Norup International

MYP Course Guide

CORE CURRICULUM

English Language Arts

Language and Literature 6

Length of Course: Full year, 2 class periods daily
Grade Level: 6
Prerequisite: None

This course is unique because it is a two-hour block: Reader's Workshop and Writer's Workshop. During this time, students will further develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing, and presenting. Individual feedback is given during teacher/student conferences and students are supported during independent work time.

Reader's Workshop: In Reader's Workshop, students will not only learn a repertoire of fiction and nonfiction reading skills and strategies, but become lifelong learners who read both for pleasure and academic purposes. Students will engage in language/word study, mini-lessons, book clubs, independent reading, read alouds, goal setting, and reflection.

Writer's Workshop: In Writer's Workshop, students will learn strategic skills in narrative, argument, and information writing. They will have repeated opportunities to practice each type of writing and will learn how to give and receive meaningful feedback. Students will engage in grammar study, mini-lessons, conferences, small-group work, goal setting, and reflection.

Language & Literature 7

Length of Course: Full year
Grade Level: 7
Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to provide students with a foundation in reading and writing narrative, informational, and argument texts. Students will follow the Lucy Calkins Reading and Writing Workshop to develop essential learner habits, strategies, and practices. The use of a reading and writing notebook during each unit will encourage students to be independent, engaged, and empowered learners who value close reading, idea generation, drafting, and revision.

Throughout the year, students will be exposed to a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts, including novels, short stories, poetry, essays, memoirs, myths/legends, and informational texts. Close examination of these texts will help reinforce knowledge of literary elements, as well as develop comprehension and analytical reading skills. These texts will also serve as models for the different writing styles students will be working on.

Grammar, vocabulary and language usage skills we be reinforced daily alongside our units of study.

Language and Literature 8

Length of Course: Full year
Grade Level: 8
Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to develop students' skills in reading and writing narrative, informational, and argument texts. Students will follow the Lucy Calkins Reading and Writing Workshop to develop essential learner habits, strategies, and practices. The use of a reading and writing notebook during each unit will encourage students to be independent, engaged, and empowered learners who value close reading, idea generation, drafting, and revision.

Throughout the year, students will be exposed to a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts, including novels, short stories, poetry, essays, and informational texts. Close examination of these texts will help reinforce knowledge of literary elements, as well as develop comprehension and analytical reading skills. These texts will also serve as models for the different writing styles students will be working on.

Grammar, vocabulary, and language usage skills will be reinforced daily alongside our units of study.

Journalism

Length of Course: Full year
Grade Level: 7 and 8
Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to provide students with a foundation in understanding media literacy, journalistic principles, and digital storytelling. Throughout the year, students will analyze a variety of print and nonprint sources to explore purpose, structure, context, bias, and persuasive elements in media. Students will engage with a variety of collaborative, digital tools to become informed consumers of information, as well as responsible content creators.

Language and Literature Support

Length of Course: Full year
Grade Level: 7 and 8
Prerequisite: None

This course is designed for 7th and 8th graders who need additional support with Language and Literature classes. Students receive small-group, direct instruction reinforcing reading/writing strategies and concepts. In addition, students gain one-on-one support time to assist with the reading and writing involved with essays/projects/homework.

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, percent's 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 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. 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). These topics will be covered in math 7 and math 7 + classes.

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, and will continue to develop reasoning and problem solving skills. This course is aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

Geometry
Length of Course: Full year
Grade Level: 8
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra

Geometry is a college preparatory course that consists of an in-depth study of points, lines, planes, and other special relationships. Topics covered include the following: angle relationships, coordinate geometry, figure transformations, measurement, similarity, trigonometric relationships, and formal proof writing. Work with proof writing follows a carefully sequenced development of the logical and conceptual precursor to proof. Geometry integrates standard approaches, with an application of algebra.

Math 6+
Length of Course: 10 weeks
Grade Level: 6
Prerequisites: None

Connected Math 6+ focuses on the analysis of data distributions, including shape, measures of center (mean, median, mode) and variability (range, interquartile range, mean absolute deviation). Students will recognize statistical questions and use box and whiskers plots, histograms, number lines and dot plots to display data.

Math 7+
Length of course: 10 weeks
Grade Level: 7
Prerequisites: None

Connected Math 7+ is an additional course designed to make sure that students are exposed to all of the units in the Connected Math Program. Students will explore long-range expectations in probability situations and learn to make predictions based on theoretical or experimental probabilities.

