

Rice Lake Middle School Course Description Booklet 2023-2024



RLASD

Mission of
the Rice
Lake Area
School
District:

*We will partner
with students,
families, and
community
members to
provide a safe
learning
environment to
ensure our
students
achieve
academic and
personal
success as they
become lifelong
learners."*

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RLASD

Planning your future

Students who attend Rice Lake Middle School are provided with the opportunity to access a comprehensive course selection that will prepare them for a post-secondary experience of college, technical school, work or military. This course planning guide will assist parents and students in the selection of courses that will best prepare them for their future. Rice Lake Middle School staff are available to provide you with assistance in planning. Please feel free to contact the middle school with any questions you may have.

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It is the policy of the Rice Lake Area School District, pursuant to s. 118.13 of Wisconsin Statutes, and Chapter PI 9 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, that no person may be denied admission to any school or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational, or other program or activity on the basis of the protected classes of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex (including gender status, change of sex, or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability.

Career Planning and Testing

Career Planning

Individual Conferences with Counselors

Parents, guardians, and students are welcome to make appointments with counselors any time throughout the year. The meetings listed below are specifically designed for career planning.

ACP Goal Setting Homeroom Meetings

On the first day of school each school year, 6th through 8th grade parents are asked to participate in a meeting with homeroom advisors. During these meetings, students are asked to create goals in the following areas: career, academic, behavioral, and attendance. Those goals will be revisited throughout the school year and at parent teacher conferences.

Academic and Career Planning

Students will participate in a variety of interest surveys and career exploration activities on the Xello Software Program as part of the Middle School Success, Health, and 8th Grade Careers Curriculum. In addition, students will attend Mini Business World, a one-day immersive program where students practice building a business from the ground up. Teachers will discuss careers within content area curriculum to provide real life application and relevance.

Testing

FastBridge Screening Assessments

Rice Lake Middle School Students will take the FastBridge Assessments in the area of math and reading. The FastBridge Assessment is taken three times per school year in September, January, and May. Following each of these screening periods, teachers will analyze this data to determine individual student needs and overall curriculum effectiveness. This data along with other available data is used to determine student interventions and extensions. The ILA intervention period at the beginning of each school day is determined using the available data.

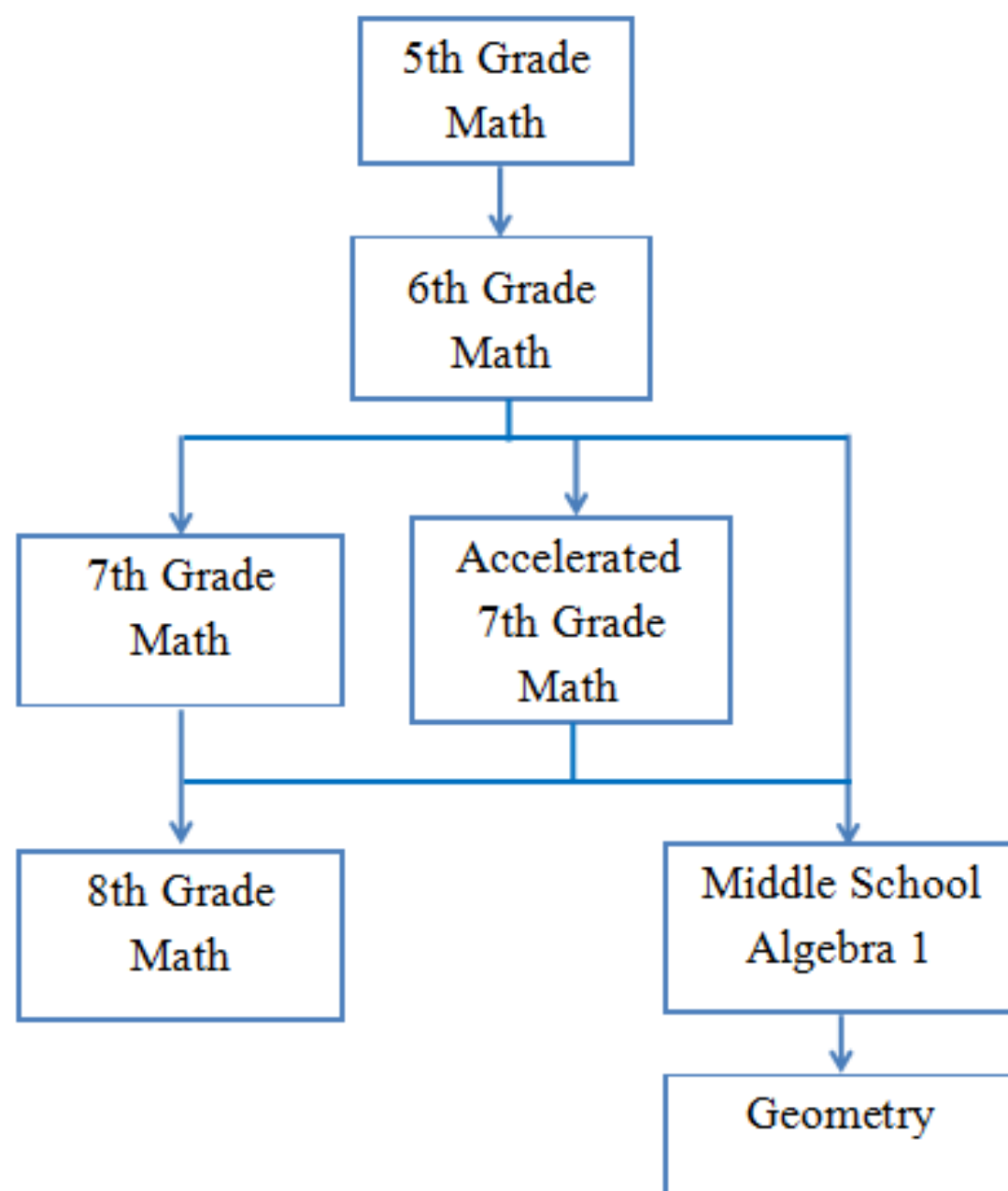
Benchmark Assessment

At the beginning of each year, language arts teaching staff will do the benchmark assessment with the majority of the middle school students. The benchmark assessment is a chance for teachers to listen to your child read. This information is used to inform instruction and determine Instructional reading level for your child.

