TABLE OF CONTENTS

CORE CURRICULUM

English Language Arts
Reading & Writing 6................................................................. 1
Reading & Writing 7................................................................. 2
Reading & Writing 8................................................................. 3
Writing Strategies .................................................................... 4
Creative Writing ..................................................................... 4

Mathematics
Math 6 .................................................................................. 5
Math 7 .................................................................................. 5
Math 8/Algebra ....................................................................... 6

Science
Science 6 .............................................................................. 6
Science 7 .............................................................................. 6
Science 8 .............................................................................. 7

Social Studies
Social Studies 6 .................................................................... 7
Social Studies 7 .................................................................... 7
Social Studies 8 .................................................................... 8

ELECTIVE COURSES

Art
Art ...................................................................................... 9

Health and Physical Education
Health ................................................................................. 10
Physical Education ................................................................. 11

World Languages
Spanish I / French I / Chinese I ............................................. 11
Spanish II / French II / Chinese II ......................................... 11

Technology
Technology ........................................................................... 12

Performing Arts
Band .................................................................................... 12
Orchestra ............................................................................. 13
Choir ................................................................................... 14

SUPPLEMENTARY ELECTIVES
Lego Robotics ........................................................................ 15
Current Events/Newspaper .................................................... 15
Family Consumer Science ..................................................... 16
CORE CURRICULUM

English Language Arts

Reading 6
Length of Course: Full Year
Grade Level: 6
Prerequisites: None

This course teaches strategies for reading and understanding a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction texts. Through their participation in Readers Workshop, students will build independence and stamina while reading books at their appropriate reading level. Instruction is provided through explicit teaching and modeling, individual feedback given during teacher-student conferences and supported independent reading time.

As recommended by the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), reading units expose students to the two main text types: fiction and nonfiction. Units of study for sixth grade students include: Informational Reading, Investigating Characters Across a Series, Reading as a Researcher, Exploring the Past Through Historical Fiction, Analytical Reading of Fiction, Exploring Social Issues and Author Study.

Writing 6
Length of Course: Full Year
Grade Level: 6
Prerequisites: None

This course helps students develop writing skills through participation in Writers Workshop. Writing strategies are explicitly taught through modeling, conferring and supported practice. Feedback is critical and provided through teacher-student conferences and assessment of writing. Students will write a number of pieces for each of the three text types and purposes identified by the Common Core State Standards (CCSS): Argument, Informative, and Narrative.

This course includes a study of vocabulary and language. The CCSS Language Standards to be covered in sixth grade include the parts of speech, and parts of a sentence with special emphasis on pronouns, varying sentence patterns and establishing appropriate tone.
Units of study for sixth grade include: *Writing the Personal Essay, Writing an Argument Paragraph, Writing the Literary Essay, Informational Writing: Cause and Effect, Personal Persuasive Essay, Letter of Complaint, Realistic Fiction about a Social Issue* and *Poetry Writing*.

**Reading 7**

**Length of Course:** Full Year  
**Grade Level:** 7  
**Prerequisites:** None

This course teaches advanced strategies for reading and understanding a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction texts. Through continued participation in Readers Workshop, students build independence and stamina while reading books at their appropriate reading level. Instruction is provided through explicit teaching and modeling, feedback given during individual teacher-student conferences and supported independent reading time.

As recommended by the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), reading units expose students to the two main text types: fiction and nonfiction. Units of study for seventh grade students include: *Reading Mysteries, Nonfiction Reading for Information, Narrative Nonfiction: Biographies and Memoires, Exploring Social Issues, Reading as a Researcher, Archetypes and Allegory: A Study of Myths and Legends* and *Appreciating Drama and Poetry*.

**Writing 7**

**Length of Course:** Full Year  
**Grade Level:** 7  
**Prerequisites:** None

This course builds on developed writing skills through continued participation in Writers Workshop. Writing strategies are explicitly taught through modeling, conferring, and supported practice. Feedback is critical and provided through teacher-student conferences and assessment of writing. Students will write a number of pieces for each of the three text types and purposes identified by the Common Core State Standards (CCSS): Argument, Informative and Narrative.

This course includes a study of vocabulary and language. The CCSS Language Standards to be covered in seventh grade include the parts of speech, and parts of a sentence with special emphasis on pronouns, varying sentence patterns, use of phrases and clauses, and precision of language.
Units of study for seventh grade include: *Writing the Personal Essay*, *Writing the Literary Essay*, *Informational Writing: Personal Expertise*, *Comparing and Contrasting*, *Research Writing*, *Developing a Proposal Essay*, *Writing the Memoire*, and *Poetry Writing*.