Math 8+
Length of course: 10 weeks
Grade Level: 8
Prerequisites: None

Connected Math 8+ is an additional course designed to make sure that students are exposed to all of the units in the Connected Math Program. Students will apply algebraic concepts to geometrical situations and develop and interpret hypotheses and formulae.

Math Support
Length of Course: Full year; exit out of and entry into can occur at any point in a school year.
Grade Level: 6, 7, 8 - courses for each grade level.

Math support gives students time to practice math strategies through promoting a positive mindset. Lessons taught in the general math classroom are pre-taught and re-taught. Homework is often reviewed and prerequisite skills for higher concepts are reinforced. Students are given extra time on assessments. Quizzes are reviewed and students are given guidance on quiz corrections.

Science

6th Grade Science

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

The Mi-STAR science curriculum in 6th grade supports students in developing key knowledge and skills related to real-world Unit Challenges based on the 5E Learning Cycle which are aligned to the NGSS and Michigan Science Standards. In 6th grade the cross-cutting concepts connecting the science units are Systems & System Models and Patterns/Cause & Effect. Units encountered in 6th grade may include The Water Cycle, Investigating and Modeling Body Systems, Chemical Processes in Organism Digestion, Forces & Motion, Plant Growth, Interactions within Ecosystems, and Cycling of Energy and Matter Through Food Webs.

7th Grade Science

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

The Mi-STAR science curriculum in 7th grade supports students in developing key knowledge and skills related to real-world Unit Challenges based on the 5E Learning Cycle which are aligned to the NGSS and Michigan Science Standards. In 7th grade the cross-cutting concepts connecting the science units are Energy & Matter and Structure & Function. Units encountered in 7th grade may include Creating an Energy Plan, Cycling & Use of Minerals, Moving Thermal Energy, Life Cycle of Building Materials, How Humans Affect Plant/Animal Reproduction, Genetics & Agriculture, Water Chemistry & Quality, and Maintaining Ecosystem Services.

8th Grade Science

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

The Mi-STAR science curriculum in 8th grade supports students in developing key knowledge and skills related to real-world Unit Challenges based on the 5E Learning Cycle which are aligned to the NGSS and Michigan Science Standards. In 8th grade the cross-cutting concepts connecting the science units are Scale, Proportion, & Quantity and Stability & Change. Units encountered in 8th grade may include Natural Selection & Antibiotics, History of Life on Earth, Sound & Light Waves in Communication, Solar System, Forces & Seasons, Weather, Climate & Michigan Agriculture, Natural Hazards, and Climate Change.

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 complementary 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.

Health and Physical Education

Health 6

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

Students in this course will engage in learning experiences within three units: (1) Social and Emotional Health. This unit contains skills students need to establish healthy relationships with others. (2) Safety; students will comprehend hazards that could threaten a person's health and safety. (3) Nutrition and Physical Activity; students will comprehend the benefits of healthy eating and daily physical activity, including the benefit of weight management.

Health 7

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

Students in this course will engage in learning experiences that focus on the skills necessary for positive and healthy development. The units are: Nutrition and physical activity, Body Systems, CPR

Health 8

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

Students in this course will have 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. The units are:

The Power to be Tobacco and E-cigarette free
Effects of Marijuana and Alcohol on human health
Prescription and Non-Prescription Drugs
AIDS Awareness per Michigan law

Physical Education

Length of Course: 20 Weeks
Grade Level: Separate classes for each grade level 6, 7, and 8
Prerequisites: None

Middle School Physical Education provides opportunity for students to experience and enjoy team, individual and lifetime sport activities in a setting allowing for greater socialization than the typical classroom. Students strive to improve in all realms of physical fitness (strength, speed, flexibility, endurance and understanding) in an enjoyable environment. Our ultimate goal is to assist in improving each student's quality of life by motivating their future participation in a myriad of safe and fulfilling physical activities.

Sixth graders become indoctrinated in many new responsibilities geared toward their physical and emotional growth. While initially focusing primarily on team and individual sport skills, students gradually progress to both competitive and non-competitive activities.

By eighth grade, all PE students will be knowledgeable and prepared to compose and perform safe and appropriate high intensity fitness routines. Their expertise is further enhanced by team building and a variety of activities designed to be utilized and enjoyed well beyond middle school.

World Language

Intro to French

Length of Course: Full year
Grade Level: 7 / 8. 6th graders need administrative approval to take this course
Prerequisites: None

The purpose of Intro to French is for students to get an introduction to the four linguistic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the French language. In addition, students will explore the culture of the francophone world.