Forward Exam- Wisconsin State Test

In the spring of each school year, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, identifies a window between the months of March and May. Students in 5th through 8th grade will perform assessments in math, language arts, and writing. In addition, 8th grade students will have an additional assessment in science and social studies. The data is returned in the summer months and individual reports are shared with parents. This information is a primary component in our school report cards that are made public each fall.

Middle School Math



* Placement into Math class in 7th and 8th grade is based on multiple factors including test scores, performance on a placement test, previous grades, and teacher recommendation.

Rice Lake Middle School

Course Description

[5th Grade Courses](#)

[6th Grade Courses](#)

[7th Grade Courses](#)

[8th Grade Courses](#)

[ESL Support](#)

[Inquire Learn Achieve \(ILA Intervention Time\)](#)

[Rice Lake Middle School Sports and Activities](#)

Rice Lake Middle School
5th Grade Courses

Core Curriculum (Year Courses)

[5th Grade Language Arts](#)

[5th Grade Math](#)

[5th Grade Science](#)

[5th Grade Social Studies](#)

Avant Garde (Elective Courses)

[5th Grade Instrumental Music - Band](#)

[5th Grade Music \(Quarter Class\)](#)

[5th Grade World Cultures \(Quarter Class\)](#)

[5th Grade Middle School Success \(Quarter Class\)](#)

[5th Grade Art \(Quarter Class\)](#)

[5th Grade Physical Education \(1/2 Year, 2 Quarters\)](#)

[5th Grade Health Education \(1/2 Year, 2 Quarters\)](#)

[5th Grade Intro to Media \(Quarter Class\)](#)

5th Grade Language Arts

5th grade language arts is a core class that is held for 90 minutes daily across the entire school year. The different instructional contexts used during a language arts class period include word study, interactive read aloud, a mini-lesson for reading workshop or writing workshop, small group (guided reading, literature study, guided writing) or individualized instruction (reading conferences, writing conferences), and time at the end of the class period to share daily learning and takeaways. Mini-lessons for reading workshop and writing workshop are created to teach, explore, and assess the 5th grade Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Reading: literature, reading, informational text, writing, speaking and listening, and language.

5th Grade Math

This course covers all of the 5th grade Common Core standards including these three critical areas: (1) developing fluency with addition and subtraction of fractions, and developing understanding of the multiplication of fractions and of division of fractions in limited cases (unit fractions divided by whole numbers and whole numbers divided by unit fractions); (2) extending division to 2-digit divisors, integrating decimal and fractions into the place value system and developing understanding of operations with decimals to hundredths, and developing fluency with whole number and decimal operations; and (3) developing understanding of volume.

5th Grade Science

This course covers the units of mixtures and solutions, living systems, and earth and sun. In this structured framework, students will have a guided lesson and then will continue to explore science by hands-on experimentation, understanding the concepts through literature, inquiry, and/or gaining a basic knowledge through reflection.

5th Grade Social Studies

This course follows the early history of the United States from the beginning of the 13 Original Colonies, to the American Revolution, to establishing The Constitution, to the Reconstruction period of the Civil War.

5th Grade Instrumental Music

Band instruction begins at the start of 5th grade, where interested students choose an instrument and receive small group lessons to learn proper playing techniques. Attention will be given to make sure the instrument choice is the right one for the student. The year ends with a transition to full band and a spring concert. 5th Grade Band is an elective course offered during the 5th grade study hall time.

5th Grade General Music

5th grade General Music meets every day for 42 minutes for one quarter. The major emphasis of this course is to provide students with a variety of musical experiences and activities. The course develops the following skills: singing, listening, reading and writing music, and playing classroom instruments according to what is available. The course provides opportunities for growth in understanding the following musical elements: rhythm, melody, form or design, tempo, dynamics, timbre or tone color, harmony, and

style. The course also develops discrimination and critical judgment in music that is heard or produced, and encourages interest in music from diverse cultures and historical periods. Students will also learn about basic performance skills. This is a non-performance class, meaning that it will not culminate with a concert at the end of the term. Our program is designed to offer all students avenues for continued and complimentary academic success.

5th Grade World Cultures

Students in *World Cultures Grade 5* explore language, culture and geography through vocabulary, music, dance, art, games, videos, projects and guest speakers. Students, with an open mind, will identify similarities and differences between their and others' cultures. *World Languages and Cultures Grade 5* fosters a sense of curiosity and lays the foundation for language learning and the discovery of world cultures.

5th Grade Middle School Success

Fifth grade students will have Middle School Success in a quarter rotation. A recurring need in the success of our youth continues to be the executive skills of organization, goal setting, perseverance, character education, team work, and self-awareness. In addition, our school and district goals continue to include literacy and writing skills. In fifth grade we focus on mindset, time management, overcoming challenges, goal setting, recognizing differences, and communication.

5th Grade Exploratory Art

This is an exploratory/general art class designed to expose students to various methods and materials used in creating art. During this nine-week long course, students will experiment with drawing, painting, clay and more. Students will be encouraged to express themselves through their art by means of creativity and problem solving. They will investigate the principles of art and learn about various artists and cultures throughout history, while being introduced to a variety of art materials. Students will also be expected to develop verbal skills in art, in efforts to discuss one another's work and to participate in analytical critiques.

5th Grade Physical Education

We believe physical education (P.E.) plays a key role in students' development from childhood to adulthood. P.E allow students to problem solve, work cooperatively and be active all in the same class period. 5th grade P.E class is a twice-a-year class that meets during two quarters. The students will not be expected to change for class, but will be expected to come prepared by wearing both shoes and clothes that will allow them to be as physically active to their full potential. Students will be assessed twice a year (Fall and Spring) using the Cooper Institute's Fitnessgram assessments; height and weight, push-ups, curl-ups, pacer, mile run, and the sit and reach. These assessments will be used to help monitor students' physical fitness growth throughout the year. As well as physical fitness, 5th grade P.E. is focused on skill development and student growth. Our goal is to help students work on and perfect the skills that will help them be successful in the coming years of P.E. as well as begin to develop an appreciation for a physically active lifestyle beyond school.

