

Macopin Program of Studies
2023 ~ 2024

Success Starts Here



Macopin Middle School
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West Milford, NJ 07480
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A Message From the Principal

Macopin Middle School

Welcome to Macopin Middle School. We are a comprehensive middle school with approximately 780 students in three grade levels, 6th, 7th, and 8th. Here we hold our students to the highest standards academically, socially and emotionally.

Our academic program is designed to meet the needs of our diverse community of learners. We spend countless hours evaluating our academic program to create a school that meets the needs of our children while challenging them in the classroom. We offer electives such as World Language, Technology, and other electives, as well as numerous remedial and honors courses. Our Fine Arts program is second to none as our instrumental and choral groups are consistently ranked among New Jersey's best middle school programs.

It takes a special educator to understand the whole middle school child. Our staff understands this difficult task and is always ready for the challenge. They are truly "All In" when it comes to meeting the needs of our diverse group of learners. Our teachers continue to meet the needs of all of our students through the differentiation of instruction and assessment. The entire staff works in a positive, encouraging, yet disciplined manner to get the best out of all of our students.

We strive to develop children who are successful in and outside of the classroom. We are very proud of our recognition as a New Jersey and a National School of Character by Character.Org. Our character education program as well as the countless positive experiences that are a part of our middle school program enable our students to develop a better understanding of themselves, their values, and their place in the world around them. During their time with us, our students learn the value of helping one another and being an active and productive member of society. We do this through service learning projects and programs. In addition to weekly meetings with our students, all of our staff model our core values daily.

Our students are afforded the opportunity to participate in numerous extracurricular activities ranging from student council to intramural sports, to academic and social clubs, to National Junior Honor Society, to the school play, to service learning projects, and the list goes on and on.

We are looking forward to a great 2023-2024 school year!

Respectfully,

Gregory Matlosz

Guidance & School Counseling

Macopin Middle School

A message from the Macopin Guidance and School Counseling Department:

Welcome to the Macopin Middle School Guidance Department. Our counselors work with students, teachers and parents to help ensure that a student's middle school experience is as positive as possible. Most important is the idea that this journey is a team effort.

Adolescence can be a tumultuous time for a variety of reasons. Peer-relationships, familial relationships, and increasing academic demands can combine to place greater stress on the developing adolescent. Our staff provides support, encouragement, and guidance as students negotiate this unique, exciting, and oftentimes challenging period of their lives.

Our program includes individual and group work with students who seek support and/or guidance. Our counselors follow the American Counseling Association's code of ethics providing a place where students can feel safe to discuss concerns related to all aspects of their lives.

Throughout the year, the counseling department may run groups in order to provide support in areas including divorce, diabetes, study skills, and anger management. These groups are offered to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Not all groups run every year.

In addition to counseling services within the context of school, our department offers a variety of peer-tutoring options. A description of these programs is provided via the Peer-tutoring link on the Macopin Guidance website. Transition planning and programs are also provided in cooperation with our six elementary schools and the high school at appropriate times throughout the year. Information related to applying to out of district high schools can also be accessed through the counseling office should there be an interest.

When to Contact Your Child's School Counselor:

Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact the appropriate school counselor if:

- you feel your child is having difficulty with school, familial, or social issues.
- you have concerns/questions regarding your child's academic performance.
- you have questions about planning for transitioning your child to high school.
- you need assistance in finding an outside counseling agency for your child.
- you would like assistance in setting up a meeting with your child's teachers.
- there has been a significant change, loss, or stressor in your child's life at home.

Reach out anytime!

Mr. Ryerson, School Counselor: A - K , Ext 3332 kenneth.ryerson@wmtps.org

Mrs. Drucker, School Counselor: L - Z, Ext 3331 monika.drucker@wmtps.org

Scheduling Mindset

It is important for students to realize that in order to be successful at any level, they must assume responsibility for their academic success. They must also embrace the expectation that they are responsible for acquiring mastery of any content that is part of the prerequisite for the course they are entering. We are committed to encouraging students to enroll in challenging courses and ask that they personally reflect upon and articulate their reasons for their scheduling choices.

The following behaviors/attributes are expected of all students:

- Maintain a sound attendance pattern
- Contribute positively to the classroom environment through appropriate standards of personal conduct and decorum in the classroom
- Accept responsibility for his/her academic performance and outcomes
- Display a sense of responsibility to course work and self

Students Working at an Honors or Enriched Placement should also:

- be self-motivated
- be highly committed and demonstrate intellectual curiosity in the subject area
- expect that they will often spend many hours beyond the school day independently engaged in assignment preparation, study, and extended learning opportunities
- seek mastery and application of the skills of written expression, public speaking and the continuum of knowledge relating to that discipline
- embody an intrinsic goal to advance to higher sequences in the future, thereby stretching to reach further self-improvement opportunities
- consistently demonstrate an intrinsic joy of learning

Based on observations of student work, work ethic, ability and commitment to learning, current teachers will make recommendations for levels of study for the upcoming year (Honors, On Grade & Encore). These recommendations will be available to families in February at the time when course selection is to be made. Parents should reach out to their child's School Counselor to appeal any change in those placements.

