, it explains opportunities for your child to explore and develop a variety of interests during their sixth, seventh, and eighth grade years.

Our school counselors will assist you and your student in making individual educational choices.

Because you know your student better than anyone, your input is essential. We want you to be confident that your student has made the best possible class choices from those offered in our exceptionally rich curriculum. Please consider these choices carefully, as few schedule changes are made after the enrollment process.

If you have questions about enrollment or the courses offered, please call your middle school office and speak with a school counselor. The principals and I are looking forward to an exciting 2019-2020 school year.

Dr. Stephanie Schnoebelen Antioch Middle School (816) 321-5260  
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PJ McGinnis Northgate Middle School (816) 321-5300  

Sincerely,

Dan Clemens, Ed.D.  
Superintendent
GOALS FOR GRADUATES

Goal 1: Students will be **INDEPENDENT LEARNERS** who:
- Know how to locate and use information.
- Utilize a variety of strategies, tools, and forms of technology in various settings to effectively meet their individual learning needs.
- Demonstrate the essential academic skills necessary to continue to learn.
- Know how to find meaning in the arts.

Goal 2: Students will be **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS** who:
- Present ideas in a variety of contexts.
- Express themselves artistically and creatively.
- Listen to others for understanding.

Goal 3: Students will be **ADAPTABLE PROBLEM SOLVERS & DECISION MAKERS** who:
- Think independently and creatively.
- Set and achieve goals.
- Analyze and evaluate solutions.
- Take informed or calculated risks for improvement and growth.
- Manage change.

Goal 4: Students will be **RESPONSIBLE PERSONS** who:
- Respect themselves and others.
- Exhibit a caring attitude toward others in the family, workplace, and society.
- Take responsibility for their own actions.
- Recognize the importance of a healthy lifestyle.
- Practice ethical decision making.

Goal 5: Students will be **CONTRIBUTING CITIZENS** who:
- Identify and evaluate societal issues and create potential solutions.
- Value and practice the democratic process.
- Act on environmental and global concerns recognizing the interdependence of all things.
- Work to promote and sustain social justice and equity.

Goal 6: Students will be **PRODUCTIVE QUALITY WORKERS** who:
- Demonstrate the necessary knowledge and skills for entry into the workplace.
- Exhibit a positive work ethic.
- Work cooperatively with others.
- Use technology as a tool for greater productivity.
- Achieve high standards of performance.
SPECIAL PROGRAMS & OPPORTUNITIES

Each middle school provides a range of services and programs: special education services for students with disabilities or students that need additional support, assistance for English Language Learners, and programs for students with advanced academic abilities.

**Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) (Daily)**
The AVID program is designed to help students prepare to enter and succeed in four-year colleges and universities. Many students with the potential for success in post-secondary education need extra academic assistance and encouragement. AVID meets the needs of these students by providing *academic preparation, study skills for honors level work as well as help in coping with honor level work, and career awareness*. AVID students will increase their skills in writing to learn through using Cornell note taking, learning logs, reflective journals, and other writing strategies. They will improve their inquiry skills through skillful questioning, critical thinking techniques, and dialogue. Collaboration skills are emphasized through group projects, study partners, and "think-pair-share" responses. Organization is key in AVID, and students use three-ring binders and weekly binder checks to be certain they are keeping their academic work organized. Reading is the final learning skill that students focus heavily on; through practice and techniques they will improve their reading skills. AVID is offered as an elective class for each grade level in middle school. In order to enroll in AVID, students will need to apply, interview, and be selected.

**Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP)**
Seventh and Eighth grade students have the opportunity to participate in the Distinguished Achievement Program. Distinguished Achievement honorees in middle school must meet seven of the 10 performance standards.

**Student Performance Standards:**
1. Earn a 3.0 GPA (no lower than 2.5 on a 4.0 grading scale)
2. Enroll and demonstrate success in at least two Honors Curriculum courses
3. Achieve one of the following:
   a. Duke Talent Search at Grade 7
      i. A score of 800 on the SAT
      ii. A score of 14 on the ACT
   b. 80th percentile on a standardized test
   c. Proficiency level on at least one section of the MAP test
4. Participate in a fine arts activity demonstrating creativity
5. Participate in student activity demonstrating action and leadership
6. Participate in a school/community service demonstrating action and leadership
7. Practice good citizenship
8. Participate in career exploration opportunities such as job shadowing or BE²
9. Maintain 95% attendance
10. Earn a minimum of two awards including Honor Roll
English Language Learners (ELL) (Daily)
The ELL class is designed to meet the needs of identified English Language Learners and targets integrated English language development in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the core content areas. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) defines the criteria for student placement in this program. ELL students are assigned at the appropriate grade level to an ELL classroom in one or more of the four core areas, as determined by each school and the individual needs of each student. Students are assessed annually on the ACCESS assessment of English language proficiency to measure their progress toward English proficiency. Once students score proficient on the ACCESS and other state and district assessments, they are exited from the ELL Program. ELL teachers meet all state and district certification standards for teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages.

Literacy Plus (Daily)
This course has been designed to accelerate the literacy skills of students who are more than one grade level below their expected reading level. Literacy skills include reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will be screened for reading ability in fifth grade and each year thereafter for placement in this program. Placement will be made by our literacy specialist.

Students in Academically Gifted Education (SAGE) (One Day per week)
The cognitive and affective needs of gifted students are addressed in the SAGE Program. Identified gifted students attend class at the Northland Innovation Center one day per week. Students select two Units of Study topics from several options. They work at an accelerated pace and master content at a higher degree of complexity than their age-level peers.