5th Grade Health Education

Health education plays a key role in student's development from childhood to adulthood. During 5th grade health we will focus on overall health and developing the physical, mental, and social sides of the wellness triangle. In addition to learning about the wellness triangle students will learn the skills necessary to maintain or develop overall health and wellness. We will learn about types of families and how families can influence each other to make healthy choices. During our nutrition unit we will discuss the Myplate Food Guide, compare and contrast food guides from around the world, and strategies for making healthy food and beverage selections. During a communication unit, students will talk about healthy and unhealthy communication strategies, ways to improve communications, and why honest and clear communication is important. Fifth grade Human Growth and Development will discuss changes that middle school students go through. We will discuss how these changes affect all three sides of the health triangle, and not just the physical side of the triangle. Students will break up for gender specific puberty discussion. Replacement curriculum will be provided for students who opt out of the Human Growth & Development unit.

5th Grade Keyboarding

This course helps students develop 21st century information and technology skills. Students will begin to develop keyboarding skills. Other areas of focus are research & information, digital citizenship, communication & collaboration, and creativity & innovation. This is a hands-on project based curriculum.

Rice Lake Middle School
6th Grade Courses

Core Curriculum (Year Courses)

[6th Grade Language Arts](#)

[6th Grade Math](#)

[6th Grade Science](#)

[6th Grade Social Studies](#)

Avant Garde (Elective Courses)

[6th Grade Stem/Engineering \(Quarter Class\)](#)

[6th Grade World Cultures \(Quarter Class\)](#)

[6th Grade Middle School Success \(Quarter Class\)](#)

[6th Grade Art \(Quarter Class\)](#)

[6th Grade Physical Education \(1/2 Year, 2 Quarters\)](#)

[6th Grade Health Education \(Quarter Class\)](#)

[6th Grade Keyboarding \(Quarter Class\)](#)

[6th Grade General Music](#)

[6th Grade Vocal Music - Choir](#)

[6th Grade Instrumental Music - Band](#)

6th Grade Language Arts

Sixth grade language arts focuses on teaching students the skills necessary to be proficient readers and writers. We rotate between reading units and writing units. Reading units contain an interactive read aloud and student texts that match the theme of the unit. Students have daily reading lessons aligned to our identified priority reading standards and also complete reading responses through writing. There are four fiction-based reading units and one nonfiction-based reading unit. Writing units involve taking students through a process of writing: studying the genre, prewriting, organizing & outlining, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. There are four writing units across the year, each aligned to our identified priority writing standards. The four types of writing students complete are informative/explanatory, research, persuasive, and narrative. Additionally, students are assessed within reading and writing units on speaking & listening skills and using correct writing conventions.

6th Grade Math

This course covers all of the 6th grade Common Core standards for geometry, ratios and proportional relationships, writing and interpreting single variable expressions, and developing an understanding of statistical thinking. In addition, students will order rational numbers and understand how they are used in real-world situations. The Mathematical Practice Standards will be integrated throughout the curriculum to help develop strong problem-solving skills.

6th Grade Science

This course covers an integrated approach to Next Generation Science Standards: life science, earth science and physical science. Life science explores the diversity of life including molecules to organisms, their structures, and processes. Earth Science explores the factors of weather and the hydrologic cycle. Physical science investigates contact and noncontact forces.

Sixth Grade Social Studies

Students in 6th grade social studies will learn about geography by studying the relationships among different people, places, and environments. The semester will begin with basic map skills to help identify the world. From there, students will examine the Eastern Hemisphere. This will include learning about the history, culture, religion, economy, and government of this region.

6th Grade STEM Engineering

This course is intended to integrate the STEM fields through project-based learning. Students will be engaged by frequent hands-on activities geared towards combining each of the STEM disciplines. Creativity and collaboration will be encouraged as students solve problems. The class is divided into four main units: engineering, robotics, traditional and digital manufacturing. Each unit will have an instructional component and project component. During the project phase, students will be presented with a challenge. During this phase they must draw upon their knowledge of the STEM disciplines, collaborate with peers, and apply their own creative processes to find solutions to the problem.

6th Grade World Cultures

Students in World Cultures continue to explore language, culture, and geography through vocabulary, food, music, dance, art, games, videos, projects and guest speakers. Students, with an open mind, will identify similarities and differences between their and others' cultural perspectives and beliefs. Students will understand how cultural migration has impacted our world and how we interact with others. World Languages and Cultures fosters a sense of curiosity and lays the foundation for language learning and the understanding of world cultures.

6th Grade Middle School Success

Fifth grade students will have Middle School Success in a quarter rotation. A recurring need in the success of our youth continues to be the executive skills of organization, goal setting, perseverance, character education, team work, and self-awareness. In addition, our school and district goals continue to include literacy and writing skills. We will use the read aloud strategy and parallel our balanced literacy framework of instruction. Our students are familiar with the framework and respond to this instruction approach. In addition, there is a focus on writing as students reflect on real-life application of the skills identified above. In 6th grade, we discuss circle of control, how to manage friendship ups and downs, goal setting, addictions, and communication.

6th Grade Art

Sixth grade students will have the opportunity to design their own sketchbook, explore radial symmetry, become city-planners with one-point perspective drawing, discover as architects with three-dimensional architecture and clay, learn graphic design with lettering and design, and study artistic balance with positive and negative space. The sketchbook will be used to reflect on their creative process, problem-solve their project designs with rough draft sketches, and to organize information about their art throughout this course. All projects will focus on developing students' art-making skills and connecting the seven elements of art and design to their own work.

6th Grade Physical Education

6th grade physical education is a yearlong class that meets every other day. Students will be expected to have a P.E. clothes bag and change each day for P.E. into active clothing. Students will be assessed twice a year (Fall and Spring) using the Cooper Institute's Fitnessgram assessments; height and weight, push-ups, curl-ups, pacer, mile run, and the sit and reach. These assessments will be used to help monitor student's physical fitness growth throughout the year. Our goal in 6th grade P.E., is to help students develop skills that will not only make them successful in P.E., but allow them to be successful in a physically active lifestyle outside of school. Some of the sports that students will be introduced to are volleyball, basketball, football, soccer, swimming, floor hockey, softball, lacrosse as well as many mini-games. Much of 6th grade P.E is spent playing sport specific lead up games which allow students to work on skills that transcend many different sports, while enjoying themselves. Our goal in P.E is to not only help students grow and be successful in skill development and physical fitness, but in areas such as sportsmanship, teamwork, respect and responsibility.