**Reading 8**

**Length of Course:** Full Year  
**Grade Level:** 8  
**Prerequisites:** None

This course teaches advanced strategies for reading and understanding an increasingly complex variety of fiction and nonfiction texts. Through their participation in Readers Workshop, students continue to build independence and stamina by reading most books at their level. Students will also prepare for high school reading through whole class shared reading and the study of classic literature. Instruction is provided through explicit teaching and modeling, feedback given during individual teacher-student conferences and supported independent reading time.

As recommended by the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), reading units expose students to the two main text types: fiction and nonfiction. Units of study for eighth grade includes: *Launching Readers Workshop with Experienced Readers*, *Exploring Science Fiction and Dystopian Literature*, *Informational Reading*, *Investigating Characters Across a Series*, *Reading as a Researcher*, *Exploring People and Places through Historical Fiction*, *Developing Analytical Reading and Interpretation*, and *Reading for Justice and Power: Social Issues*.

**Writing 8**

**Length of Course:** Full Year  
**Grade Level:** 8  
**Prerequisites:** None

This course continues to develop student writing skills through participation in Writers Workshop. Advanced writing strategies are explicitly taught through modeling, conferring and supported practice. Feedback is critical and provided through teacher-student conferences and assessment of writing. Students will write a number of pieces for each of the three text types and purposes identified by the Common Core State Standards (CCSS): Argument, Informative and Narrative.

This course includes a study of vocabulary and language. The CCSS Language Standards to be covered in eighth grade include the parts of speech and parts of a sentence with special emphasis
on phrases and clauses, precision of language and inappropriate shifts in voice and mood. Word study is focused on word origins and meanings.

Units of study for eighth grade include: *Writing the Literary Essay, Informational Essay Writing, Argument and Opinion-Editorial Writing, Writing the Persuasive Essay, Raising the Level of the Personal Essay: I Believe Essa*, and *Leaving a Legacy.*

**Writing Strategies**
*Length of Course: Semester*
*Grade Level: 6, 7, 8*
*Prerequisites: Teacher Recommendation*

This course provides literacy instruction and is taken in addition to a regular English/Language Arts class. Students are identified for this course based on a variety of assessments and instruction is targeted to meet individual student needs.

Units of study may include: *Responding to Reading, Making Connections, Marking the Text, Note Taking, Making Inferences and Analyzing, Recognizing Text Structure, Summarizing, Asking and Answering Questions.*

**Creative Writing**
*Length of Course: Semester*
*Grade Level: 8*
*Prerequisites: None*

This course provides students with an opportunity to explore many forms of creative writing. Through instruction and the study of professional authors, students develop an understanding of a variety of genres. Students author a number of creative pieces, give and receive peer feedback and work through the writing process to improve the final writing piece.

Units of study include: *Writing on Demand, Studying Mentor Texts, Narrative Writing, Character Study, Poetry of Song Lyrics, Author Analysis and Writing Effective Dialogue.*
Mathematics

Math 6
Length of Course: Full Year
Grade Level: 6
Prerequisites: None

Connected Math 6 focuses on developing a strong understanding and usage of rates and ratios. Students will apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers. They will write, interpret, and use expressions and equations, as well as develop an understanding of statistical thinking. Students will solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area and volume. The collaborative structure and format challenges students to make sense, reason abstractly and persevere in solving problems aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

Math 7
Length of Course: Full Year
Grade Level: 7
Prerequisites: None

This course will develop a deeper understanding of mathematics by using the Connected Math Program. The students will investigate and become fluent in mathematics by using the Commutative Property and the Distributive Property to solve problems, understand the use of variables in writing symbolic rules and represent relationships using tables, graphs and equations. Students use properties of similar figures to explore reductions, enlargements, translations and the effect scale factor has on an object’s area. They will develop the ability to make comparisons of quantitative information using ratios, fractions, decimals, rates, unit rates, percents and to reason in proportional situations. Linear relationships will be interpreted between two variables in a verbal context, table, graph, and equation. Students will solve linear equations and write equations for lines. They will focus on volume and surface area of three dimensional figures, and continue to develop reasoning and problem solving skills. This course is aligned to Common Core State Standards (CCSS).
Math 8/Algebra
Length of Course: Full Year
Grade Level: 8
Prerequisites: None

This course will develop a deeper understanding of mathematics using the Connected Math Program. The students in this course will extend their understanding of linear and non-linear functions and explore the Pythagorean Theorem. They will focus on exponential relationships, recognizing and representing quadratic functions and factoring simple quadratic expressions. They will explore long-range expectations in probability situations, learn to make predictions based on theoretical or experimental probabilities, and will continue to develop reasoning and problem solving skills. This course is aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

Science

Science 6
Length of Course: Full Year
Grade Level: 6
Prerequisites: None

Students study the principles of energy. They learn about the different forms of energy and how energy transforms, leading to the study of matter. The students learn about the chemical and physical properties of matter and how matter can change. Students investigate both plant and animal cells and their processes. Students explore how cells work together in living systems and how genetics and heredity affect the species.