- * Honors & enriched levels are available in Mathematics in all grades, 6-8.
- * For English, History and Science, the Honors level of study is only available in Grade 8.
- * ENCORE is available in all grades, 6-8.

Parents and students who wish to have a conversation regarding their child's course placement recommendations are encouraged to reach out to their child's School Counselor to discuss this process and placements.

English Department Courses

All courses are aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for English Language Arts adopted in 2016.

Sixth Grade

Foundations of Language Arts (ENCORE) - Grade 6

Foundations of Language Arts 6 is a year-long course administered under the West Milford ENCORE Instructional Program wherein students who do not meet the district's established minimum level of proficiency in basic English skills as assessed by multiple measures (including, but not limited to, student proficiency on district and standardized assessments, grade history and teacher recommendation) will be eligible for targeted remedial instruction. Individual diagnostic, remedial, and skill maintenance activities to promote progress will be monitored toward achievement of satisfactory proficiency in both reading (accessing prior knowledge, self-monitoring, making connections, questioning, inferring, visualizing and synthesizing) and in writing (content and organization, usage, sentence construction and mechanics). Preparation for NJSLA will be included.

Language and Literature - Grade 6

This course is designed to be a completely integrated literature and composition program, offering high quality, appealing traditional and contemporary literary selections. The selections are organized by genre to encourage comprehensive study of the types of literature, including the short story, drama, nonfiction, poetry, fables, myths, legends, and the novel. The focus is on the instruction of NJSLS-aligned literacy skills and strategies necessary to become lifelong, independent readers. Major components of this program include the following: literal, interpretive, and applied levels of comprehension; analysis of literature, including setting, plot, character, and theme; application of critical thinking; and overall modeling of effective writing. Students will develop related writing skills through the writing process, by analyzing and responding to what is read and discussed throughout the course and by writing in various genres. Preparation for NJSLA will be included.

English Department Courses

Seventh Grade

Foundations of Language Arts (ENCORE) - Grade 7

Foundations of Language Arts 7 is a year-long course administered under the West Milford ENCORE Instructional Program wherein students who do not meet the district's established minimum level of proficiency in basic English skills as assessed by multiple measures (including, but not limited to, student proficiency on district and standardized assessments, grade history and teacher recommendation) will be eligible for targeted remedial instruction. Individual diagnostic, remedial, and skill maintenance activities to promote progress will be monitored toward achievement of satisfactory proficiency in both reading (accessing prior knowledge, self-monitoring, making connections, questioning, inferring, visualizing and synthesizing) and in writing (content and organization, usage, sentence construction and mechanics). Preparation for NJSLA will be included.

Language and Literature - Grade 7

This course is designed to be a completely integrated literature and composition program, offering high quality, appealing traditional and contemporary literary selections. The selections are organized by genre to encourage comprehensive study of the types of literature, including the short story, drama, nonfiction, poetry, fables, myths, legends, and the novel. The focus is on the instruction of NJSLA-aligned literacy skills and strategies necessary to become lifelong, independent readers. Major components of this program include the following: literal, interpretive, and applied levels of comprehension; analysis of literature, including setting, plot, character, and theme; application of critical thinking; and overall modeling of effective writing. Students will develop related writing skills through the writing process, by analyzing and responding to what is read and discussed throughout the course and by writing in various genres. Preparation for NJSLA will be included.

English Department Courses

Eighth Grade

Foundations of Language Arts (ENCORE) - Grade 8

Foundations of Language Arts 8 is a year-long course administered under the West Milford ENCORE Instructional Program wherein students who do not meet the district's established minimum level of proficiency in basic English skills as assessed by multiple measures (including, but not limited to, student proficiency on district and standardized assessments, grade history and teacher recommendation) will be eligible for targeted remedial instruction. Individual diagnostic, remedial, and skill maintenance activities to promote progress will be monitored toward achievement of satisfactory proficiency in both reading (accessing prior knowledge, self-monitoring, making connections, questioning, inferring, visualizing and synthesizing) and in writing (content and organization, usage, sentence construction and mechanics). Preparation for NJSLA will be included.

Language and Literature - Grade 8

This course is designed to be a completely integrated literature and composition program, offering high quality, appealing traditional and contemporary literary selections. The selections are novel-based with a focus on the instruction of NJSLA-aligned literacy skills and strategies necessary to become lifelong, independent readers. Major components of this program include the following: literal, interpretive, and applied levels of comprehension; analysis of literature, including setting, plot, character, and theme; application of critical thinking; and overall modeling of effective writing. Students will develop related writing skills through the writing process, by analyzing and reacting to what is read and discussed throughout the course and by writing in various genres. Preparation for NJSLA will be included.