6th Grade Health Education

Health education plays a key role in student development from childhood to adulthood. In 6th grade students will expand upon previous knowledge of the health triangle and begin to understand how influences in our life affect our overall health and wellness. Students will learn about the importance of surrounding yourself with positive influences as well as develop skills in becoming a positive example for those around them. Students will discuss tobacco and vaping, how what we see modeled every day can put us at a greater risk for addiction, and how to break through environmental influences. Students will discuss the importance of creating SMART goals, analyze personal wellness in order to create a personalized goal, and implement a healthy change in behavior. Students will discuss the decision-making process, learn when to practice this process, and have a chance to role play this process. Students will learn about stress, its impact on our body, and develop positive relaxation strategies. We will discuss how these strategies are often shaped by our influences. During Human Growth and Development students will review puberty and how we all change during middle school. Students will also learn how both the male and female reproductive systems function. Replacement curriculum will be provided for students who opt out of the Human Growth & Development unit.

6th Grade Intro to Media

This course covers basic Microsoft Office Window terminology, ergonomics relating to correct keyboarding position, file management, and touch-typing. The focus, however, is on getting the keyboard letters to rote memory in order to touch-type (learning the letter keys without looking at fingers). Rote memory is necessary to build speed. Students will formally be taught all letter keys, have daily review both verbally and nonverbally, and begin blending two- and three-letter words to build fluency. By the end of this course, students should be keying 30 words per minute.

6th Grade General Music

6th Grade General Music meets every other day for 42 minutes for one quarter. The major emphasis of this course is to provide students with a variety of musical experiences and activities. The course develops the following skills: singing, listening, reading and writing music, and playing classroom instruments according to what is available. The course provides opportunities for growth in understanding the following musical elements: rhythm, melody, form or design, tempo, dynamics, timbre or tone color, harmony, and style. The course also develops discrimination and critical judgment in music that is heard or produced, and encourages interest in music from diverse cultures and historical periods. Students will also learn about basic performance skills. This is a non-performance class, meaning that it will not culminate with a concert at the end of the term. Our program is designed to offer all students avenues for continued and complimentary academic success.

6th Grade Vocal Music

6th Grade Vocal Music (Choir) meets every other day for 42 minutes. This course is a novice entry level class and is open to all interested 6th Grade students. No audition is necessary to be a member and students can join choir through-out the school year. The degrees of difficulty for each grade level will vary according to the abilities of each class as a whole. While in choir the students will:

- a. Learn, memorize and perform a variety of choral styles appropriate to the grade level and developmental ability.
- b. Perform simple to complex rhythmic, melodic and harmonic patterns through sight-singing and performance literature.
- c. Learn and apply musical elements and theory to all choral literature.
- d. Develop basic vocal/choral skills such as: appropriate singing posture, vowel and consonant placements, diction, breath support, choral tone and resonance.
- e. Develop concert etiquette skills.
- f. Perform in a variety of concerts.
- g. Create a positive learning environment by working as a group towards a common goal.
- h. Experience other choral performances to develop and enhance listening skills.

Accommodations and modifications will be made according to the student's needs.

There are two mandatory performances during the school year: a winter concert and a spring concert.

6th Grade Instrumental Music/Band

We believe that every student with a desire to learn to play a musical instrument should be given an opportunity to do so. To provide this opportunity, the Rice Lake Area School District offers a comprehensive band program where each student, regardless of playing ability, has a place in the program as long as he/she has the commitment to steady improvement.

We believe that being part of the band is worthwhile for each student. Music education has benefits which last a lifetime and research has shown that students who actively participate in school music programs have consistently scored higher on standardized tests and are quite successful in other school activities as well. Most of all, music is fun. It is an experience important to our lives and to our society.

Rice Lake Middle School is proud to provide a quality music education for our students.

As students move into 6th grade, full band begins and rehearses every other day. Students receive individual lessons on their instrument in grades 6-7-8. There are 3-4 concerts per year for all 3 grades as well as a solo/ensemble experience in the winter.

Rice Lake Middle School
7th Grade Courses

Core Curriculum (Year Courses)

[7th Grade Language Arts](#)

[7th Grade Math](#)

[7th Grade Accelerated Math](#)

[7th Grade Science](#)

[7th Grade Geography](#)

Avant Garde (Elective Courses)

[7th Grade Stem/Engineering \(Quarter Class\)](#)

[7th Grade Spanish \(Quarter Class\)](#)

[7th Grade French \(Quarter Class\)](#)

[7th Grade Art \(Quarter Class\)](#)

[7th Grade Physical Education \(1/2 Year, 2 Quarters\)](#)

[7th Grade Health Education \(Quarter Class\)](#)

[7th Grade Computer Apps \(Quarter Class\)](#)

[7th Grade Vocal Music - Choir](#)

[7th Grade Instrumental Music - Band](#)

7th Grade Language Arts

7th grade language arts focuses on teaching students the skills necessary to be proficient readers and writers. We rotate between reading units and writing units. Reading units contain an interactive read aloud and student texts that match the theme of the unit. Students have daily reading lessons aligned to our identified priority reading standards and also complete reading responses through writing. There are four fiction-based reading units and two nonfiction-based reading units. Writing units involve taking students through a process of writing: studying the genre, prewriting, organizing & outlining, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. There are four writing units across the year, each aligned to our identified priority writing standards. The four types of writing students complete are informative/explanatory, research, persuasive, and narrative. Additionally, students are assessed within reading and writing units on speaking & listening skills and using correct writing conventions.

7th Grade Math

This course covers all of the 7th grade Common Core Standards. Throughout this course the mathematical practices are embedded through a balanced approach of student directed discovery and teacher directed instruction to assure students are prepared for 8th grade math.

7th Grade Accelerated Math

In addition to covering all of the 7th grade Common Core Standards, this course covers the 8th grade standards as they relate to number and quantity, algebra, geometry, and statistics and probability. Throughout this course the mathematical practices are embedded through a balanced approach of student directed discovery and teacher directed instruction to assure students are prepared for algebra 1 in 8th grade.