Science 7
Length of Course: Full Year
Grade Level: 7
Prerequisites: None

Students will gain scientific knowledge about the workings of the world around them while utilizing the scientific process and inquiry labs, projects, and computer applications. The topics covered will include weathering and erosion, plate tectonics and Earth’s interior, geologic time, Michigan ecosystems, and weather.
Science 8
Length of Course:  Full Year
Grade Level:  8
Prerequisites:  None

Using *Physics First*, students will explore basic physics concepts including motion, dynamics and Newton’s Laws, work and energy, electricity, waves and sound, and the electromagnetic spectrum. Extensive use of data collection and analysis is a primary focus of this course.

Social Studies

Social Studies 6
Length of Course:  Full Year
Grade Level:  6
Prerequisites:  None

The curriculum introduces students to the physical and human geography of the world. Students explore the tools and strategies that geographers use and the patterns of natural and human characteristics they study through geographic inquiry. Students will focus on the roles of social scientists and explore how these social studies fields are both complimentary and interdependent. An emphasis is placed on using content specific vocabulary to encourage students to develop social science literacy skills. Particular units of focus are *Foundations of World Geography*, *The World in Spatial Terms, Population and Migration*, *Culture, Human Environment Interaction*, *Technological Change and Innovation*, *World Trade and Economic Globalization*, and *Conflict and Cooperation*.

Social Studies 7
Length of Course:  Full Year
Grade Level:  7
Prerequisites:  None

The curriculum focuses on ancient history and world geography, with an emphasis on historical thinking. Students learn to decipher how this discipline differs from a geographic perspective. They investigate how historians select, analyze and organize evidence to then use that evidence
to create accounts that answer questions and solve problems. Students investigate human history from the beginning to about 1500. They explore major and significant changes in each era through a chronological organization. Particular units of focus are *The Beginnings of Human Society, Early Civilizations and the Emergence of Pastoral People, Classical Traditions and Major Empires, Interactions, The Fall of Empires* and *World Religions*.

**Social Studies 8**

*Length of Course: Full Year*

*Grade Level: 8*

*Prerequisites: None*

The curriculum introduces students to the history of the United States from the Articles of Confederation to the end of the 19th century. Using primary and secondary sources, as well as historical thinking, they explore time and place in 19th century America. Students review the ideas and principles that form the basis of our constitutional republic and further their understanding of American government with an in-depth study of the United States Constitution. They explore the challenges faced by the new nation and the role of political and social leaders in meeting those challenges. An emphasis is placed on the early attempts to abolish or contain slavery and the realization of the Declaration of Independence for all. Students study the multiple causes, key events, and complex consequences of the Civil War and Reconstruction. Students learn to use historical evidence to both support historical arguments and construct historical narratives.
ELECTIVE COURSES

Art

Art 6
Length of Course: 10-20 Weeks
Grade Level: 6
Prerequisites: None

This class is designed to bridge elementary art foundations to middle school techniques and concepts. It builds on students’ capabilities by reviewing Color Theory and Elements of Design while extending information in both categories and increasing students’ awareness about art inspiration. Sketch book development is instituted and habits of an artist are discussed and practiced.

Art 7
Length of Course: 10 Weeks to one Full Year (varies by schedule)
Grade Level: 7
Prerequisites: None

This course is designed to take an in-depth look at the Principles of Design and Color Theory, while learning about artists and art history. The course offers a variety of media for students to practice skills and techniques. Process skills are enhanced. Students learn to take step by step notes to be able to successfully navigate a process. Students are expected to know how to proceed with a project from listening and watching a demonstration, without daily step by step instruction from the teacher.