Language and Literature Honors - Grade 8

This course is designed to be an advanced literacy course. It will offer a comprehensive study of types of literature, focusing on interpretation, critical, and evaluative thinking. Students will be taught to read literature interpretively and to think reflectively through shared inquiry. Students will be required to read 5-8 novels in addition to independent reading. The course will offer a wide variety of writing experiences, including essays, compositions, creative writing, and a research project. There will be a focus on the author's craft and text structure. Preparation for NJSLA will be included.

History Department Courses

Sixth Grade

Ancient World History

This course introduces students to the study of ancient world history and geography focusing on those developments in the past that involved and affected relatively large numbers of people and that had broad significance for later generations. Students survey the prehistory period to the fall of the Roman Empire, comparing patterns of continuity and change in different parts of the world. The geographical features of the lands occupied by the various civilizations and its impact on settlement patterns, environmental adaptations, trade and means of making a living are stressed throughout, since the historical record is inextricably linked to the geographic setting in which it developed. In addition, students study the cultures of ancient peoples and review contemporary world events and developments through current events. The course of study includes a variety of literary sources and primary and secondary documents. Library skills, map and globe skills, study skills, and the use of available technology are emphasized throughout and reading and writing skills are reviewed, reinforced, and extended. Students are encouraged to think critically and engage in a variety of activities to promote reflective thinking and decision-making.

Along with the above resources/materials, students will explore the Amistad Curriculum set forth by the State of New Jersey. The online resources provided by the NJDOE (<http://www.njamistadcurriculum.net/>), combined with the teacher's outside resources/activities will seek to further the Amistad Commission's mission which is to, "promote a wider implementation of educational awareness programs regarding the African slave trade, slavery in America, and the many contributions Africans have made to American society."

Also, and in compliance with the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education and the NJCCCS, it is expected that teachers familiarize themselves with the Holocaust Curriculum guide (New Jersey Holocaust Curriculum: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/holocaust/curriculum/>). The Holocaust and other genocides are to be taught and infused wherever appropriate in the Social Studies curriculum and at appropriate developmental level.

Seventh Grade

American Government / US History I

This course examines the major political, social, economic, and geographic developments in American history from the roots of the Revolutionary War to Andrew Jackson's presidency. In addition, the course stresses civic education, the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and citizenship skills. As such, special attention is paid to the origins of the United States Constitution and government, as well as the structure of the federal government. Finally, the course emphasizes study skills, library research skills, critical thinking, and reading and writing skills.

History Department Courses

Eighth Grade

US History II

This course examines the major political, social, economic, and geographic developments in American history from the antebellum period of the 19th century, through the Civil War & Reconstruction era, and into the 20th century. Throughout the course, students will study the impact of the US in global conflicts, the progress and evolution of the American republic, America's changing role as a global power, and the growing interdependence of the global community. In addition to the History & Social Sciences content, reading, writing, and critical thinking skills are emphasized. Students are also expected to develop specific History & Social Sciences-related skills (e.g., analyzing primary and secondary sources; interpreting maps, charts, graphs, and cartoons; formulating questions and hypotheses from multiple perspectives, etc.).

US History II Honors

Through challenging primary and secondary source readings (nonfiction and fiction) and the production of rigorous written products, students will begin preparing for Honors or Advanced Placement in high school. Using the same scope and sequence described above, the course will prepare every student for higher intellectual engagement by starting the development of skills and acquisition of knowledge as early as possible. Admission to this course is based on a student's grades in 7th grade, their performance on the Honors Placement Exam, and their teacher's recommendation.

Mathematics Department Courses

Typical Course Sequence		
Grade 6		Grade 7
		Grade 8
Pre-Algebra		Algebra 1 Honors
		Geometry Honors
Math 6		Pre-Algebra
		Algebra 1
Math 6		Math 7
		Math 8

Mathematics Department Courses

Sixth Grade

Foundations of Mathematics 6 (ENCORE)

Foundations of Mathematics 6 is part of the West Milford ENCORE Instructional Program. Students who do not meet the district's established minimum level of proficiency on district and standardized assessments and in grade history, and have teacher recommendation, will be eligible for targeted remedial instruction. The course emphasizes skill development in ratios and proportions, the number system and numerical operations, expressions and equations, geometry, and probability and statistics. Preparation for NJSLA will be included.

Mathematics 6

Grade 6 mathematics 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; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking. Mathematical Practice Standards will be infused throughout the curriculum with problem solving, modeling, structure, communication, and reasoning.