7th Grade Science

This course is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards. This course follows an integrated approach by covering physical science, earth science and life science. The physical science units covered include: states and phases of matter, physical and chemical properties and changes of matter, classification of matter, law of conservation of matter law. The life science units covered include: heredity and variation of traits, genetic disorders, natural selection and adaptations. The earth science units covered include earth's place in the universe and formation of rocks and minerals.

7th Grade Geography

In seventh grade Geography, students will gain geographical perspectives in the world by studying the earth and the interactions of its people with where they live to address the various cultural, economic, social, and civic factors in their environment. Students will learn to use maps to ask and answer geographic questions, interpret patterns in maps, charts, and graphs to display geographic information and explain relationships among them. Students will inquire and analyze human movement and population patterns to examine the impacts of global interconnections and relationships.

7th Grade Stem Engineering

This course will expand upon STEM Engineering 6. Students will delve deeper into the Digital Manufacturing Pathway using lasers, 3D printers, CNC routers, and vinyl cutters. Digital Manufacturing uses principles and theories of science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) to solve technical problems in today's manufacturing environments. Students will combine principles of engineering, digital technology, and computer automation to design, develop, test, and manufacture products that meet set requirements.

7th Grade Exploratory Spanish

This class is a “taste” of Spanish. For nine weeks, students will learn basic Spanish words and phrases, as well as cultural aspects of some of the 21 countries where Spanish is the official language. Students will investigate the value of learning another language, and learn literacy skills to help them decode more than they might expect! Students will acquire basic communication skills in Spanish through guided conversations, games, music, and many partner and small-group activities.

7th Grade Exploratory French

This is an exploratory French class, designed to expose students to the French language and culture. This nine-week long course will be devoted to reinforcing and building on the French that the students acquired in their 6th grade World Language class. Students will investigate fundamentals of language, literacy and culture through vocabulary building, music, dance, art, educational videos and guest speakers. Students will also be expected to have an open mind when learning about the French language and Francophone cultures.

7th Grade Art

Seventh grade students will continue their art making journey from sixth grade in this quarter long class. Students will reflect on their creative process in art journals, combine one-point perspective drawing techniques and art history to create surreal hallway drawings, demonstrate three-dimensional art making skills with clay bobble-heads, and design art with radial symmetry with ink printmaking. All projects will focus on developing students' art-making skills and connecting the seven elements of art and design to their own work.

7th Grade Physical Education

7th grade Physical Education (P.E) is a class that meets for two quarters a year. Students will be expected to have P.E. clothes in their P.E. locker and change each day into active clothing. Students will be assessed twice a year (Fall and Spring) using the Cooper Institute's Fitness Gram assessments; height and weight, push-ups, curl-ups, pacer, mile run, and the sit and reach. These assessments will be used to help monitor students' physical fitness growth throughout the year. 7th grade P.E. continues to build on the skills learned in 6th grade P.E. and enables students to apply them in controlled situations. Students will learn the benefits of participating regularly in P.E. both now and in the future. Students are given the ability to choose between activities that interest them such as; dance or cross country skiing, archery or lacrosse, soccer or golf and bootcamp or bigger faster stronger (BFS). Our goal in P.E is to not only help students grow and be successful

in skill development and physical fitness, but in areas such as sportsmanship, teamwork, respect and responsibility.

7th Grade Health Education

Health education plays a key role in a student's development from childhood to adulthood. Students will learn about the SPECIES wellness model, and how all 7 aspects of the model combine to create our overall health and wellness. We will look at personal values and analyze celebrities we follow to see if they match our personal values. Students will have a discussion on social media's influence on our personal values, as well as analyze their own social media feed to try and answer the question of whether social media is good, bad, or both? Students will learn about many mental health issues facing people today. They will become advocates for one mental health issue during a class health fair. Students will expand knowledge of nutrition, while learning to make dietary guidelines work for their individual lives. Students will create healthy meal plans for some of their favorite restaurants so they can develop the skill of eating healthy while eating out. During our human growth and development unit students will review both the male and female reproductive systems. We will discuss the importance of developing healthy relationships that meet our personal values, and how these relationships can impact our overall wellness.

7th Grade Computer Applications

This course covers Microsoft Word, Excel, and basic design concepts. The focus, however, will be on Microsoft Word. Using the Business and Information Technology standards, students will learn how to edit text, format text (including page setup, style/effects, line spacing, alignment, indents, and lists), create tables, and sort information. They will learn basic design concepts including inserting shapes and pictures and manipulating those shapes and pictures to layer, change color, crop, remove parts of an image, and move them. These concepts will then be applied to Excel where students will also learn basic formulas including addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, sum, and average. Students will also create and edit charts.

7th Grade Vocal Music

7th Grade Vocal Music (Choir) meets every other day for 42 minutes

This course is a novice/intermediate level class and is open to all interested 7th grade students. No audition is necessary to be a member and students can join choir throughout the school year. The degrees of difficulty for each grade level will vary according to the abilities of each class as a whole. While in choir the students will:

- a. Learn, memorize and perform a variety of choral styles appropriate to the grade level and developmental ability.
- b. Perform simple to complex rhythmic, melodic and harmonic patterns through sight-singing and performance literature.
- c. Learn and apply musical elements and theory to all choral literature.
- d. Develop basic vocal/choral skills such as: appropriate singing posture, vowel and consonant placements, diction, breath support, choral tone and resonance.
- e. Develop concert etiquette skills.

- f. Perform in a variety of concerts.
 - g. Create a positive learning environment by working as a group towards a common goal.
 - h. Experience other choral performances to develop and enhance listening skills.
- Accommodations and modifications will be made according to the student's needs.
- There are two mandatory performances during the school year: a winter concert and a spring concert.

Instrumental Music/Band

We believe that every student with a desire to learn to play a musical instrument should be given an opportunity to do so. To provide this opportunity, the Rice Lake Area School District offers a comprehensive band program where each student, regardless of playing ability, has a place in the program as long as he/she has the commitment to steady improvement.

We believe that being part of the band is worthwhile for each student. Music education has benefits which last a lifetime and research has shown that students who actively participate in school music programs have consistently scored higher on standardized tests and are quite successful in other school activities as well. Most of all, music is fun. It is an experience important to our lives and to our society.