Art 8
Length of Course: 10 Weeks to one Full Year (varies by schedule)
Grade Level: 8
Prerequisites: None

This course is designed to nurture independent artists. Projects are based on students’ research where they design the outcome. Realistic drawing is practiced daily in a sketch book. Students draw from knowledge of the Elements of Art, Principles of Design and Color Theory to make good judgments about product outcome.
Health and Physical Education

Health 6
Length of Course: 10 Weeks
Grade Level: 6
Prerequisites: None

This program meets the unique needs and characteristics of middle school students by studying the importance of following good, life-long health practices. The program utilizes a variety of interactive teaching strategies and programs that include: Bullying, Recognizing and Accepting Disabilities, Personal Hygiene, Community Health and Wellness and Puberty and Reproduction.

Health 7
Length of Course: 10 Weeks
Grade Level: 7
Prerequisites: None

Seventh Grade Health emphasizes the normal changes and challenges of adolescent growth and focuses on the skills necessary for positive and healthy development. This course introduces the students to a variety of topics including: Nutrition, Body Systems and Infectious and Non-infectious Diseases.

Health 8
Length of Course: 10 Weeks
Grade Level: 8
Prerequisites: None

Eighth Grade Health provides students an opportunity to develop an understanding of health concepts, behaviors and skills that reduce health risks and enhance the health and well-being of self and others. Students set personal health goals and evaluate health information, products, services and the effects of healthy behaviors on the community. Specific topics will include: Teens and Tobacco, Prescription and Non-Prescription Drugs, Marijuana, Alcohol and Community and Consumer Health.
Physical Education
Length of Course: 10-20 Weeks
Grade Level: 6, 7, 8
Prerequisites: None

Middle School Physical Education classes are to facilitate the development and maintenance of optimal physical well-being in all students. This includes refinement of motor skills necessary for successful participation in common movement cultures, and knowledge, attitude and experiences essential for adapting and maintaining patterns of regular physical activity.

World Languages

Spanish I / French I / Chinese I
Length of Course: Full Year
Grade Level: 6, 7, 8
Prerequisites: None

Spanish I, French I and Chinese I are designed for beginner and near-beginner students. Students increase language proficiency through the study of the themes listed in the Michigan World Languages Standards. Students will develop their ability to listen, speak, read and write in the target language. Culture is interwoven throughout the units. Students will compare and make connections between their own culture and those of Spanish, French and Chinese-speaking worlds and their respective communities.

Spanish II / French II / Chinese II
Length of Course: Full Year
Grade Level: 6, 7, 8
Prerequisites: Spanish I / French I / Chinese I

Spanish II, French II and Chinese II are designed for students who have successfully completed the first year of a language. Students increase language proficiency through the study of the themes listed in the Michigan World Languages Standards. Students will develop their ability to listen, speak, read and write in the target language. Culture is interwoven throughout the units. Students will compare and make connections between their own culture and those of Spanish, French and Chinese-speaking world and their respective communities.
**Technology**

**Technology**

Length of Course: 10-20 Weeks  
Grade Level: 6, 7, 8  
Prerequisites: None

This course is designed to increase students’ keyboarding skills through practice and reinforcement of correct techniques. Students will be introduced to the Microsoft Office productivity suite where they will cover basic applications such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint and database principles. Introductory principles of computer technology, ethics, and use of the Internet for research and evaluation will also be taught using the 21 Things for Students units of study. Students will produce a variety of word processing, spreadsheet and presentation projects.

**Performing Arts**

**Band**

Length of Course: Full Year  
Grade Level: 6, 7, 8  
Prerequisites: Successful completion of previous grade band or director approval

Students will learn and improve upon tone, technique, rhythm, intonation, and interpretation. They will be assessed on individual and group performances. Relationships between music and other disciplines outside of music are explored. Students work on improvisation skills and analyze music from a historical and cultural context as they listen to, analyze, describe and evaluate music performances. *Essential Elements Books I and II* and selected repertoire are the classroom material used. Students participate in various concert experiences.
Orchestra 6
Length of Course: Full Year
Grade Level: 6
Prerequisites: Successful completion of 5th grade orchestra or director approval

This course introduces ensemble playing, independent rhythm/counting and ear-training. Musicianship skills such as sight-reading and instrument geography are developed. The skills needed to perform as an ensemble and follow a conductor continue to be developed. The student’s understanding of posture, intonation, rhythm and counting are solidified. The student’s ability to read music is developed. Students will participate in various concert experiences. Method Book: Standard Literature between Grades 1-2.

Orchestra 7
Length of Course: Full Year
Grade Level: 7
Prerequisites: Successful completion of 6th grade orchestra or director approval

Students are introduced to advanced techniques, including shifting, vibrato and advanced bowing. Students learn to become independent in tuning their instruments without help. Students will participate in various concert experiences. Method Book: Standard Literature between Grades 2-2.5.