Prealgebra 6

Prealgebra is offered for students who are ready to deepen their mathematical reasoning and understanding of the four critical areas above with a heavier concentration on algebra skills and accomplished at a more accelerated pace than Mathematics 6. Eligibility shall be comprehensive and will apply data from multiple criteria including but not limited to: marking period grades at time of recommendation; qualifying score on state assessments; teacher recommendation and observation of work ethic, organization and study habits, self-motivation, and dedication to learning.

Mathematics Department Courses

Seventh Grade

Foundations of Mathematics 7 (ENCORE)

Foundations of Mathematics 7 is part of the West Milford ENCORE Instructional Program. Students who do not meet the district's established minimum level of proficiency on district and standardized assessments and in grade history, and have teacher recommendation, will be eligible for targeted remedial instruction. The course emphasizes skill development in ratios and proportions, the number system and numerical operations, expressions and equations, geometry, and probability and statistics. Preparation for NJSLA will be included.

Mathematics 7

Grade 7 mathematics focuses on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. Mathematical Practice Standards will be infused throughout the curriculum with problem solving, modeling, structure, communication, and reasoning.

Prealgebra 7

Prealgebra is offered for students who are ready to deepen their mathematical reasoning and understanding of the four critical areas above with a heavier concentration on algebra skills and accomplished at a more accelerated pace than Mathematics 7. Eligibility shall be comprehensive and will apply data from multiple criteria including but not limited to: marking period grades at time of recommendation; qualifying score on Grade 6 Benchmark of content and skills; qualifying score on an assessment of arithmetic fluency; teacher recommendation and observation of work ethic, organization and study habits, self-motivation, and dedication to learning.

Algebra 1 Honors

Algebra 1 Honors is offered for students who have successfully completed Pre-Algebra 6. Students with a strong work ethic who demonstrate mathematical curiosity will create equations that describe relationships between numbers and variables, rewrite these expressions in equivalent forms, and graph functions. A deeper understanding of positive and negative numbers, variables, linear equations, factoring, and quadratic equations will be developed throughout the course. An emphasis is placed on interpreting and analyzing word problems. Mathematical Practice Standards including problem solving, modeling, communication, and reasoning will be infused throughout the curriculum. Students are strongly encouraged to own a personal **graphing calculator**, which will be used in this and other mathematics courses.

Mathematics Department Courses

Eighth Grade

Foundations of Mathematics 8 (ENCORE)

Foundations of Mathematics 8 is part of the West Milford ENCORE Instructional Program. Students who do not meet the district's established minimum level of proficiency on district and standardized assessments and in grade history, and have teacher recommendation, will be eligible for targeted remedial instruction. The course emphasizes skill development in the number system and numerical operations, expressions and equations, functions, geometry, and probability and statistics. Preparation for NJSLA will be included.

Mathematics 8

Grade 8 mathematics focuses on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Mathematical Practice Standards will be infused throughout the curriculum with problem solving, modeling, structure, communication, and reasoning.

Algebra 1

Algebra 1 explores the use of variables and numbers to solve problems. Students will create equations that describe relationships between numbers and variables, rewrite these expressions in equivalent forms, and graph functions. A deeper understanding of positive and negative numbers, variables, linear equations, factoring, and quadratic equations will be developed throughout the course. An emphasis is placed on interpreting and analyzing word problems. Mathematical Practice Standards including problem solving, modeling, communication, and reasoning will be infused throughout the curriculum. Students are strongly encouraged to own a personal **graphing calculator**, which will be used in this and other mathematics courses. Students successfully completing Algebra 1 in Grade 8 will be expected to move on to Geometry in Grade 9.

Geometry Honors

Geometry is the study of shapes and figures through a mathematical lens. In this course, students who have successfully completed Algebra 1 Honors will explore the relations and properties of lines, planes, angles, circles, triangles and other polygons. Transformations will provide a foundation for the study of symmetry and congruence. Coordinate geometry, area, and volume will be investigated throughout the year. Students will use skills developed in Algebra 1 to solve problems and prove simple theorems. Students are strongly encouraged to own a personal **graphing calculator**, which will be used in this and other mathematics courses. Students successfully completing Geometry in Grade 8 will be expected to move on to Algebra 2 in Grade 9.

Physical Education Department Courses

PE for Sixth, Seventh & Eighth Grades

The sixth, seventh, and eighth grade courses provide students with the opportunity to learn through a developmentally appropriate, comprehensive, sequentially planned physical education program aligned with the New Jersey Core Content Standards.

There is an emphasis on the natural interdisciplinary connections between Wellness, Health, and Physical Education. Students will develop knowledge and skills that influence lifelong healthy behaviors within the context of self, family, school, and the local and global community. The focus of these courses is :

- the application of movement skills and knowledge (including defensive and offensive strategies) to team physical activities
- the assessment and maintenance of physical fitness to improve health and performance
- the requisite knowledge of physical fitness concepts, principles and strategies to improve health and performance
- the application of psychological and sociological concepts, including self-responsibility, positive social interaction, and group dynamics, in the learning and performance of physical activity

Units of activity include:

- physical fitness (activities, assessment, concepts, development and maintenance)
- Full Value Program
- cooperative activities
- movement skills
- strategies applied in modified games.

