

## **L. E. White Middle School** **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Curriculum**

All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be scheduled into the four year long academic courses: mathematics, language arts, social studies, and science. They will also be required to take one nine week course each of exploring technology, family & consumer sciences, computers and physical education. Eighth grade students will have two semesters or one year long elective(s) from the listing of electives offered.

### **ACADEMIC COURSES**

#### **MATHEMATICS**

All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will continue the development of their mathematics education with Algebra I. Most students will complete the first half of the Algebra Course (Algebra A-B). 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who need more practice in math concepts and applications will be scheduled into Pre-Algebra. Eighth grade students with strong skills and concept foundations will complete the full Algebra course.

#### **LANGUAGE ! / LANGUAGE ARTS**

All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will continue the development of their Language Arts skills. We will combine grammar, including spelling and vocabulary, writing and literature into an interesting, challenging, fun and productive learning experience. These objectives will be accomplished through a variety of activities and reading genres. Placement in **Language !** will be dependent on individual reading level.

#### **SCIENCE**

All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will continue their science education through involvement in the three areas of emphasis: Earth Science, Physical Science, and Life Science. Lab experiences will be incorporated into this class.

#### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will study the history of the United States from the beginnings of our nation through the Reconstruction. Geographic, civics and economic lessons will be embedded throughout the course.

### **REQUIRED EXPLORATORY COURSES**

#### **Exploring Technology 8 :**

This required 9 week course is designed to be a continuation of 7th grade Exploring Technology. Students will explore technologies in the areas of construction, information and manufacturing technologies. There will be an emphasis on machine tool safety and usage. The students will use materials, tools and problem solving techniques to explore technologies in these areas.

#### **Family & Consumer Sciences 8 \*\***

In this 9 week course class, the students will build decision-making skills in managing resources, consumerism, healthy food choices, and appropriate and healthy relationships. Students will learn basic personal finance and early childhood development. Refusal skills will be reviewed in relation to alcohol and drugs.

#### **Computers**

All students will need to take ONE nine week computer course in either 7th or 8th grade. Activities will include proper keyboarding technique, word processing, spread sheets, presentations.

#### **Physical Education**

Every student will take at least one nine week course of physical education class in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. All students will participate in the weekly "20 minute walk/run." They will also have a swimming experience, a bowling experience, and other physical education activities. Students will be expected to change their clothes and actively participate each day.

#### **Spanish 8 or French 8**

All Students will continue with either Spanish or French in 8th Grades. They will be placed in either Spanish or French based on their current foreign language choice.

Students will continue to concentrate on vocabulary acquisition and emphasize speaking and communication, while also developing skills in comprehension, reading and writing in either Spanish or French.

#### **Intervention:**

This course has been created for all students to reinforce and enhance their reading and math skills through planned "Intervention" strategies as well as to provide extra time for homework when they can seek extra assistance from available teachers. This class is mandatory for all students who failed to pass the Reading and Math portion of the MEAP test in the 2009-2010 school year. An elective class choice will be eliminated.

**Sample schedule**

Language! or Language Arts (Full year)			
Math (Full year)			
Integrated Science 8 (Full year)			
American History (Full year)			
Exploring Technology 8	Fam. & Con. Sci. 8	Computers	Foreign Language
Elective Choice	Elective Choice	Elective Choice	Physical Education

**ELECTIVE COURSE CHOICES**

Students will select one year long or two semester electives to complete their schedule.

Elective class offerings are based on the number of students who select each class and whether a teacher is available to teach the class.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band -- Full Year**

Students who have been in band the past two years continue to have the opportunity to develop as musicians. If you were not able to start playing an instrument in 6<sup>th</sup> grade you are still welcome to join in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will be expected to perform in three concerts outside of the school day and practice their instruments at home. Students will have the opportunity to perform in Solo and Ensemble Festivals and Band Festivals sponsor by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association. If you need help getting an instrument, please contact Ms. Mack, (aem2323@prodigy.net) or Mr. Weber, ([cweber@alleganps.org](mailto:cweber@alleganps.org)) or at 673-7002, ext. 5789) and we will assist you.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girl's Choir – One Semester or Full Year**

Students wishing to be involved in *vocal performance* can choose to take this course. Students will continue to develop their vocal skills and performance will be emphasized including 2 concerts & singing telegrams. When possible, this course should be taken for the full year.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boy's Choir-- One Semester or Full Year**

Male students wishing to be involved in *vocal performance* can choose to take this course. Students will develop their vocal skills and performance will be emphasized including 2 concerts & singing telegrams.

**Physical Education – 9 weeks, 18 weeks, 27weeks, or a Full year**

Students may choose to take up to and not exceeding one full year of physical education (i.e. 4-nine week sections). Students will have a wide range of physical education experiences. *Students will be expected to change their clothes and actively participate each day.*

**Studio Art I & II – One Semester or Full Year**

This course will provide students with the opportunity to develop their skills in visual arts. Students will create works using charcoal pencils, chalk, colored pencils, watercolors, acrylic paints, and clay. Students will be graded on proper use of class time, completion of assigned projects and an art portfolio.

**Foods around the World – 9 weeks**

Students will study cultures and foods of American regions and foreign countries. This class will be an opportunity to expand cooking skills and taste a wide variety of foods.

**Sewing Creations – 9 weeks**

Students make novice projects of pillows, boxer shorts, and sweatshirts with college logos or their own personal design. This class requires a lab fee to purchase project kits that include all the needed materials. (Approximately \$25.00 or more, depending on item chosen by the student.)

**Exploring Technology II – 9 weeks**

Exploring Technology II is offered as a continuation of 8th Grade Exploring Technology 8. Students will use the knowledge and skills that they have learned and further apply them to new situations. In addition there will be a focus on transportation technology, current issues and products of technology.

**Manufacturing Technology – 9 weeks**

Manufacturing Technology may be taken when a student has successfully completed 8th Grade Exploring Technology I & II. The course will focused on the use of wood and the tools and machines that are used to change this raw material into useful items.

*\*\* In eighth grade "Family & Consumer Science" class, students will receive instruction in Human Growth and Development (sex education) and sexually transmitted diseases. Any parent may elect to have their child excused from this portion of the course. Any parent may ask to review the sex education materials in the Middle School Office.*

It is the policy of the Allegan Public Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin or ancestry, religion, sex, age, weight, marital status, political belief, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any program or activity or in employment. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries and investigate complaints of noncompliance: Superintendent, 550 Fifth Street, Allegan, MI 49010 (269) 673-5431

*In certain instances, an interpreter will be obtained to assist with limited English proficiency communications.*