Rice Lake Middle School is proud to provide a quality music education for our students.

In 7th grade, students experience full band begins rehearses every other day. Students receive individual lessons on their instrument in grades 6-7-8. 7th and 8th grade Band meet every day for students who are not in choir and every other day for choir students. There are 3-4 concerts per year for all 3 grades as well as a solo/ensemble experience in the winter. The 7th and 8th grade Band combine to form the RLMS Marching Band and performs locally for the Aquafest parade as well as at ValleyFair amusement park in Shakopee, Minnesota. Additional performance opportunities are available each year as well.

Rice Lake Middle School
8th Grade Courses

Core Curriculum (Year Courses)

[8th Grade Language Arts](#)

[8th Grade Math](#)

[Algebra 1 - Placement Testing Required](#)

[Geometry - Placement Testing Required](#)

[8th Grade Science](#)

[8th Grade Social Studies- US History](#)

Avant Garde (Elective Courses)- Choose Tech/Art or a Foreign Language

[8th Grade Stem/Engineering \(Semester Each\)](#)

[8th Grade Art Design \(Semester Each\)](#)

[8th Grade Spanish 1 \(Year Class\)](#)

[8th Grade French 1 \(Year Class\)](#)

[8th Grade Physical Education \(1/2 Year, 2 Quarters\)](#)

[8th Grade Health Education \(Quarter Class\)](#)

[8th Grade Careers \(Quarter Class\)](#)

[8th Grade Vocal Music - Choir](#)

[8th Grade Instrumental Music - Band](#)

8th Grade Language Arts

8th grade language arts focuses on teaching students the skills necessary to be proficient readers and writers. We rotate between reading units and writing units. Reading units contain an interactive read aloud and student texts that match the theme of the unit. Students have daily reading lessons aligned to our identified priority reading standards and also complete reading responses through writing. There are four fiction-based reading units and two nonfiction-based reading units. Writing units involve taking students through a process of writing: studying the genre, prewriting, organizing & outlining, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. There are four writing units across the year, each aligned to our identified priority writing standards. The types of writing students may complete are informative/explanatory, research, persuasive, and narrative. Additionally, students are assessed within reading and writing units on speaking & listening skills and using correct writing conventions.

8th Grade Math

This course covers all of the 8th grade Common Core standards including topics in algebra, geometry and statistics. The Mathematical Practice Standards will be integrated throughout the curriculum to help develop strong problem solving skills. This course is designed to prepare students for Algebra 1 at the high school.

Algebra 1

The Algebra 1 curriculum covers the 8th grade common core standards for linear equations, linear functions, statistics, and the pythagorean theorem. In addition, the high school common core standards for linear equations, linear inequalities, polynomials, quadratic equations, square roots, rational equations and functions will be covered. This course will also emphasize the mathematical practice standards. The course is designed to prepare students for geometry at the high school.

Geometry

This course covers the basic structure of geometry, formal proofs, trigonometry, area and volume, constructions, coordinate geometry, and transformations. This course will also emphasize the Mathematical Practice standards. Algebra skills are reviewed and strengthened to prepare students for Algebra 2 at the high school.

8th Grade Science

This course is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards. This course follows an integrated approach by covering Physical Science, Earth Science and Life Science. The Physical Science units has the greatest coverage including: balanced and unbalanced forces of motion, Newton's Three Laws of Motion, kinetic and potential energy, the transformation of various forms of energy, such as: thermal, chemical, radiant, electrical, electromagnetic and mechanical while focusing on the Law of Conservation of Energy. In Life Science, the focus is on the importance of photosynthesis and cellular respiration and how they cycle matter in and out of organisms. In Earth Science, the focus

is on the physical changes that occur on the Earth's surface. These changes are examined through sea-floor spreading, plate tectonics, earthquakes, and weathering and erosion.

8th Grade Social Studies

This course covers important events starting with the American Reconstruction, Progressive Era, WWI, Great Depression, New Deal, WWII, Cold War, War on Terrorism, and leading into current events. Crucial moments that changed history forever will be highlighted along with important voices along the way. The students will have the opportunity to learn about famous and infamous leaders. Civil Rights was a big part of this time period and will be dug into thoroughly along the way from many different groups that were marginalized.

8th Grade STEM Engineering

This course will allow students to deepen their understanding of technology and how it affects society. The core area of eighth grade Technology Education is related to manufacturing, construction, and communication technologies. Students will utilize tools and materials to complete selected projects in the following areas: orthographic drawing, electric guitar production, and architectural CAD. In addition, students may be asked to complete an engineering design activity cooperatively with the eight-grade art students.

8th Grade Art Design

Eighth grade art students will work to further develop their art-making and knowledge skills to prepare them for higher-level art courses. In this course, students will work with contour drawing, high contrast visual art, Pop Art printmaking, three-dimensional clay puzzle box creations, and will design and organize their own sketchbooks. Eighth grade art students will also continue to work on projects in both two dimensional and three dimensional art. All projects will focus on continued development of students' art-making skills and connecting the seven elements of art and design to their own work.

8th Grade Spanish I

This year-long course is equivalent to a High School Spanish I class. During the year Spanish students will reinforce and build upon what was learned in 7th grade, continuing to acquire even more authentic language through speaking, listening, reading and writing activities. Students will participate in cultural celebrations, learn through guided conversations, games, and music, create projects, skits, and presentations in order to expand their understanding of both the Spanish language and culture.

8th Grade French I

This is the equivalent to a High School French, level one class, designed to expose students to the French language and culture. During this yearlong course, students will

be devoted to reinforcing and building on the French that they acquired in their 7th grade exploration French class. Students will investigate fundamentals of language, literacy and culture through vocabulary building, literacy, music, dance, art, educational videos and guest speakers. Students will also be expected to have an open mind when learning about the French language and Francophone cultures. At the end of the academic school year, students will be recommended to enroll in French level two as a result of the students' grades and discretion of the teacher.