Physical Education Department Courses

Health Courses

Grade 6

The sixth grade course is designed to address health education in the form of promoting optimal mental, physical, emotional, and social health. There is an emphasis on responsible communication and decision-making skills, stress management skills, and suicide prevention strategies. Abstinence will be stressed as the only choice when dealing with alcohol, smoking, tobacco, drugs, vaping, and eating disorders. This course will provide students with information on diversity and effective ways to understand our multicultural society. In addition, there is a focus on peer pressure, family and friend relations, as well as environmental health.

Grade 7

The seventh grade course is designed to address health education in the form of promoting optimal health (mental, physical, and social), responsible decision-making skills, stress management skills, and suicide prevention strategies. Abstinence will be stressed as the only choice when dealing with alcohol, smoking, tobacco, drugs, vaping, and eating disorders. This course will provide students with information on diversity and effective ways to understand our multicultural society.

Grade 8

The eighth grade course is designed to address health education in the form of basic first aid, rescue breathing, and CPR. The course will deal with factual information about the male and female reproductive systems. Abstinence will be stressed as the absolute response to teenage sexuality. New issues dealing with STDs, HIV/AIDS, teenage smoking, vaping, and addiction will be introduced to the eighth grade student. This course will provide students with effective refusal and decision-making skills necessary for everyday life.

Science Department Courses

The Science curriculum at Macopin Middle School is an integrated curriculum that recognizes the complex and multidisciplinary nature of science. Students are engaged in a phenomena-based approach that is focused on the connection of ideas across all science domains: life, physical, and Earth and space.

Sixth Grade

Science 6 is year one of the three-year cycle in Science. Students study the abiotic and biotic components of ecosystems, concentrating on the interrelationships between organisms, matter, and energy. They learn about the history of the planet in relation to ecosystems as well as its place in the solar system. Weather and climate are topics of study in which students will make sense of how Earth's geosystems operate by modeling the flow of energy and cycling of matter within and among different systems. Physical science studies focus on forces and motion, and types of interactions. Throughout the year students will develop proficiency in the Science and Engineering Practices: asking questions; developing and using models; planning and carrying out investigations; analyzing and interpreting data; constructing explanations and designing solutions; engaging in argument from evidence; and obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

Seventh Grade

Science 7 is the second year in the three-year, integrated science curriculum. Students begin the year by looking at Earth systems and the unique patterns of change over the life of the planet. This becomes the lens through which students consider evidence of common ancestry and how traits can be inherited. Part of this study involves reviewing body systems, and the functions of specific structures in organisms. The energy flow in ecosystems brings previous studies down to a molecular level, where students begin to learn about atoms and molecules. Throughout the units the three-dimensional nature of science is illustrated by use of the science and engineering practices to illustrate crosscutting concepts such as patterns, structure and function, and energy and matter, while learning about the disciplinary core ideas.

Science Department Courses

Eighth Grade

Science 8

Science 8 completes the three-year cycle of integrated science curriculum. Students begin with the study of atoms and molecules started in seventh grade. From there, they explore energy and the relationship between energy and forces. The study of energy expands to temperature and waves, and eventually focuses on energy as part of Earth's systems. Students continue their studies by analyzing data demonstrating the impact humans have on Earth's systems, and how change in these systems can result in natural selection and adaptation in populations. Throughout the year students focus on investigating, sensemaking, and critiquing practices in science while emphasizing the crosscutting concepts found in each unit.

Science 8 Honors

Science 8 Honors is an accelerated program that will entail a deeper understanding and application of the science concepts studied in eighth grade. Students begin with the study of atoms and molecules started in seventh grade. From there, they explore energy and the relationship between energy and forces. The study of energy expands to temperature and waves, and eventually focuses on energy as part of Earth's systems. Students continue their studies by analyzing data demonstrating the impact humans have on Earth's systems, and how change in these systems can result in natural selection and adaptation in populations. Students will demonstrate their understanding through extensive writing assignments, data analysis, and formal assessments. Prerequisites: 1) Science grade of 90 or better, 2) Qualifying scores on standardized assessments, and 3) Teacher recommendation.

World Language Department Courses

Sixth Grade

Spanish 6 (Semester Course)

This half year course is for beginners at the middle school level, and emphasizes presentational, interpretive and interpersonal communication at the novice low proficiency level. Repetition, dialogues, grammar drills, games, written and oral projects, and readings aid the students' learning of the Spanish language. Students use Spanish to discuss preferences, personality traits, school and foods. Students become familiar with the culture, customs and geography of the Spanish-speaking countries. Available for 7th graders as well as for 8th graders who did not take a World Language in 7th grade.