High School Credit Opportunities: Math and Modern Language
Middle school students in North Kansas City Schools have the opportunity to earn credit for high school level coursework in math (Algebra I and Geometry) and modern language. See pages 24-25 for more information on how credit for these classes are recorded on the high school academic transcript and to clarify some important questions regarding the potential impact of the credit for your student.
Honors Curriculum

Seventh grade students have the opportunity to enroll in the Honors Curriculum available in English Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Science. Honors Curriculum enrollment is recognized on grade cards and on student transcripts. This Honors Curriculum enrollment is available at all middle schools for seventh and eighth grade students.

The purpose of creating Honors Curriculum for North Kansas City School District middle school students is to address the cognitive and affective needs of high-achieving learners by providing an accelerated and enriched academic program. Curriculum development has been based on a combination of Missouri Core Academic Standards and College Board Standards and skills.

Honors Curriculum ensures that differentiated instruction is provided for all students. Honors Curriculum empowers students to complete rigorous academic work, be responsible for their own learning, and demonstrate mastery of North Kansas City Schools “Goals for Graduates.”

Honors units require students to demonstrate knowledge and skills through application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Students participating in the Honors Curriculum are evaluated through a variety of assessment tools.

7th Grade Honors English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies Eligibility Requirements

Need 4 of 6:
- MAP – Proficient or Advanced
- Attendance – 94% or better
- Lexile on or above grade level
- Grade – B or better
- Spring Benchmark – Proficient or Advanced
- Teacher Recommendation or AVID accepted

7th Grade Pre-Algebra

Need 4 of 5:
- MAP – Proficient or Advanced
- Attendance – 94% or better
- Grade – B or better
- Spring Benchmark – Proficient or Advanced
- Teacher Recommendation or AVID accepted

7th Grade Algebra I Requirements

Need 4 of 5:
- MAP – Advanced
- Attendance – 94% or better
- Grade – A
- Spring Benchmark – Advanced
- Teacher Recommendation or AVID accepted
Seventh Grade Core Program Opportunities
The following required core subjects are taught within each team.

**English Language Arts**
The seventh grade English Language Arts curriculum focuses on students’ ability to read and communicate skillfully in a variety of personal, school, and real-life settings. Students apply the skills and strategies of the reading process to:

- read and understand texts
- analyze and interpret a variety of literary and informational texts
- analyze various elements of literature and explain how they relate to each other and the real world
- apply research skills to gather and use information for research and study purposes
- apply prewriting strategies to develop ideas and plans for writing and apply the skills and strategies of the writing process
- write for a variety of purposes, and create a variety of accurate and effective communications to share with others
- use grammatical and mechanical conventions in a variety of written compositions
- evaluate writing for clarity, organization, and purpose
- revise/rewrite to improve communication

In addition, students will be exposed to the cultural diversity of written and oral language. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in Honors English Language Arts units throughout the school year.

**Honors English Language Arts**
This Honors option has been designed to meet the needs of students who have already mastered the reading, writing, and speaking skills of the regular English Language Arts curriculum. Experiences in the classroom will concentrate on in-depth analysis of literary selection through writing and discussion. The student:

- can process abstract ideas and concepts, delving deeper into them more than the average student
- stays organized, having a sense of time management and an awareness of the need to prioritize
- is able to take adequate, concise notes
- is committed to learning and curious about a wide variety of topics and issues
- is willing to do the work and seeks help when needed
- can accept and respond to criticism
- is able to collaborate with peers AND work independently with confidence
- is eager to ask and answer questions
- can be creative on projects and in problem-solving
- understands his or her strengths and weaknesses
- thrives under pressure and seeks out new challenges
Math
This course provides students with a solid foundation in basic Math skills and is fully aligned to the Missouri Core Academic Standards for the seventh grade. Students will use:

Ratios and Proportional Relationships
- Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems

The Number System
- 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 and construct geometrical figures, and describe the relationships 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

Pre-Algebra
This course has been designed for those students who already exhibit a mastery of basic math skills and concepts using rational numbers. It will provide students with a solid foundation in preparation for Algebra I and is fully aligned to the Missouri Learning Standards. Students will:

- Work with radicals and integer exponents;
- Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations;
- Analyze and solve linear equations and inequalities and pairs of simultaneous linear equations;
- Define, evaluate, and compare functions; and,
- Use functions to model relationships between quantities.

In addition to the above concepts that are closely linked to success in future Algebra learning, students will learn important concepts associated with: ratios and proportional relationships; the number system; expressions, equations, and inequalities; geometry; and, data and statistics.

Algebra I
The Algebra I curriculum is the foundation for all future high school mathematics courses while meeting specified Missouri Core Academic Standards. This course has been designed for those students who already exhibit a mastery of basic math skills and concepts using rational numbers as well an understanding of pre-algebra concepts. There will be an emphasis on algebraic
concepts with applications in algebra, statistics, and probability. This course includes techniques in problem solving involving the real number system. An understanding of patterns, relations, and functions is introduced in this course. Students will learn how to represent and analyze mathematical situations and structures using algebraic symbols and how to use mathematical models to represent and understand quantitative relationships. This course also includes the analysis of change in various contexts and prepares students for Geometry. *(This course counts as high school credit and will affect your high school GPA.)*

**Note:** Prior to taking Algebra I, it is highly recommended to take Pre-Algebra during the summer if you did not take it during the regular school year.

**Science**

7th grade students in Missouri experience four strands of science: Physical Science, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, and Engineering Design. These strands are covered in depth as students move through the grade levels. Students in sixth grade in North Kansas City Schools study a variety of science concepts upon which science instruction will be based in succeeding grades. Seventh grade students learn about methods used by scientists and engineers to explore science and study a variety of scientific ideas. Therefore, scientific inquiry and engineering design provide the methods for the foundation of study in the following instructional units:

- Energy
- Force and Motion
- Cell Structure and Function
- Earth, Moon, and Sun
- The Solar System
- Weather

Students will use scientific inquiry to see the relevance of science in their everyday lives while exploring these units.

