



## Grandville Middle School Trimester Course & Elective Guide

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### MS Scheduling Overview

Grandville Middle School students register for classes each Spring. A course selection guide form is sent home, along with a letter outlining the scheduling process. Parents sign off on the schedule requests during and at the close of the process. Students will be asked to rank order their elective requests using the form, but should keep in mind that the requests do not guarantee placement in an elective. Not all electives are offered every hour of the day, therefore, a child's schedule may not have room for an elective the hour it is offered, even if that elective is their first choice. Full year course may not be dropped during the year and lunch periods are assigned based on the lunch period of the child's 4th and 5th hour teacher.

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### Required 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Trimester Courses

#### Physical Education 7

All students who participate in this sports and activity experience at GMS will be exposed to a variety of wellness-based activities that will challenge their bodies as well as their minds. Basic instruction in aquatics, sports, intramurals, fitness and leisure/fun games provides a foundation to guide students to understand that physical activity is a vital part of lifelong learning.

#### Computer Education

Students will learn about the following technology concepts: Keyboarding, Coding, Computer Troubleshooting, Digital Citizenship, Formatting Papers, and Career Exploration.

#### Science Topics

Science Topics is an extension of the 7th grade science curriculum. Students will study basic meteorology which will include the structure of the atmosphere, the factors that create weather, and how it is forecasted. They will also study climate and climate change as well as how it impacts Michigan.

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### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Course Descriptions

#### Art

Have fun learning about and making art in a studio-type classroom. Students will learn how to improve their drawing skills and will create projects using materials such as chalk-



pastels and paint. Students will also enjoy learning how to make sculptures of famous people by using wire and plaster. Students will not only produce works of art, but will look at art, talk about art and develop an appreciation of it.

### **Communications**

This class is designed to assist students in the early stages of public speaking. Students will learn and practice techniques such as role playing, verbal and non-verbal communication, pantomimes, impromptu speaking and notecard/outline development.

### **Consumer Education**

This class is designed to help students learn and practice using the financial decisions required in everyday life. Topics include budgeting, balancing checkbooks, stock market and investing/saving, and business problem solving.

### **Creative Writing**

Created for students who enjoy writing, the writing workshop format is designed to foster creativity and self-expression in a supportive environment. Expressing personal voice, peer conferencing and collaborating and multi-genre writing will be some of the areas developed.

### **Current Events**

This class will focus on issues in the news today. We will examine a wide range of topics, from local, state, national and world events. Students will also focus on issues that have relevance in our global community - everything from the economy to the environment and how they relate to us in Grandville.

### **Literature Exploration**

This course is for students who love reading! Students will be reading both independent choices as well as more advanced whole class novels with a focus on reflections, discussion and higher order thinking.

### **Physical Education Fitness/Conditioning – Co-ed**

This course focuses on lifetime fitness and conditioning. This elective can be taken in addition to our required PE class.

### **Science Challenger 7**

Science Challenger is designed as a competitive environment where students are given specific challenges with specific rules requiring students to use their skills and imagination to outperform their classmates. Household materials will be given in limited supply while students are asked to accomplish a task that will test their use of those materials. Students



may be asked to build a structure over a sink. Weight will be added until that structure collapses. Students will be ranked by how much weight their structure holds compared to the others in the class. Challenges will increase in difficulty throughout the trimester. No homework will be assigned in this class.

### **Study Skills**

This course will help students with organization, note taking and test taking strategies as well as core content reading comprehension.

### **Theater**

This introductory theater course is open to all students. The class focus is on performing arts concentrating on the fundamentals of theatre such as speech, movement and improvisation as well as some of the technical aspects of theater.

## **MUSIC ELECTIVES**

### **Band 7**

Students who have taken a full year of beginning band in sixth grade may sign up for seventh grade band. Students will have band every day. Grades are based on class participation, concerts, playing evaluations, and weekly practice cards showing time spent practicing at home.

Middle school band is geared more toward performance, where beginning band was based on individual development. Students will continue to develop individual skills but will also learn to perform as a group.

Seventh grade performances will include a holiday concert, winter concert, and District Band Festival, and a spring concert. **Attendance is mandatory for all performances.** Other performance opportunities include Solo and Ensemble festival and playing at the West Michigan Whitecaps game.