German 6 (Semester Course)

This half year course is for beginners at the middle school level, and emphasizes presentational, interpretive and interpersonal communication at the novice low proficiency level. Repetition, dialogues, grammar drills, games, written and oral projects, and readings aid the students' learning of the German language. Students use German to discuss greetings, family, school and leisure time activities. Students become familiar with the culture, customs and geography of the German-speaking countries. Available for 7th graders as well as for 8th graders who did not take a World Language in 7th grade.

French 6 (Semester Course)

This half year course is for beginners at the middle school level, and emphasizes presentational, interpretive and interpersonal communication at the novice low proficiency level. Repetition, dialogues, grammar drills, games, written and oral projects, and readings aid the students' acquisition of the French language. Students use French to discuss greetings, family, friends, school, foods, time and weather. Students become familiar with the culture, customs and location of the French-speaking countries. Available for 7th graders as well as for 8th graders who did not take a World Language in 7th grade.

World Language Department Courses

Seventh Grade

Spanish 7 (Semester Course)

This half year course is for beginners at the middle school level, and emphasizes presentational, interpretive and interpersonal communication at the novice mid proficiency level. Repetition, dialogues, grammar drills, games, written and oral projects, and readings aid the students' learning of the Spanish language. Students use Spanish to discuss shopping, ordering food, places in town, directions and rooms of the house. Students become familiar with the culture, customs and geography of the Spanish-speaking countries.

German 7 (Semester Course)

This half year course is for beginners at the middle school level, and emphasizes presentational, interpretive and interpersonal communication at the novice mid proficiency level. Repetition, dialogues, grammar drills, games, written and oral projects, and readings aid the students' learning of the German language. Students use German to discuss travel and transportation, weather, foods, beverages, clothing and colors. Students become familiar with the culture, customs and geography of the German-speaking countries.

French 7 (Semester Course)

This half year course is for beginners at the middle school level, and emphasizes presentational, interpretive and interpersonal communication at the novice mid proficiency level. Repetition, dialogues, grammar drills, games, written and oral projects, and readings aid the students' acquisition of the French language. Students use French to discuss leisure activities, preferences, rooms of the house, places in town and directions. Students become familiar with the culture, customs and location of the French-speaking countries.

World Language Department Courses

Eighth Grade

Spanish 8 (Full Year Course)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish 7

This course stresses increased conversation, reading and writing at the novice mid- high proficiency level. Students communicate using the present tense. Students use Spanish to discuss topics such as family, restaurant meals, homes, household chores and leisure time activities. Culture, customs and geography of the Spanish-speaking countries are studied. The successful completion of this course prepares the student to enroll in Spanish 2 at West Milford High School.

German 8 (Full Year Course)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of German 7

This course stresses increased conversation, reading and writing at the novice mid-high proficiency level. Students communicate using the present tense. Students use German to discuss topics such as nationalities, foods, clothing and special occasions. Culture, customs and geography of the German-speaking countries are studied. The successful completion of this course prepares the student to enroll in German 2 at West Milford High School.

Italian 8 (Full Year Course)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Italian 7

This course stresses increased conversation, reading and writing at the novice mid/ high proficiency level. Students communicate using the present tense. Students use Italian to discuss topics such as cuisine, travel, nationalities, personality and physical traits. Culture, customs and geography of Italy are studied. The successful completion of this course prepares the student to enroll in Italian 2 at West Milford High School.

French 8 (Full Year Course)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of French 7

This full year 8th grade course stresses increased conversation, reading and writing at the novice mid/high proficiency level. Students communicate using the present tense. Students use French to discuss topics such as hobbies, homes, animals, nationalities, preferences and descriptions. Culture, customs and geography of French-speaking countries are studied. The successful completion of this French 8-1B course prepares the student to enroll in French 2 at West Milford High School

Grade 6 Elective Courses

Sixth Grade

Students who choose band or chorus will take Financial Literacy and ONE of the electives below. Students not choosing band or chorus will get each of the following courses for one marking period.

Financial Literacy

This one marking period course will be covered in grade 6 and grade 7. It will help students build core personal finance skills and learn real-world strategies they can use. Through engaging resources and activities, students will practice these skills so they can get started on the right track to effectively manage their personal finances. ** This course is a required course and will likely be paired with the student's World Language Choice.

Art - Grade 6

This class is designed to build basic knowledge of all the visual arts and acquaint the students with a variety of art media and techniques. The students will also develop an understanding of fine art with which they can make critical judgments about art works.

Google for Students

This marking period course gives an overview of Google applications that are essential in one's academic career. These newfound skills will also allow students to communicate with other peers in "realtime", have a voice using different types of platforms, and will all around make them more productive in and out of school.