**Honors Science**

The Honors Science option will follow the regular seventh grade Science curriculum but will provide a more in-depth approach to topics. Honors curriculum expectations include application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of information. A student enrolled in Honors Science curriculum will be expected to complete supplemental readings, independent research, lab reports, and complete projects outside of class. Students who consider taking Honors Science also need to have strong ELA and math skills.

**Social Studies: World Cultures and Geography**

Seventh graders learn about the modern world through the study of geography, government and citizenship, society and culture, economics, and the tools of social science inquiry. Emphasis is placed on understanding how geography plays a role in the development of cultures and economic systems, where people settle, and the life they lead as a result of geographical factors impacting them. Students learn about the development of the democratic process, formulate a greater understanding of the origins of cultural diversity, and appreciate other cultures and differences among people.
**Honors Social Studies**
This Honors option will follow the regular seventh grade Social Studies curriculum but will provide a more in-depth approach to topics. Honors Curriculum students will focus on primary source documents and on learning to answer more in-depth document-based questions as required on AP exams. Honors Curriculum expectations include application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of information. A student enrolled in Honors Curriculum will be expected to do research, complete projects, and do supplemental readings; therefore, students enrolling in Honors Social Studies should have demonstrated a history of consistent effort and work completion. Seventh grade students who have a special interest in Social Studies and who experience success (earning an “A” or “B”) in sixth grade are encouraged to consider the Honors Social Studies Curriculum option.

**Seventh Grade Encore Program Opportunities**
Through our encore program students will have exposure to a wide variety of activities and experiences. All of our seventh graders will be enrolled in two periods of encore classes each day.

**Encore I**
During **Encore I**, students may choose four of these offerings: Art, Design & Modeling PLTW, General Music, Medical Detectives PLTW, or Modern Language (French or Spanish). These courses are offered daily for nine weeks.

**OR**
Students may choose one of these offerings: AVID, Band, Choir, or Orchestra. These courses are offered every day for the year.

The following course descriptions should provide you additional clarification and an overview of expectations for each Encore I class.

**Art (Daily for 9 weeks)**
This art course continues to develop the students’ understanding of the importance of the visual arts in their everyday life. Students will develop an increasing fluency in the use of tools, techniques, processes, and art vocabulary. Students will study artists’ styles as inspiration for their personal artwork.

**AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination (Daily for 36 weeks)**
The seventh-grade AVID course is an elective class for students who are college bound. While concurrently enrolled in a challenging course of study, students learn strategies to enhance success. Students learn time management, practice goal-setting skills, create a four-year academic plan, demonstrate note-taking skills, work effectively in collaborative groups, and learn strategies for test preparation. Students will also begin to explore their college and career options. To take the AVID elective course, students must apply, interview, and be accepted or be currently enrolled in the AVID program.
Band (Daily for 36 weeks)
Students in seventh grade band will meet on a daily basis for the entire year in a full band setting. The practices and procedures started in sixth grade band are continued and enhanced in the seventh-grade band course. Students will continue music reading and skill building on their instrument utilizing the next level of instruction book and standard band literature. Daily practice at home and participation in evening concerts is expected. Students who excel on their instrument will be encouraged to prepare for honors level audition. The seventh-grade band will perform at least two annual concerts. Extra help is available from the instructor before or after school.

Choir (Daily for 36 weeks)
Seventh grade choir is a non-auditioned choir designed for students who are interested in becoming independent musicians and who enjoy singing with others. The main emphasis in seventh grade choir will be the enhancement of the singing voice and choral skills through rehearsal and performance. These skills include octavo music reading, choral blend of voices, and the application of good vocal technique.

Design & Modeling PLTW (Project Lead The Way) (Daily for 9 weeks)
Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they’ve learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

General Music (Daily for 9 weeks)
The seventh-grade general music program includes a continuation of the activities initiated in sixth grade. In addition, students study styles of music, the human voice, and the use of technology to learn keyboard skills, basic music theory, and composition.

Medical Detectives PLTW (Project Lead The Way) (Daily for 9 weeks)
Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene.” They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the symptoms of the human body work together to maintain health.

Modern Language: French, Spanish (Daily for 9 weeks)
The modern language program allows students to experience French and/or Spanish. The seventh-grade course develops conversational, audio-lingual skills, and cultural awareness in the specific language of study. This course is highly recommended, although not required, to those considering taking a Modern Language for high school credit in 8th grade. May not be available at all schools.

Orchestra (Daily for 36 weeks)
Seventh grade Orchestra provides students with learning and performance opportunities playing the violin, viola, cello, and bass. The primary focus is on the development and expansion of basic skills learned in sixth grade orchestra, which are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble contests, honor orchestra, and private lessons. Topics/skills covered include tone development and bowing technique, counting, timing, and rhythmic development, reading and notation skills, including
sight-reading, introduction of scales, basic music theory, development of an extensive vocabulary of musical terms and symbols, ear training and listening skills, equipment care and maintenance, and effective practice habits. Students in the seventh grade Orchestra perform in at least two concerts a year. Seventh grade Orchestra students are eligible for the district Honors Philharmonic Orchestra, a select extra-curricular ensemble. Teachers are available to assist students both before and after school in every building.

**Encore II**
During **Encore II**, students will have Physical Education on alternating days. Physical Education will alternate with a semester of Health and a semester of Public Speaking and Theater.

The following course descriptions should provide you additional clarification and an overview of expectations for each encore class.

**Health (Alternating days for 18 weeks)**
This required course is an integral part of the middle school curriculum of North Kansas City Schools. The seventh-grade Health curriculum encourages every child to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors that will help build a safe and healthy lifestyle. Students learn health behaviors that will contribute to the well-being of the community and enrich their quality of life. Seventh grade Health focuses on body systems, disease prevention and control, injury prevention and safety, and risk assessment and reduction as it relates to tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs.