Orchestra 8
Length of Course: Full Year
Grade Level: 8
Prerequisites: Successful completion of 7th grade orchestra or director approval

Students continue the refinement of advanced techniques, including shifting, vibrato and advanced bowing. Special attention is given to the skills needed for transition from 8th grade to high school orchestra. Students will participate in various concert experiences. Method Book: Standard Literature between Grades 2.5 – 3.
Choir 6
Length of Course:  Full Year
Grade Level:  6
Prerequisites:  Prior experience in choir or director approval

Sixth Grade Choir is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in music through performance. Students learn to sing with proper technique, expression, accuracy and a wide variety of literature. Students will sing music written in unison and two-parts and compose short pieces using solfège. Students will read whole, dotted half, half, quarter notes and rests in 4/4 and 3/4 time and identify and define standard notation symbols for pitch, rhythm, dynamics, tempo, articulation and expression. Students participate in various concert experiences during the school year.

Choir 7
Length of Course:  Full Year
Grade Level:  7
Prerequisites:  Successful completion of 6th grade orchestra or director approval

In addition to the 6th grade curriculum, students will learn to sing music written in three parts and be introduced to the bass clef. Students will read at sight melodies in the treble and bass clef, which include intervals of M3/m3, and evaluate the quality and effectiveness of music performances by themselves. Students participate in various concert experiences during the school year.

Choir 8
Length of Course:  Full Year
Grade Level:  8
Prerequisites:  Successful completion of 7th grade orchestra or director approval

Eighth Grade Choir builds off the choir curriculum in 6th and 7th grades. Students will sing music written in two and three parts, read simple melodies in both the treble and bass clef, and sight read examples in major keys up to three sharps or flats. Attention is given to the elements of music: tension, release and balance. Students participate in various concert experiences during the school year.
SUPPLEMENTARY ELECTIVES

Lego Robotics
Length of Course: Full Year
Grade Level: 6, 7, 8
Prerequisites: None

Students use motors and rotation, sound, light, touch and ultrasonic sensors to program basic robot behaviors. Students tackle complex assignments and compete on a world stage using a variety of skills deeply rooted in science, technology, engineering and math. Units of instruction include robotics basics, circuits and computers, hardware, software and firmware, movement, sights, sounds and gears, taking turns, sight and touch, variable programming, linear algorithms, and logic programming. Lessons are built around the “NXT and EV3 Video Trainer” artifact from Carnegie Mellon University's Robotics Academy. In order to round out a complete STEM curriculum, these self-paced learning-to-program videos are supplemented with lessons on robotics technologies, explicit math and science concepts, and the Engineering Process. This introductory STEM Robotics master curriculum uses the LEGO® MINDSTORMS® EV3 Education Base Set and EV3 programing software to teach a full STEM Robotics course.

Current Events/Newspaper
Length of Course: Semester
Grade Level: 8
Prerequisites: None

This course offers students a chance to report, film and produce Anderson Middle School’s daily video newscast. Using state of the art equipment, students will access the green-screen production room to create a daily professional newscast which is broadcasted throughout the school. Students will report, write, and sell The Viking Beat school newspaper. Students will create a radio station within the classroom, in which they may bring in their favorite music to record, write scripts, stories, etc. Students have the opportunity to experiment with different forms of media and use their creativity to produce a variety of news and projects.
Family Consumer Science 6
Length of Course: Quarter
Grade Level: 6
Prerequisites: None

This course focuses on developing skills for healthy and independent living. Emphasis is on kitchen safety and sanitation, reading and understanding recipes, measurement skills, cooking techniques and basic machine sewing skills. Students will also learn about personal reproductive health, emphasizing the normal changes and challenges of adolescent growth.

Family Consumer Science 7
Length of Course: Semester
Grade Level: 7
Prerequisites: None

This hands-on course takes a fresh look at preparing and serving creative foods. Students explore the discipline of sewing by completing a hand and machine sewn project. Students participate in experiences which help to prepare them for becoming an independent person. This course emphasizes alcohol, tobacco, and reproductive health awareness.

Family Consumer Science 8
Length of Course: Semester
Grade Level: 8
Prerequisites: None

Students have the opportunity to explore their personal skills and interests to determine possible career pathways. This course also explores cooking techniques, food preparation, table setting, table manners, and planning for and hosting holiday meals. The health component brings to light the magnitude of teenage parenthood through a mechanical baby experience. It addresses the dangers of illicit drug use and provides techniques for coping with stress.