Math Connections:

This one marking period course will use real life applications that will focus on three NJSLs -Math standards. 1) Ratios and Proportional Relationships- Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems. 2) The Number System- Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions, compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples and apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers. Solve real-world and mathematical problems by graphing points in all four quadrants of the coordinate plane. Include use of coordinates and absolute value to find distances between points with the same first coordinate or the same second coordinate. 3) Geometry- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.

Grade 6 Elective Courses

Sixth Grade Continued

Presentation 1

This one marking period course is designed to empower students to critically evaluate fact, opinion, and appropriateness in today's society starting with evaluation of commercial content and appearing on devices such as computers, tablets, iPads, and cell phones. It is a course designed to move students from multimedia consumers to multimedia producers and creators. After evaluating multimedia, students will create messages in the form of: desktop publishing, digital slide shows, and movies within a project-based curriculum. Students will use tools to perform tasks such as digitize images, digitize narration and audio digital music, and create videos through the use of computer cameras and digital video cameras. Students will learn internet etiquette, document storage and retrieval, how to utilize Microsoft office, Google drive, and Google apps for education, and how to build their educational portfolio.

STEM

STEM is a marking period elective that combines elements of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Students work collaboratively to solve problems using the design process (Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create, Improve). Problems are derived from real-world situations in school, the local community, or the global community. Students are taught to work in teams, think about multiple ways to solve a problem and persevere to find a solution. Grade six students will focus on the areas of science and engineering related to Biomedical, Mechanical, Electrical, and Industrial Engineering and Manufacturing investigations.

Character Education

Character Education is a semester-length *elective* course aimed to provide activities that promote students' social emotional learning (SEL). These activities will foster students' self awareness, self management, social awareness, relationship skills, as well as responsible decision making. Additionally, students will participate in exercises that include, but are not limited to, fostering empathy, perseverance, integrity, and emotional intelligence.

Grade 7 Elective Courses

Seventh Grade

Students who choose band or chorus will take Financial Literacy and ONE of the electives below. Students not choosing band or chorus will get each of the following courses for one marking period.

Financial Literacy

This one marking period course will be covered in grade 6 and grade 7. It will help students build core personal finance skills and learn real-world strategies they can use. Through engaging resources and activities, students will practice these skills so they can get started on the right track to effectively manage their personal finances. *This course is a required course and will likely be paired with the student's World Language Choice.*

Art 7

This class is designed to build basic knowledge of all the visual arts and acquaint the students with a variety of art media and techniques. The students will also develop an understanding of fine art with which they can make critical judgments about art works.

Creative Writing

This elective is open to students in grade 7. As a one-marking period course this class offers students the opportunity to generate works-in-progress and to tackle genres of writing through and beyond the 3 writing types (narrative, informational and argumentative) such as screenplays (drama), collections of poetry, and short stories (fiction). Emphasis will be on the complexities and subtleties of the writing process. Knowledge of writing as a recursive practice will be stressed as students revise their drafts to final pieces, and will be explored in a workshop setting. Peer and teacher feedback will serve as a way of enhancing the craft with students better able to analyze their own work. Students will study the work of published authors as mentor texts for their own experiments in form. All course requirements and objectives are directly aligned to the 2016 New Jersey Student Learning Standards for English Language Arts and Literature.

Global Affairs

This marking period course will begin to examine the events that happen in our world today and allow students to reflect and dive deeper into each event. This course will also be fluid in content and may change as it pertains to current events in the world. It allows the students to understand the importance of staying "current" and understanding what is happening outside of the school walls. What the students learn in this course is an excellent segway for them to have a civilized discussion with other members of society.

Grade 7 Elective Courses

Seventh Grade Continued

Robotics

Robotics is a marking period elective for grade seven students. The course begins with instruction in coding, focusing on programs that interface with the Lego platform. From there students build robots to complete tasks identified in design challenges presented in class. Students work in teams and compete against each other in solving problems using their knowledge of coding and building.

STEM

STEM is a marking period elective that combines elements of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Students work collaboratively to solve problems using the design process (Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create, Improve). Problems are derived from real-world situations in school, the local community, or the global community. Students are taught to work in teams, think about multiple ways to solve a problem and persevere to find a solution. Grade seven students will focus on the areas of science and engineering related to Agricultural, Architectural, Aerospace and Ocean Engineering and Medical Detective investigations.

Grade 8: Environmental and Civil Engineering, Engineering and the Human Body, and Capstone Project in STEM

Character Education

The character education curriculum is a marking-period length *elective* course aimed to provide activities that promote students' social emotional learning (SEL). These activities will foster students' self awareness, self management, social awareness, relationship skills, as well as responsible decision making. Additionally, students will participate in exercises that include, but are not limited to, fostering empathy, perseverance, integrity, and emotional intelligence.