**Physical Education (Alternating days for 36 weeks)**
The overview of the middle school Physical Education program is an academic subject designed to incorporate the psychomotor, cognitive, and affective learning domains which will enhance the knowledge, fitness levels, motor skill, personal/social skill, and attitude of each student. The goal of Physical Education is to provide students with opportunities to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary that develop and maintain the core values of having a lifetime of healthy habits, wellness, and to sustain an active lifestyle. Students will participate in a variety of fitness activities and learn to appreciate the value of an active life to improve their personal level of fitness. In Physical Education students will also develop the skills and knowledge necessary to participate successfully in lifetime activities, team, and individual sports. All courses will emphasize the importance of safety, cooperation, and sportsmanship.

**Public Speaking and Theatre (Alternating days for 18 weeks)**
This class gives students the opportunity to reinforce and expand upon the basics that were introduced in sixth grade. Students will continue to become more competent writers and speakers through researching, outlining, and delivering a variety of speeches. Students will also become better communicators by using technology in a variety of ways. Students will be exposed to the world of theatre; they explore live stage performance, technical theatre, reader’s theatre, or improvisational theatre. Listening skills will be reinforced as well as theatre etiquette. This course integrates English Language Arts curriculum satisfying state and national standards.
# Seventh Grade Scheduling Structure

| Core | English Language Arts  
| Core | Honors English Language Arts  
| Core | Math  
| Core | Pre-Algebra  
| Core | Algebra I  (*High School Credit given for Algebra I*)  
| Core | Science  
| Core | Honors Science  
| Core | Social Studies: World Cultures and Geography  
| Core | Honors Social Studies  
| Encore I | **Year-long Courses:**  
| Encore I | AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)  
| Encore I | Band  
| Encore I | Choir  
| Encore I | Orchestra  
| Encore I | **Nine Week Courses:**  
| Encore I | Art  
| Encore I | Design & Modeling PLTW  
| Encore I | General Music  
| Encore I | Medical Detectives PLTW  
| Encore I | Modern Language (French or Spanish)  
| Encore II | Health  
| Encore II | Physical Education  
| Encore II | Public Speaking and Theatre
EIGHTH GRADE: PATHWAY TO THE FUTURE

Honors Curriculum
Eighth grade students have the opportunity to enroll in the Honors Curriculum available in English Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Science. Honors Curriculum enrollment is recognized on grade cards and on student transcripts. This Honors Curriculum enrollment is available at all middle schools for seventh and eighth grade students. Level I Modern Language (French I and Spanish I) Algebra I, and Geometry are available to eighth grade students.

The purpose of creating Honors Curriculum for North Kansas City School District middle school students is to address the cognitive and affective needs of high-achieving learners by providing an accelerated and enriched academic program. Curriculum development has been based on a combination of Missouri Core Academic Standards and College Board Standards and skills.

Honors Curriculum ensures that differentiated instruction is provided for all students. Honors Curriculum empowers students to complete rigorous academic work, be responsible for their own learning, and demonstrate mastery of North Kansas City Schools “Goals for Graduates.”

Honors units require students to demonstrate knowledge and skills through application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Students participating in the Honors Curriculum are evaluated through a variety of assessment tools.

8th Grade Honors English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies Eligibility Requirements

Need 4 of 6:
- MAP – Proficient or Advanced
- Attendance – 94% or better
- Lexile on or above grade level
- Grade – B or better
- Spring Benchmark – Proficient or Advanced
- Teacher Recommendation or AVID accepted

8th Grade Algebra I Requirements

Need 4 of 5:
- MAP – Proficient or Advanced
- Attendance – 94% or better
- Pre-Algebra Grade – B or better
- Spring Benchmark – Advanced
- Teacher Recommendation or AVID accepted

8th Grade Geometry Requirements

Need 3 of 4:
- Algebra EOC – Proficient or Advanced
- Attendance – 94% or better
- Grade – B or better
- Teacher Recommendation or AVID accepted
Eighth Grade Core Program Opportunities
The following required core subjects are taught within each team.

**English Language Arts**
The eighth grade English Language Arts curriculum focuses on students’ ability to read and communicate skillfully in a variety of personal, school, and real-life settings.

Students apply the skills and strategies of the reading process to:

- read and understand texts
- analyze and interpret a variety of literary and informational texts
- analyze various elements of literature and explain how they relate to each other and the real world
- apply research skills to gather and use information for research and study purposes
- apply prewriting strategies to develop ideas and plans for writing and apply the skills and strategies of the writing process
- write for a variety of purposes, and create a variety of accurate and effective communications to share with others
- use grammatical and mechanical conventions in a variety of written compositions
- evaluate writing for clarity, organization, and purpose
- revise/rewrite to improve communication

In addition, students will be exposed to the cultural diversity of written and oral language. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in Honors English Language Arts units throughout the school year.

**Honors English Language Arts**
This Honors option has been designed to meet the needs of students who have already mastered the basic reading, writing, and speaking skills of the regular English Language Arts curriculum. Experiences in the classroom will concentrate on in-depth analysis of literary selection through writing and discussion. The student:

- can process abstract ideas and concepts, delving deeper into them more than the average student
- stays organized, having a sense of time management and an awareness of the need to prioritize
- is able to take adequate, concise notes
- is committed to learning and curious about a wide variety of topics and issues
- is willing to do the work and seeks help when needed
- can accept and respond to criticism
- is able to collaborate with peers AND work independently with confidence
- is eager to ask and answer questions
- can be creative on projects and in problem-solving
- understands his or her strengths and weaknesses
Math
This course provides students with a solid foundation in preparation for Algebra I and is fully aligned to the Missouri Core Academic Standards for the eighth grade. Students will use:

The Number System
- Know that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximate them by rational numbers

Expressions and Equations
- Work with radicals and integer exponents
- Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations
- Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations

Functions
- Define, evaluate, and compare functions
- Use functions to model relationships between quantities

Geometry
- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres

Statistics and Probability
- Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data

Pre-Algebra
This course has been designed for those students who already exhibit a mastery of basic math skills and concepts using rational numbers. It will provide students with a solid foundation in preparation for Algebra I and is fully aligned to the Missouri Learning Standards. Students will:

- Work with radicals and integer exponents;
- Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations;
- Analyze and solve linear equations and inequalities and pairs of simultaneous linear equations;
- Define, evaluate, and compare functions; and,
- Use functions to model relationships between quantities.