French 1

Length of Course: Full year
Grade Level: 7 / 8
Prerequisites: None

In French I, the student begins to develop the four linguistic skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Culture is interwoven throughout the units. The student will compare and make connections between his/her culture and the francophone world.

French 2

Length of Course: 10 Weeks
Grade Level: 8
Prerequisites: Successful completion of French I

In French 2, the student will be reacquainted with skills learned in French 1. The student will continue to develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, as well as increasing awareness of the francophone world to further understanding of culture.

Intro to Spanish

Length of Course: Full year
Grade Level: 7 / 8. 6th graders need administrative approval to take this course
Prerequisites: None

Intro to Spanish is an elective course offered prior to taking Spanish 1. The purpose of the class is to provide an engaging and interactive introduction to the Spanish language. A variety of vocabulary and grammar will be taught in connection with culture through speaking, listening, reading and writing activities.

Spanish 1
Length of Course: Full year
Grade Level: 7 / 8
Prerequisites: None

In Spanish 1, the student begins to develop the four linguistic skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Culture is interwoven throughout the units. The student will compare and make connections between his/her culture and the Hispanic world and community.

Spanish 2
Length of Course: Full year
Grade Level: 7 / 8
Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish 2

In Spanish 2, the student will be reacquainted with skills learned in Spanish 1. The student will continue to develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, as well as increase his/her awareness of the Hispanic world and culture.

Special Education

Resource Room English
Length of Course: Full year
Grade Level: 6-8
Prerequisite: IEP Team / Caseload Teacher recommendation/assignment

This course is designed to provide the student with instruction in basic reading skills, reading comprehension, reading fluency, and written expression. Seventh and eighth graders typically are also enrolled in a grade-level Language and Literature class.

Resource Room Math
Length of Course: Full year
Grade Level: 6-8
Prerequisite: IEP Team / Caseload Teacher recommendation/assignment

This course is designed to provide the student with instruction in math calculation and math problem solving, typically off grade level. Students that participate in resource room math are provided with direct instruction and use a variety of tools, manipulatives, and technology.

Learning Resource Center (LRC)
Length of Course: Full year
Grade level: 6-8
Prerequisite: IEP Team / Caseload Teacher recommendation

This class is designed to meet specific educational needs of students, relating to their IEP. In addition, LRC provides students with support and focuses on study skills, organization, use of time, and decision-making. LRC is not a homework completion course. Students are expected to bring work home each night.

Visual and Performing Arts

Art 6

Length of course: Full year, meets daily
Grade level: 6
Pre-requisites: none

This class is designed as a bridge from elementary art foundations to more advanced middle school level art techniques and concepts. It builds on student's capabilities and prior knowledge and expands student growth in the area of *Color Theory* and the *Elements and Principles of Design.* Daily sketchbook drawings, with yearly changing theme are instituted. While being inspired by famous artists/art history and through the use of drawing, painting, printmaking, fibers, sculpture, ceramics and mixed media, students will explore various art techniques. Assessment, critique and reflective writing will conclude each art project.

Art 7 / 8

Length of course: Full year, meets daily
Grade level: 7 & 8
Pre-requisites: none

This course will continue to provide opportunities for students to develop art skills and techniques. Students will boost critical thinking and problem solving habits, improve collaborative participation and grow creatively while developing communication skills. Students will learn and identify visual art vocabulary. Through observation, students will select and utilize a variety of ideas and subject matter while creating original works of art. Daily sketchbook drawings with yearly changing theme are instituted. Assessment, critique and reflective writing will conclude each art project.

Advanced Art 8

Length of course: Full year, meets daily
Grade level 8
Pre-requisites: Art 6, Art 7 / 8, teacher approval

This class is designed to nurture the serious, passionate and independent artist. It is comparable to a high school drawing/painting course. Art portfolios and sketchbooks will need to be purchased by each student. Students will explore various drawing mediums such as: ebony pencil, graphite, colored pencil, white charcoal, oil and chalk pastel, conte crayons and Sharpie marker. The class will be composed of both still life work and project work. During the last term of the course, students will focus on developing their painting skills. Watercolor, tempera and acrylic paints will be used. Completed Advanced Art projects are often showcased in its own Art Show in Berkley.

Choir 6

Length of Course: Full Year
Grade Level: 6
Prerequisites: All students welcome to sign up

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 including mainly classical, pop, and musical theater. Students will sing music written in unison and two-parts and compose short pieces using solfege. 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, including participation in MSVMA Choral Festival.