### **7th Grade Jazz Band (Full Year Course)**

Jazz Band enrollment is by audition for more advanced players. Students must also be enrolled in regular band. Students will learn the different jazz styles and rhythmic interpretation associated with jazz music. Students will be introduced to various jazz artists and their particular styles and will also learn the basics of improvisation. There will be several performances throughout the school year. **Attendance is mandatory for all performances.**



### **Choir 7**

Students will demonstrate proper vocal technique through the performance of unison, two-part, and three-part music of several styles and historical periods. Music theory and sight singing will be studied on a daily basis. Grades are based largely on participation and effort while a portion is derived from theory and written work. **Attendance is mandatory for all performances.**

### **Musical Theater 7/8 (Full Year Course)**

This class studies many aspects of stage and drama methods as well as technical areas through the performance of a musical. Previous drama experience and musical experience is necessary. Students must audition for the course and participate in Choir (or other music course as approved by the instructor). **Attendance is mandatory for all performances.**

### **Orchestra 7**

Students in Orchestra 7 participated in the strings program during 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The program provides instrumental instruction on violin, cello, viola or string bass. Students learn to improve individual skill as well as perform as a group. Students are expected to attend all performances.

Students in orchestra will perform 4 concerts per year as well as many other performance opportunities such as Solo and Ensemble, string clinics and special concerts. An important part of these classes are the annual trips.

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## **Required 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trimester Courses**

### **Health**

The health curriculum provides students with critical health knowledge (including the ability to later access health information) and skills (including social and decision-making) to maintain healthy lifestyles during school and beyond. The following units are included in the course of study – Social and Emotional Health, Personal Hygiene, Nutrition and Physical Activity, Tobacco, Drugs (including over the counter) and Alcohol Education, Personal Health and Wellness, Reproductive Health, Eating Disorders, and Internet Safety.

### **Physical Education 8**

All students who participate in this sports and activity experience at GMS will be exposed to a variety of wellness-based activities that will challenge their bodies as well as their minds. Basic instruction in aquatics, sports, intramurals, fitness and leisure/fun games



provides a foundation to guide students to understand that physical activity is a vital part of lifelong learning.

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## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Course Descriptions**

### **Art**

Have fun learning about and making art in a studio-type classroom. Students will learn how to improve their drawing skills and will create projects using materials such as chalk-pastels and paint. Students will also enjoy learning how to make sculptures of famous people by using wire and plaster. Students will not only produce works of art, but will look at art, talk about art and develop an appreciation of it.

### **Communications**

This class is designed to assist students in the early stages of public speaking. Students will learn and practice techniques such as role playing, verbal and non-verbal communication, pantomimes, impromptu speaking and note card/outline development.

### **Debate 8**

This class will teach students debate strategies in several forms – open forum, parliamentary procedures and Q & A. Students will learn constructive argument using attack points, cross-fire rounds and rebuttal time. In addition, critical thinking and listening skills will be a focus. Students will also work & develop descriptive speeches and demonstration speeches and will review law cases between plaintiff and defendant.

### **Consumer Education**

This class is designed to help students learn and practice using the economics required in everyday life. Topics include budgeting, balancing checkbooks, stock market, and economic and business problem solving.

### **Creative Writing**

Created for students who enjoy writing, the writing workshop format is designed to foster creativity and self-expression in a supportive environment. Expressing personal voice, peer conferencing and collaborating and multi-genre writing will be some of the areas developed.

### **Current Events**

This class will focus on issues in the news today. We will examine a wide range of topics, from local, state, national and world events. Students will also focus on issues that have



relevance in our global community - everything from the economy to the environment and how they relate to us in Grandville.

### **Literature Exploration**

This course is for students who love reading! Students will be reading both independent choices as well as more advanced whole class novels with a focus on reflections, discussion and higher order thinking.

### **Physical Education Fitness/Conditioning – Co-ed**

This course focuses on lifetime fitness and conditioning. This elective can be taken in addition to our required PE class.