In addition to the above concepts that are closely linked to success in future Algebra learning, students will learn important concepts associated with: ratios and proportional relationships; the number system; expressions, equations, and inequalities; geometry; and, data and statistics.

Algebra I (Highly recommended: Passing grade in Pre-Algebra; suggested: B or above)
The Algebra I curriculum is the foundation for all future high school mathematics courses while meeting specified Missouri Core Academic Standards. There will be an emphasis on algebraic concepts with applications in algebra, statistics, and probability. This course includes techniques in problem solving involving the real number system. An understanding of patterns,
relations, and functions is introduced in this course. Students will learn how to represent and analyze mathematical situations and structures using algebraic symbols and how to use mathematical models to represent and understand quantitative relationships. This course also includes the analysis of change in various contexts and prepares students for Geometry. *(This course counts as high school credit and will affect your high school GPA.)*

**Geometry** *(Highly recommended: Passing grade in Algebra I; suggested: B or above)*
The Geometry curriculum meets the specified Missouri Core Academic Standards. There will be an emphasis on geometric concepts with applications in algebra, statistics, and probability. This course involves the analysis of characteristics and properties of two- and three-dimensional shapes and the development of mathematical arguments about geometric relationships. Students in this course will learn how to specify locations and describe spatial relationships using coordinate geometry and other representational systems. They will also apply transformations and use symmetry to analyze mathematical situations. Visualization, spatial reasoning, and geometric modeling will be used in this course to solve problems. This course prepares students for Algebra II. *(This course counts as high school credit and will affect your high school GPA.)*

**Science**
Students in Missouri experience eight strands of science. These strands are covered in depth as students move through the grade levels. Students in eighth grade in North Kansas City Schools study a variety of science concepts upon which science instruction will be based in succeeding grades. Scientific inquiry provides the foundation for study of the following instructional units:

- Changes in Matter
- Cells and Body Systems and Disease
- Reproduction and Heredity
- Science, Technology, and the Human Impact of Science on Society
- Dynamic Earth and Fossils

Students will use scientific inquiry to see the relevance of science in their everyday lives while exploring these units.

**Honors Science**
The Honors Science option will follow the regular eighth grade Science curriculum but will provide a more in-depth approach to topics. Honors curriculum expectations include application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of information. A student enrolled in Honors Science curriculum will be expected to complete supplemental readings, independent research, lab reports, and complete projects outside of class.

**Social Studies: American History**
Eighth grade students learn about the past, emphasizing the early history of the United States. Students will study geography, government and citizenship, society and culture, history, economics, and the tools of social science inquiry. The time period covered includes European Exploration through Reconstruction following the Civil War. Emphasis is placed on formulating a greater understanding of historical events and their impact on the development of democracy in the United States.
**Honors Social Studies**

This Honors option will follow the regular eighth grade Social Studies curriculum but will provide a more in-depth approach to topics. Honors Curriculum students will focus on primary source documents and on learning to answer document-based questions as required on AP exams. Coursework will include research projects, writing assignments, and pictorial and graphic displays while incorporating the use of technology. Individualized projects will allow students to report findings and demonstrate several levels of learning including application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Students enrolling in Honors Social Studies should have demonstrated a history of consistent effort and work completion. Eighth grade students who have a special interest in Social Studies and who experience success in seventh grade are encouraged to consider the Honors Social Studies Curriculum option. A good work ethic and history of work completion are a must. A desire to learn for the sake of learning is desired.

**Eighth Grade Encore Program Opportunities**

All eighth-grade students will participate in two encore periods each day. One semester is equal to 18 weeks in length.

**Encore I**

During **Encore I**, students may choose two out of these offerings: Art, Choir, Flight and Space PLTW, Modern Language (French or Spanish), or Theatre. These courses are offered daily for 18 weeks.

OR

Students may choose one of these offerings: AVID, Band, Choir, Modern Language (French I or Spanish I), or Orchestra. These courses are offered every day for the year.

The following course descriptions should provide you additional clarification and an overview of expectations for each Encore I class.

**Art (Daily for 18 weeks OR alternating days for 18 weeks for full-year music students)**

This class further develops students' comprehension of media, techniques, and art concepts and prepares students for high school art. Opportunities will be provided for a more in-depth application of problem-solving skills and independent thinking through the process of creating art and studying art history. Students will expand their ability to evaluate their own artwork and the artwork of others.

**AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination (Daily for 36 weeks)**

The eighth-grade AVID course is an elective class for students who are college bound. While concurrently enrolled in a challenging course of study, students learn strategies to enhance success. Students will learn time management, practice goal-setting skills, create a four-year academic plan, demonstrate note-taking skills, work effectively in collaborative groups, and learn strategies for test preparation. Students will also begin to explore their college and career options. In order to take the AVID elective course, students must apply, interview, and be accepted or be currently enrolled in the AVID program.
Band (Daily for 36 weeks – Teacher Approval Required)
The eighth-grade band meets daily all year with a continued focus on individual and ensemble skill building. Students will utilize their increasing performance and rehearsal skills with more challenging music and performance schedules. Daily practice and more intense rehearsal skills are an expectation as students are prepared for high school. Students will be expected to attend and participate in all scheduled rehearsals and performances. The eighth-grade band will perform many times during the year and will participate in a district-wide assessment performance. Students may also audition for the North Kansas City Schools Honors Band and the KC Metro District Honors Band. Students may choose to be involved in a Solo and Ensemble contest. Extra help from the instructor is available after school.