8th Grade Physical Education

8th grade Physical Education (P.E) is a yearlong class that meets every other day. Students will be expected to have P.E. clothes in their P.E. locker and change each day into active clothing. Students will be assessed twice a year (Fall and Spring) using the Cooper Institute's Fitness Gram assessments; height and weight, push-ups, curl-ups, pacer, mile run, and the sit and reach. These assessments will be used to help monitor student's physical fitness growth throughout the year. The focus of 8th grade P.E. is the development of lifelong healthy fitness levels that encourage positive social development and promotes the acceptance of individual differences amongst peers. Our goal in P.E is to not only help students grow and be successful in skill development and physical fitness, but in areas such as sportsmanship, teamwork, respect and responsibility.

8th Grade Health

Health education plays a key role in student's development from childhood to adulthood. This class will assist the students in examining patterns of behavior and making lifestyle choices that will affect both their current and future health. A goal of this course is for students to learn about and evaluate decisions and consequences that come with making personal choices as they relate to Alcohol and Other Drugs (AODA) as well as Human Growth and Development (HGD). Topics in AODA will include: Alcohol and its impact on our lives, how alcohol affects specific organs in your body, consequences of using alcohol (before 21, after 21), tobacco and E-Cigs, gateway drugs, and lastly drugs surrounding Barron County. Topics in HGD will include: Male reproductive system, female reproductive system, abstinence and other types of contraceptives, sexually transmitted diseases, and pregnancy. Replacement curriculum will be provided for students who opt out of the Human Growth & Development unit.

8th Grade Careers

This course uses both the Business and Information Technology and School Counseling standards and focuses on Academic and Career Planning (ACP). Throughout this course, students will complete a wide variety of inventories to help them learn more about their likes, dislikes, personality, values, and academic and technical skills to help them begin to think of career pathways or specific careers they have an interest in pursuing. Students will also use several websites to explore both career and post-secondary options. Career Cruising software is introduced and used to keep track of students' progression of their career exploration and academic planning and will follow them through high school. Students will learn information they need to know to help them be more successful at the start of their high school years including key terms, courses, and options available to them in high school.

8th Grade Vocal Music

8th Grade Vocal Music (Choir) meets every other day for 42 minutes

This course is an intermediate entry level class and is open to all interested 8th Grade students. No audition is necessary to be a member and students can join choir throughout the school year. The degrees of difficulty for each grade level will vary according to the abilities of each class as a whole. While in choir the students will:

- a. Learn, memorize and perform a variety of choral styles appropriate to the grade level and developmental ability.
- b. Perform simple to complex rhythmic, melodic and harmonic patterns through sight-singing and performance literature.
- c. Learn and apply musical elements and theory to all choral literature.
- d. Develop basic vocal/choral skills such as: appropriate singing posture, vowel and consonant placements, diction, breath support, choral tone and resonance.
- e. Develop concert etiquette skills.
- f. Perform in a variety of concerts.
- g. Create a positive learning environment by working as a group towards a common goal.
- h. Experience other choral performances to develop and enhance listening skills.

Accommodations and modifications will be made according to the student's needs.

There are two mandatory performances during the school year: a winter concert and a spring concert.

Instrumental Music/Band

We believe that every student with a desire to learn to play a musical instrument should be given an opportunity to do so. To provide this opportunity, the Rice Lake Area School District offers a comprehensive band program where each student, regardless of playing ability, has a place in the program as long as he/she has the commitment to steady improvement.

We believe that being part of the band is worthwhile for each student. Music education has benefits which last a lifetime and research has shown that students who actively participate in school music programs have consistently scored higher on standardized tests and are quite successful in other school activities as well. Most of all, music is fun. It is an experience important to our lives and to our society.

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English as a Second Language Services

The ESL program is designed to meet the needs of individual students as they grow in their use of the English language. Students learn skills and strategies necessary to improve their abilities in reading, writing, listening, and speaking in English. Beginning English learners focus on social English and common vocabulary, while intermediate and advanced learners develop their academic language (the language of math, science, social studies, and language arts) so they can succeed in their classes independently.

Inquire Learn Achieve (ILA Intervention Time)

Our ILA intervention period is the time set aside from 8:05-8:40 each morning. During this time, students are given instruction to fill deficit areas in the various academic areas for struggling students. Specific attention is given to the areas of reading, writing, and math. Students may be working one on one with an adult, in small groups, or larger groups aimed at targeted areas. We continue to add interventions, computer applications, and programs to our instructional toolbox. Some examples of interventions used during this time will include: System 44 Literacy Intervention, Read 180 Literacy Intervention, LLI (Leveled Literacy Intervention), MindPlay Literacy Intervention, Sonday Literacy Intervention, Barton Phonics Intervention, Lips Literacy Intervention, Math 180 Software Intervention, Accelerated Math Computer Program. In addition, we try to offer some intense supports in literacy and math areas to guide students through grade level curriculum. For students that are at or above grade level, we try to offer learning opportunities for student to expand their learning. Some examples of extensions that we offer are: Silent Reading, Jazz Band, Stem Engineering, Movie Making, and Human Body- Anatomy.

RLMS Extra Curricular Activities

Forensics: Grades 6, 7 and 8

Forensics offers students in seventh and eighth grades an opportunity to develop their public speaking skills through interpretive literature or giving a formal informative or persuasive speech. Students may choose to compete in one of thirteen categories and will have weekly practices. Students choose their pieces and start practicing just before Thanksgiving. There are two competitions in the middle level division – Level 1 held in early February and Level 2 held in early March.

Jazz Band: Grades 7 and 8

The RLMS Jazz Program is an organization made up of seventh and eighth grade band members and is selected by audition. The Jazz Program was formed in 1991 when approximately 20 students wanted to pursue the study and performance of jazz music. It has shown steady growth both in numbers as well as in the scope of the program. Its primary purpose is to provide interested students an opportunity to experience, first hand, the only true American art form – jazz. Each year the Jazz Band(s) performs a public concert as well as their “tour” of the elementary schools in the spring. Jazz Band rehearses before school at 7:30 AM one to two days per week.

Quiz Bowl: Grades 6, 7, and 8

This program begins in October with the computerized test occurring at the end of November. There are practices once a week, before and or/after school that improves their general level of knowledge as they rigorously prepare for the final team test. As a group, students develop teamwork skills and test their general level of knowledge in subject areas across the curriculum.

Battle of the Books

This is a reading extracurricular activity where students form teams and read books from the Battle of the Books booklist. September – November will involve reading the books with your team. From December to February teams will be meeting weekly to prepare for the school-wide battle. In February we will have our school battle and one team will advance on to the state battle. This activity is open to any student in grade 5-8.