### **Science Challenger 8**

Science Challenger is designed as a competitive environment where students are given specific challenges with specific rules requiring students to use their skills and imagination to outperform their classmates. Household materials will be given in limited supply while students are asked to accomplish a task that will test their use of those materials. Students may be asked to build a structure over a sink. Weight will be added until that structure collapses. Students will be ranked by how much weight their structure holds compared to the others in the class. Challenges will increase in difficulty throughout the trimester.

### **Study Skills**

This course will help students with organization, note taking and test taking strategies as well as core content reading comprehension.

### **Theater**

This introductory theater course is open to all students. The class focus is on performing arts concentrating on the fundamentals of theatre such as speech, movement and improvisation as well as some of the technical aspects of theater.

### **Music Electives**

#### **Band 8 (Full Year Course)**

Eighth grade band is a continuation of seventh grade band. In addition to performance, students will be introduced to marching band. In the fall, eighth grade band members will perform at the last home football game with the high school marching band and will perform the opening ceremony for the Grandville Marching Band Invitational. In the spring they may march in a parade.



Performances include the Holiday Concert, Winter Concert, District Band Festival, and Spring Concert. **Attendance is mandatory for all performances.** Other performance opportunities include Solo and Ensemble Festival and playing at the West Michigan Whitecaps game. Students will also have the opportunity to audition for the Michigan All-State Band and are highly encouraged to participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival. Grades are based on class participation, playing evaluations, concerts, and weekly practice reports showing time spent practicing at home.

### **8th Grade Jazz Band (Full Year Course)**

Jazz Band enrollment is by audition/invitation for the more advanced players. Students must also be enrolled in regular band for the school year. **Attendance is mandatory for all performances**

Students will continue to learn the different jazz styles and different rhythmic interpretation associated with jazz music. They will be introduced to various jazz artists and their particular styles, as well as continue to develop improvisational skills.

Students enrolled in Jazz Band will have several performing opportunities throughout the year, including public concerts and jazz festivals.

### **Choir 8 (Full Year Course)**

This course is the bridge between middle and high school choir and is a full-year course, meeting every day. Students build on what they have learned in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir. There are three major performances which feature either ethnic and holiday, classics and traditional or show choir and light jazz. Unlike 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir, students will participate in the District Festival Event. Grades are based on rehearsal attendance and commitment, written work, performance skills and self-discipline. **Attendance is mandatory for all performances.**

### **Musical Theater 7/8 (Full Year Course)**

This class studies many aspects of stage and drama methods as well as technical areas through the performance of a musical. Previous drama experience and musical experience is necessary. Students must audition for the course and participate in Choir (or other music course as approved by the instructor **Attendance is mandatory for all performances.**

### **Orchestra 8 (Full Year)**

Students in Orchestra 8 participated in the strings program during 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades. The program provides more advanced instrumental instruction on violin, cello, viola or string bass. Students continue to improve individual skills as well as their performance as a group. **Students are expected to attend all performances.**



Students in Orchestra 8 will perform 4 concerts per year as well as many other performance opportunities such as Solo and Ensemble, string clinics and special concerts. An important part of this class is the annual trip.

### **Foreign Language electives**

#### **Spanish I (Full year Course)**

This course is the high school Level 1 Spanish course and is designed to fulfill one credit of the two-credit Michigan graduation requirement upon successful completion. Presentation of the language is modeled after the TPRS (Total Proficiency by Reading and Storytelling) method. Students will learn new vocabulary primarily by listening to stories told with visuals and by reading in the target language. Emphasis is on language fluency but grammar is taught as needed. Other classroom activities include student created stories, verbal presentations, written activities, quizzes, tests and exams. Traditional textbooks are not utilized but students will keep a binder for handouts from the teacher. Homework is assigned but most of the work is completed in class so attendance and self discipline in listening are vital to success.

#### **French I (Full year Course)**

This course is the high school Level 1 French course and is designed to fulfill one credit of the two-credit Michigan graduation requirement upon successful completion. Through the use of props, stories, and pictures, students will learn a variety of practical vocabulary topics, such as describing oneself and others, talking about school, family, rooms of the house, clothing, sports, etc. Students will also learn how to order food in a restaurant, buy groceries, and become familiar with airport and train station terminology. Along with vocabulary, students will be learning important grammar concepts and exploring cultural comparisons that will help tie the language together. Students will be given homework, quizzes, tests and exams to assess their understanding throughout the year.