Choir (Daily for 18 or 36 weeks)
Interested students are invited to participate regardless of previous choir experience. Participants in the eighth-grade choir are required to perform in concerts both inside and outside of school. Students will be required to sing the following choral styles in concerts: classical songs, art songs, patriotic songs, American folk songs, pop songs, madrigals, and holiday songs. Successful participation will prepare students for involvement in high school select choirs. The course will emphasize the development of fundamental skills in appropriate choral singing such as sight singing, vocal production, tone quality, and performance etiquette. Activities will include an opportunity to audition for the All-District Honor Choir, participation in a middle school/high school festival, performance field trips, and competitions.

Flight and Space PLTW (Project Lead The Way) (Alternating days for 18 weeks)
The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight and Space. During this unit, students delve into the history of flight and space, discover the science behind aeronautics, and explore traveling and living in space. Students are then challenged to use their knowledge to design, build, and test an airfoil.

Modern Language: French (Daily for 18 weeks)
This course includes an introduction to the basic concepts of French. Skills in listening speaking, reading, and writing will be developed, and basic grammar will be introduced. Conversational skills will be emphasized, and the culture of French-speaking countries will be studied. This course gives additional foundation before beginning the yearlong course in high school. May not be available at all schools.

Modern Language: Spanish (Daily for 18 weeks)
This course includes an introduction to the basic concepts of Spanish. Skills in listening speaking, reading, and writing will be developed, and basic grammar will be introduced. Conversational skills will be emphasized, and the culture of Spanish-speaking countries will be studied. This course gives additional foundation before beginning the yearlong course in high school.
Modern Language: French I (Daily for 36 weeks)
Students who choose the full year option for French will follow the same curriculum offered in the four district high schools. In this option, students commit to rigorous language learning focusing on the four areas of language acquisition: reading, writing, speaking, and listening comprehension with the goal of true literacy in the target language. Students experience daily exposure to grammar, vocabulary, and culture. Similar to Honors courses, this course requires a high-level of commitment and maturity and should only be considered by students who consistently earn A’s and B’s. Students should earn a C or better first semester to continue the course second semester. Eighth grade students who satisfactorily complete the all-year course will receive one credit hour on their transcript which applies towards graduation and will be ready for Spanish II upon entering high school. *(This course counts as high school credit and will affect your high school GPA.)* May not be available at all schools.

Modern Language: Spanish I (Daily for 36 weeks)
Students who choose the full year option for Spanish will follow the same curriculum offered in the four district high schools. In this option, students commit to rigorous language learning focusing on the four areas of language acquisition: reading, writing, speaking, and listening comprehension with the goal of true literacy in the target language. Students experience daily exposure to grammar, vocabulary, and culture. Similar to Honors courses, this course requires a high-level of commitment and maturity and should only be considered by students who consistently earn A’s and B’s. Students should earn a C or better first semester to continue the course second semester. Eighth grade students who satisfactorily complete the all-year course will receive one credit hour on their transcript which applies towards graduation and will be ready for Spanish II upon entering high school. *(This course counts as high school credit and will affect your high school GPA.)*

Orchestra (Daily for 36 weeks – Teacher Recommendation)
Eighth Grade Orchestra gives students who have successfully completed three years of string study experience in performing music of various styles and periods as they continue to develop skills in fingering and bowing. Musical interpretation and ensemble playing are stressed, and opportunities for public performance are provided. Students continue to develop good tone, intonation, articulation, and style of playing by studying solo, ensemble, and orchestra literature. They will perform Grade II and III literature and identify music symbols, key signatures, and tempo. Orchestra members participate in school concerts and local and regional festivals. Eighth Grade Orchestra students are eligible for the Honors Orchestra, a district-wide, select, extracurricular ensemble.

Theatre (Daily for 18 weeks)
In eighth grade students are expanding on their performance skills and knowledge of theatre. They will get more in depth into theater history, technical theatre, the process of play production, and theatre appreciation from the audience’s perspective. Students will practice characterization and perform prepared material for an audience as well as further exploration of improvisational performance. Whether it is storytelling, play production, persuasive speaking, radio theatre, or filming student-generated performances, students will enjoy this exciting and lively class. This course integrates English Language Arts curriculum satisfying state and national standards.
Encore II
During **Encore II**, students will have Physical Education on alternating days. Physical Education will alternate with a semester of Health and a semester of Automation & Robotics PLTW. **Students enrolled in full-year music may opt for Art instead of Automation & Robotics PLTW.**

**Automation & Robotics PLTW (Project Lead The Way) (Alternating days for 18 weeks)**
Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

**Health (Alternating days for 18 weeks)**
This required course is an integral part of the middle school curriculum of North Kansas City Schools. The eighth-grade Health curriculum encourages every child to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors that will help build a safe and healthy lifestyle. Students learn health behaviors that will contribute to the well-being of the community and enrich their quality of life. In eighth grade Health, students study social systems, personal and family health, nutrition principles and practices, consumer health, life management skills, and environmental health.