Science Olympiad: Grade 7 and 8

Science Olympiad is an academic competition focused on allowing students who have a passion for science a chance to explore other science disciplines outside the classroom. Science Olympiad's ever changing line up of events in all STEM disciplines can be best related to a track meet. Different students compete in different events and their scores are tabulated into a team score. Team members usually practice before or after school

one time a week leading up to tournaments. Any student is welcome to attend and if numbers allow, more than one team will be formed. The challenging, fun events motivate and confront the students from all ability levels with both theoretical and practical science problems. The emphasis is on interaction, learning, and having fun.

Show Choir: Grades 7 and 8

RLMS has two show choirs: “The Show Stoppers!” for the girls and “The Dudes of Rock!” for the boys. Students in 7th and 8th grade at the beginning of the school year and are enrolled in 7th or 8th grade choirs are eligible to audition for these groups. There is a maximum of 24 members for each group. Rehearsals are once a week at 7:15a.m. The “Dudes of Rock” practice on Monday mornings and “The Show Stoppers” practice on Thursday mornings. These rehearsals are mandatory. These groups perform at middle school concerts, area schools, senior centers and other public events throughout the school year. These groups provide other performance opportunities for RLMS students to perform and be ambassadors for our school.

Student Council: Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8

The mission of the Rice Lake Middle School Student Council is to provide and plan leadership-learning opportunities, school-wide activities and fundraisers, as we strive to strengthen and motivate leaders to become positive voices for our school and community.

Theatre Productions: Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8

Rice Lake Middle School offers a spring theatrical production each year. Students interested in acting can audition for parts. Approximately 20 students will receive speaking parts; others work on props, lighting, and sound. Everyone is encouraged to participate. The final production is performed before their peers during school and an evening performance for the public is given in the high school auditorium. The money and food donations received at the public performance are donated to local charities.

SKILLS USA: Grades 6, 7, and 8

The purpose of Skills USA is to prepare students to be leaders in the fields of business and industry. Toward this end, students participate in activities such as field trips to local businesses and industry, doing community and school service projects, learning and using tools in the technology room and visiting with special guest lecturers. Membership is open to sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students, but limited to 25 members overall. Members are picked randomly from all students interested in being in Skills USA. The club meets generally every other Tuesday from 3:30 PM until 4:30 PM.

Math Counts: Grades 6, 7 and 8

Math Counts is a national math program that involves challenging and unique math problems that promote middle school math achievement. It motivates and rewards students through problem solving while fostering both team work and competitive spirit. Math Counts takes place before or after school and runs from the middle of October to the beginning of March. Besides being involved in activities within our school, the students are exposed to friendly competitions versus Barron, Menomonie and Eau Claire middle schools. The top RLMS teams also compete at a regional competition in February. Depending on the placement at the regional competition, there is the possibility of advancing to the state competition in March as well as the national competition in May. Students are selected to participate in Math Counts based on grades, test scores, and teacher recommendations.

Conservation Club

This club meets regularly throughout the school year on the first and third Mondays of the month. The focus of this club is to promote environmental awareness and to foster a love and enjoyment of the earth and its resources. Meetings focus on learning about the environment and discussion on how our kids can have an impact on the environment locally. Outside of the meetings, additional activities include field trips to fisheries, Fawn-Doe-Rosa, and the Ice Age Trail, fishing, ice fishing and hiking, as well as spring clean up and building bird houses.

Athletics

Rice Lake Middle School does not cut players from athletic teams based on the number of players. Participation is stressed throughout all of the sports. Practices are generally after school until 5:00 p.m. There is no cost to the student. The equipment needed includes a t-shirt, shorts, and an appropriate pair of shoes preferably different than the ones the student wears to school.

Co-ed Cross Country: Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8

The co-ed program starts in mid-August and runs through the beginning of October. Practices start at the flagpole and then runners run through town. Practices start after school ~ 4:45 PM. There are 5-6 meets held in September and October. A pair of running shoes is needed. Emphasis is on learning the proper technique of running and realizing running is fun. This is an individualized sport incorporated into a team concept. All ability levels are welcome.

Girls Volleyball: Grades 7 and 8

The volleyball program begins during the first week of school. The seventh grade ends their season at the end of September while the eighth grade ends their season after participating in the early October St. Joe's Tournament. Skills that are emphasized include setting, bumping, serving, and spiking. Team defense and offense along with strategies of the game are introduced.

Boys Basketball: Grades 7 and 8

The boy's basketball program runs from mid-October through the beginning of December. Skills emphasized are passing, dribbling, shooting, and teamwork! Defense and offense strategies of the game are introduced and polished.

Girls Swimming: Grade 6, 7, and 8

This program runs from the first part of November until the Christmas break. The ability to swim the length of the pool is a must in order to begin practicing with the team. The team will work in coordination with the Otters Swim club to ensure students can swim with both teams.

Archery Team: Grade 5, 6, 7, and 8

This program runs from the first part of January through March. Students will be taught the basics of archery using the NASP system of shooting. Shooting will take place once or twice a week. There are several competitive tournaments that the team travels to.

Boys Swimming: Grade 6, 7, and 8

This program runs from the first of January through February. The ability to swim the length of the pool is a must in order to begin practicing with the team. The team will work in coordination with the Otters Swim club to ensure students can swim with both teams.

Girls Basketball: Grades 7 and 8

Practice begins after Christmas break and continues through late February. Skills that are emphasized are passing, dribbling, and shooting. TEAMWORK is stressed! Defense and offense strategies of the game are introduced and polished.

Wrestling: Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8

This program begins in mid-February and runs through March. Practices are held at the high school following the school day until 5:00 PM. Dual meets are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays in March. A pair of gym shoes or wrestling shoes is needed preferably different than the ones the student wears to school. Introductory skills are taught; extra opportunities are available for wrestlers that want to further their skills beyond this point.

Track: Grades 6, 7 and 8

Track and Field begins in late March and continues into May. Athletes learn the fundamentals of Track and Field including the dynamic warm-up used by our High School Team. Athletes can easily find an event that suites their interest from sprinting to throwing, jumping to distance running. An emphasis is put on sportsmanship and working as a team while competing as an individual in many events.