Grade 8 Elective Courses

Eighth Grade

Journalism - Grade 8 (Semester Course)

This one semester course will introduce students to the fundamentals of journalism and media publication including reporting, interviewing, and writing news articles, features, editorials and creative writing content. Students will be engaged in both the study of the field of journalism, the application of journalistic skills, and the production and publication of a digital school newspaper/online student news site to be named in the inaugural year. The course will focus on the development of research and interviewing skills, editing, and the synthesis of multiple sources, resulting in polished products written for an authentic audience—their own school community. This course will also prepare them for the rigor of the Journalism and Modern Media courses offered at the HS. All course requirements and objectives are directly aligned to the 2016 New Jersey Student Learning Standards for English Language Arts and Literature.

Art - Grade 8 (Semester Course)

This one semester elective course which builds on the studies and studio skill of grade seven visual arts. This half-year art program is designed to afford the student the opportunity to experiment and explore further the elements of art, various mediums, styles, and cultural aspects of the visual arts.

Introduction to Business - Grade 8 (Semester Course)

This semester course is expected to improve an individual's conception and knowledge of the business world and its function in our society. It will specifically describe American business operations, including the integration of computer technology. This course will also help students to understand how our economic system works and to become informed consumers, investors, and productive citizens of our society.

Grade 8 Elective Courses

Eighth Grade Continued

Multimedia Presentation 2 - Grade 8 (Semester Course)

This one semester course is designed to empower students to critically evaluate fact, opinion, and appropriateness in today's society starting with evaluation of commercial content and appearing on devices such as computers, tablets, iPads, and cell phones. It is a course designed to move students from multimedia consumers to multimedia producers and creators. After critically evaluating multimedia, students will create messages in the form of: desktop publishing, digital slide shows, and movies within a project-based curriculum. Students will use tools to perform tasks such as digitize images, digitize narration and audio digital music, and create videos through the use of computer cameras and digital video cameras. Students will learn internet etiquette, document storage and retrieval, how to utilize Microsoft office, Google drive, and Google apps for education, and how to build their educational portfolio.

STEM

STEM is a marking period elective that combines elements of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Students work collaboratively to solve problems using the design process (Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create, Improve). Problems are derived from real-world situations in school, the local community, or the global community. Students are taught to work in teams, think about multiple ways to solve a problem and persevere to find a solution. Grade eight students will focus on the areas of science and engineering related to Environmental and Civil Engineering, Engineering and the Human Body, while completing a Capstone Project in STEM

Full Year Elective Courses

Sixth, Seventh & Eighth Grades

Art/Lunch - Grade 6, 7 & 8 (Full Year)

Open to students taking Band or Chorus. The course is designed to build upon the basic knowledge of all the visual arts and acquaint the students with a variety of art media and techniques. The students will also develop an understanding of fine art with which they can make critical judgments about art works. The course is taken in conjunction with a student's lunch for an entire year.

Band - Grade 6, 7 & 8 (Full Year)

This course involves ensemble practices and group lessons for all interested students. Lessons occur once each week on a rotating basis. Band practices occur each day as a scheduled class. Band rehearsals are used to develop musicianship, to promote cooperative playing, and to prepare for various concerts. Lesson periods are used to improve individual technique and basic musicianship. Students will be placed in lesson groups by ability level. Culmination of class studies is participation in all scheduled performances.

Chorus - Grade 6, 7 & 8 (Full Year)

Participation, which is open to all students, offers an opportunity to gain greater personal aesthetic awareness through singing in a group setting. Students will prepare and perform a variety of musical styles from a variety of cultures throughout the year. Participation in this course is strongly recommended for selection in other extracurricular choral ensembles. This is to be accomplished through the study of ear training, vocal production, sight-reading, music interpretation, cultural traditions and influences in music, and the skills needed to replicate them. Culmination of class studies is participation in all scheduled performances.

Chorus/Lunch - Grade 6, 7 & 8 (Full Year)

Participation, which is open to all students who are taking band and still want to take chorus. This course offers an opportunity to gain greater personal aesthetic awareness through singing in a group setting. Students will prepare and perform a variety of musical styles from a variety of cultures throughout the year. Participation in this course is strongly recommended for selection in other extracurricular choral ensembles. This is to be accomplished through the study of ear training, vocal production, sight-reading, music interpretation, cultural traditions and influences in music, and the skills needed to replicate them. Culmination of class studies is participation in all scheduled performances.

Coding from Scratch/Lunch - Grade 6, 7 & 8 (Full Year)

This elective half-lunch full-year STEM course offers an introduction to computer science programming through 'block coding', where directions for motion, looks, sound, etc., are predefined within a software program called Scratch. Students will create and program their own interactive stories, games and puzzles, and animations, and share these creations with other students within the online community of the course. Scratch encourages students to think creatively, reason systematically, and work collaboratively, essential skills for life in the 21st century. The course will also cover logic tables, probability, and the fundamental counting principle.