**Physical Education (Alternating days for 36 weeks)**
The overview of the middle school Physical Education program is an academic subject designed to incorporate the psychomotor, cognitive, and affective learning domains which will enhance the knowledge, fitness levels, motor skill, personal/social skill, and attitude of each student. The goal of Physical Education is to provide students with opportunities to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary that develop and maintain the core values of having a lifetime of healthy habits, wellness, and to sustain an active lifestyle. Students will participate in a variety of fitness activities and learn to appreciate the value of an active life to improve their personal level of fitness. In Physical Education students will also develop the skills and knowledge necessary to participate successfully in lifetime activities, team, and individual sports. All courses will emphasize the importance of safety, cooperation, and sportsmanship.
### Eighth Grade Scheduling Structure

| Core | Core English Language Arts  
Honors English Language Arts |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Core | Math  
Algebra I *(High School Credit given for Algebra I)*  
Geometry *(High School Credit given for Geometry)* |
| Core | Science  
Honors Science |
| Core | Social Studies: American History  
Honors Social Studies |
| Encore I | **Year-long Courses:**  
AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)  
Band  
Choir  
Modern Language (French I or Spanish I)  
*(High School credit given for French I and Spanish I)*  
Orchestra |
| Encore I | **Semester Courses:** (Choose two)  
Art  
Choir  
Flight and Space PLTW  
Modern Language (French or Spanish)  
Theatre |
| Encore II | Automation and Robotics PLTW  
Health  
Physical Education |
High School Credit Opportunities: Math & Modern Language

Middle school students in North Kansas City Schools have the opportunity to earn credit for high school level coursework in math and modern language.

The information below is designed to help you understand how credit for these classes is recorded on the high school academic transcript and to clarify some important details regarding the potential impact of that credit for your student.

Which classes are offered to middle school students for high school credit?

The following classes are offered in middle school for high school credit: Algebra I, Geometry, French I, and Spanish I.

How much high school credit can be earned for each of these classes?

Each full-year class is worth one (1) high school credit.

Do these courses count toward subject area requirements for high school diplomas and college admissions?

Yes! Subject area requirements specify the number of credits that must be earned in a specific area of study to qualify for a high school diploma and for admission to colleges. For example, starting with the class of 2019-2020, all students are required to earn four credits in mathematics to graduate from any North Kansas City School District high school. Some universities may also require students to have earned at least two credits in modern language as an admission requirement. Math and modern language credits earned during middle school do count toward all of these requirements.

Do students receive letter grades for high school credit classes taken in middle school?

Yes. Letter grades will be recorded on students’ high school transcripts and will count as part of their high school grade point average (GPA) and class rank. These classes will be transcribed with the notation that the courses were completed prior to 9th grade. Please note students may opt to retake any of these classes in high school to improve their learning and their grades, however, course credit will not be duplicated.

Do these classes count as high school “Honors” classes?

Geometry and Algebra II taken during middle school do count for high school Honors credit, and students will receive Distinction Points. (Distinction Points give students an advantage in class rank.) Since Algebra I and level one modern language classes are not offered for Honors credit in the high schools, middle school students will not receive Distinction Points for these courses and they will not count as high school Honors courses.

Will students be able to transfer out of a high school credit course at semester if their grade is a D or F?

Yes. If the student is not making sufficient progress in the class and their grade is a D or F, they may transfer out at semester.
Can a student obtain Credit Recovery & Grade Replacement?
Yes. If a student retakes a class, the grade from the original class will remain on their transcript; however, the original grade will not be included in the calculation of the student's GPA.

Where can I get more information?
Please contact your child’s middle school teachers or school counselors for further information. You may also call the counseling department in the high school that your child will be attending.

High School Distinguished Achievement Program
North Kansas City Schools set high expectations for students to accept the honors of rigorous course work. We expect students to excel on performance assessments, to earn college credits as juniors and seniors in high school, to take advanced placement courses and exams earning advanced standing in colleges and universities, and to develop a portfolio, experience an internship, or develop a senior exhibition. Our students explore career pathways, discover their interests and strengths, and take Honors coursework in preparation for a world of choices that lies beyond a high school education.

A+ Schools Eligibility Requirements – Planning for High School
North Kansas City Schools participates in the state A+ Schools program and each of our high schools are designated A+ Schools. Graduates are eligible for state reimbursement for the cost of tuition, books, and fees to any Missouri public community college, vocational, or technical school.

To be eligible, each student must sign a written agreement with the school during the last three years prior to high school graduation and:

- Attend a designated A+ School for three consecutive years prior to high school graduation.
- Graduate from high school with a grade point average of 2.5 points or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Maintain a minimum average of a 95% attendance record for the three-year period.
- Perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring for younger students.
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoidance of the unlawful use of drugs.
- Complete and submit the FAFSA for federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment.

Students receiving the Missouri A+ Schools Scholarships are required to score at the proficient or advanced level on the Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II End of Course Examination (EOC) taken in high school or during middle school to fully qualify for the A+ Scholarship.

Diploma Options for the classes of 2019
North Kansas City Schools currently offer four diploma options for graduates:
• **Career/College Readiness Diploma** (26 Credits)
  Graduates are recognized as having met entrance requirements for most Missouri universities. Work with your Counselor for more guidance.

• **Gold Medallion Honors Diploma** (26 Credits)
  Graduates receive honors and are recognized for completing a rigorous program designed to meet all entrance requirements for the University of Missouri system as well as most universities nationwide.

• **International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP)** (26 Credits)
  Graduates receive honors and are recognized for completing rigorous international curricula designed to meet the entrance requirements of the world's best universities.

• **International Baccalaureate Career-Related Program Certificate (IBCP)** (26 Credits)
  Graduates receive honors and are recognized for completing rigorous international curricula combined with a career pathway to enter the workforce and/or to meet the entrance requirements of higher learning institutions.
### Diploma Credits Required

#### Paths to Graduation

<table>
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<th>DIPLOMA OPTIONS:</th>
<th>Career/College Readiness</th>
<th>Gold Medallion</th>
<th>AP Capstone</th>
<th>IBDP</th>
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#### TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED

|                         | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 |

*All students will be required to complete a service component*

+ **Personal Finance** will be an on-line course, with blended support
++ **AP Seminar and AP Research** – Optional for students pursuing IBCP
Preparing for Life After High School

Career Preparation – It is never too early to begin planning for your future!