Choir 7

Length of Course: Full Year
Grade Level: 7
Prerequisites: Successful completion of 6th grade choir 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, including participation in MSVMA Choral Festival.

Choir 8

Length of Course: Full Year
Full Year Grade Level: 8
Prerequisites: Successful completion of 7th grade choir 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, and also to preparation for high school level music. Students participate in various concert experiences during the school year, including participation in MSVMA Choral Festival as well as one combined concert with the Berkley High School choirs.

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 and independent rhythm/counting while posture and intonation continue to be solidified. Special attention is given to reading and writing music notation preparing students for the challenges of performing more advanced literature. Students continue to develop their ability to follow a conductor and have the opportunity to participate in various concert experiences.

Advanced Orchestra

Length of Course: Full Year
Grade Level: 7, 8
Prerequisites: Successful completion of 6th grade orchestra or director approval.

Students are introduced to advanced techniques, including shifting, vibrato and advanced bowing. Students also learn to become independent in tuning their instruments without help. Beginning in 7th grade, students have the opportunity to participate in competitions as individual performers and in large ensembles. Students also participate in various concert experiences with the idea of preparing them to move on to the high school orchestra program.

Band 6

Length of Course: Full Year
Grade Level: 6
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 will be introduced to concepts of improvisation and musical analysis from historical and cultural contexts. Performances include Winter Concert, Band Jam, and Spring Concert. Optional individual opportunities include the Chamber Music Recital, and scholarship auditions. Students in 6th grade band may be eligible to participate in the extracurricular Jazz Band, per director permission. Materials Used: Making Music Matter Book 1, and other selected concert and solo repertoire.

Band 7/8

Length of Course: Full Year
Grade Level: 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 by both the director and outside adjudicators on individual and group performances. Relationships between music and other disciplines outside of music are explored. Students will continue to develop improvisation skills and analyze music from a historical and cultural context. Performances include All City Instrumental Workshop, Winter Concert, Pre-festival Concert, MSBOA Festival, and Spring Concert. Optional individual opportunities include the Chamber Music Recital, scholarship auditions, and MSBOA Solo & Ensemble. Students in MYP band are eligible to be a part of the extracurricular Jazz Band. Materials Used: Sound Innovations Ensemble Development Intermediate book, and other selected concert and solo repertoire.

Miscellaneous Electives

Robotics and Engineering

Length of Course: Full year
Grade Level: 6 /7 / 8
Prerequisites: None

Centered on a structured, problem-solving tool called the Design Cycle, Robotics and Engineering provides students the opportunities to build Rube Goldberg Machines and remote-controlled TETRIX Prime robots, program and construct TETRIX Pulse autonomous robots, compete as teams in classroom challenges, participate in robotics competitions, and to use their developing engineering skills to find solutions to real-world problems.

Introduction to Coding

Length of Course: 20 Weeks (taken in conjunction with Business and Finance)
Grade Level(s): 7, 8
Prerequisites: None

This course is designed to increase students' knowledge of coding basics and extend students' coding skills by covering topics such as programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS, and data. In this course, students will be introduced to several coding languages, such as scratch,

c++, html, and JavaScript. Intro to coding is an introductory computer science course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. This course aims to inspire students as they build their own websites, apps, games, and physical computing devices.

Business and Finance

Length of Course: 20 weeks (taken in conjunction with Intro to Coding)
Grade Level(s): 7, 8
Prerequisites: None

Business and finance is an introductory class that covers basic personal finance information, as well as basic principles involved in owning one's own business. While focusing on personal finance, students will learn about budgeting, investing, career and job opportunities, using credit cards, and ways to plan and pay for college. While covering small business principles, students will learn what it means to be an entrepreneur. Students will be introduced to how to come up with business ideas, how to target and market to customers, the expenses and risks of owning one's own business, and how to improve public speaking and communication skills. Students will produce several projects in this class, including creating their own business plan. Being an entrepreneur involves being creative, exploring ideas, working in teams, seeking opportunities, and solving problems, and in business and finance we focus on developing these skills.

Study Skills

Length of Course: Full year, but exit out of or entry into can occur at any point in a school year.
Grade Level: 6 / 7 / 8
Prerequisites: None

The study skills course is an individualized class period for students who require extra planning, organizational time, and/or work time. Students who require executive functioning skill development will receive instruction and mentoring in these areas while students who simply need time to work and become organized will receive the time to complete what they need to do. Independent work time will occur daily and participation in this activity is mandatory in order to remain in the course.