Although it is sometimes difficult for teenagers to focus on their futures, it is extremely important that they do so. The requirements of the workforce have changed dramatically in just a few years. Workers at all levels have had to adapt to an entirely new set of rules. The explosion of technological improvements coupled with a rapidly expanding base of knowledge makes it necessary for every worker to develop a willingness to be a lifelong learner. Future success depends, to a large degree, on developing a progressive attitude.

Beginning at the freshman level, a pre-planned program of education, based upon interest, will help each student prepare for a Career Pathway. Career Pathways are groups of occupations/careers that are combined together because the people in them share many similar interests and strengths. It is important for the student to note that there are a variety of occupations in each pathway that require different levels of education and training.

Selecting a Career Pathway will provide the sequence necessary for students to focus on a career goal as they proceed through the curriculum. A Career Pathway also will prepare students for the changing world of the future. Whether that future is a four-year university or training at a technical college or in the workforce, Career Pathways provide a systematic plan for all students to progress through a sequence of courses toward accomplishing identified academic, career goals, and interests.

The following are the Career Pathways:
  - Arts & Communication
  - Business, Management & Technology
  - Health Services
  - Human Services
  - Industrial & Engineering Technology
  - Natural Resources & Agriculture
North Kansas City Schools offers many opportunities to help students make informed decisions as they prepare for life after graduation.

Students complete Missouri Connections with the support of teachers and counselors. Missouri Connections helps students select Career Paths and Clusters that match their interests and skills. Programs of Study provide guidance for high school course selection and opportunities to prepare for careers.

Personal Plans of Study are created by each student to personalize the educational experience to meet his or her needs.

**Missouri Connections**

Missouri Connections is an online resource ([http://www.missouriconnections.org/](http://www.missouriconnections.org/)) that takes career planning to a higher level. Sponsored by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Economic Development, Missouri Connections is available to students, parents, guidance counselors, educators, and job seekers at no charge.

Students in North Kansas City Schools use Missouri Connections with the support of teachers and counselors. The results help students make decisions about Career Clusters that are a good match for the student’s interests and skills as well as make educational decisions to prepare for specific occupations.

Parents are encouraged to talk to their student, request his or her username and password, view their student’s assessment results, and talk about career options. Your student’s username should be Nkclunch code number and their password should be their lunch code number. The following pages will help you navigate through the Missouri Connection website and help plan your student’s future educational experiences.
Go to the following URL:  https://mocis.intocareers.org/materials/portal/home.html
Enter your student’s User Name and Password (your counselor can help you with this).

Hover over “My Portfolio” to see the work your student has done within the program. If there is nothing in there yet, that means your student will be completing assessments as they move through their middle school years.

You can also look at “Using Junior” to learn about the many ways CIS Junior can help your child begin to plan their future.
There is a section at the bottom of the page called “Tools for Parents.” Here you will find reading materials about how you can make a difference in your child’s career development, how to build for your child’s future, as well as tips on how you can help your child be successful.

Simply click on the arrow titled “General Topics” to find all of this information.

Your student will have an opportunity to take a “Career Cluster Inventory.” Below is an example of what the results page looks like. The horizontal bars represent their interest levels for the 16 Career Clusters. You can click on the title to learn more about the Cluster itself and the occupations that fall under the Cluster.
Career Paths and Clusters

Career Paths
Missouri has identified six Career Paths to help students become aware of and explore careers in a logical and meaningful way.

Career Clusters
Missouri uses 16 Career Clusters as a way of organizing occupations and careers to assist educators in tailoring rigorous coursework and related activities for all students. The Career Clusters include all occupations, even those not usually found in career and technical education. Career Clusters may be used beginning in middle school and can continue as a framework for educational planning through postsecondary education.

Career Cluster Titles
- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Architecture & Construction
- Arts, Audio-Visual Technology & Communications
- Business Management & Administration
- Education & Training
- Finance
- Government & Public Administration
- Health Science
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Math
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics
**Personal Plan of Study**
A Personal Plan of Study is related to a Program of Study, but it is customized to reflect the individual student's needs. School organizations and community activities can give students practical experience to hone skills learned in the classroom and develop personal qualities such as leadership and teamwork. Families, counselors, and teachers work together with the student to develop the Personal Plan of Study. Career development opportunities such as job shadowing, mentoring, and internships help students gain real-world experience and help the students explore career possibilities while still in school.

**Career Pathways**
Occupations within a Career Cluster are further grouped according to shared characteristics such as skills sets or common roles. This grouping is called a Career Pathway. Each cluster contains two to seven Career Pathways. Career Pathways assist educators in the development of a coordinated sequence of courses that identifies both secondary and postsecondary education elements.

### Student Benefits with Career Clusters
- Career Clusters directly link learning today with opportunities to make a living tomorrow.
- See the relevance of education applied to real-world situations.
- Helps all students plan for the future, whatever their interests, abilities, or desires for further education.
- Work-based learning and project-based learning provide hands-on experience in the classroom and in the workplace.
- Learning occurs in a variety of settings using a variety of teaching methods that match different learning styles.
- Encourages opportunities to begin a postsecondary certification or degree program through courses taken for college credit.

### Family Benefits with Career Clusters
- More opportunities to learn about their student’s career assessments and goals.
- Helps families assist students with course and activity selection to support goals.
- Provides a strong foundation in academic, employability, and technical skills.
- Students who focus on a goal and see the connection between coursework and a career are more likely to stay in school.
- Save on tuition when students pursue high school courses with the option to earn college credit.