

# **Lancaster Middle School**

## **Seventh & Eighth Grade Course Selection Guide**

**2024-2025 School Year**

Notification of Nondiscrimination Policy: State and Federal Combined

It is the policy of the Lancaster Community School District that no person may be denied admission to any public school in this district 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 because of the person's sex, race, national origin, religion, color ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap as required by s. 118.13 Wis. Stats. This policy also prohibits discrimination as defined by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color, and national origin), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The district encourages informal resolution of complaints under this policy. A formal complaint resolution procedure is available, however, to address allegations of violations of the policy in the Lancaster Community School District. Any questions concerning this policy should be directed to: Rob Wagner, 925 West Maple Street, Lancaster, WI 53813 (608) 723-2175.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Required Courses

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| English & Reading.....           | 3   |
| Mathematics.....                 | 4   |
| Science.....                     | 4-5 |
| Social Studies.....              | 5   |
| Physical Education & Health..... | 6   |

## Required Exploratory Courses for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade.....7

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Agriculture 7                                      |  |
| Library Skills/Careers 7                           |  |
| PLTW- Computer Science for Innovators and Makers 7 |  |
| Technology 7                                       |  |

## Art Electives for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> .....8

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Creative Arts        |  |
| Ceramics & Sculpture |  |
| Mixed Media Art      |  |
| Two-Dimensional Art  |  |

## Music Electives for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> .....9,10

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Band                   |  |
| Chorus                 |  |
| General Music I and II |  |

## Technology Education Electives for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> .....10,11

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Automation & Robotics                       |  |
| Flight & Space                              |  |
| Green Architecture & Photography Technology |  |

## Computer Technology Electives for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> .....11

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| App Creators |  |
|--------------|--|

## Business Electives for 8<sup>th</sup> .....12

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Exploring Business and Entrepreneurship |  |
| Yearbook                                |  |

## Agriculture Electives for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> .....12,13

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Agriculture All Around You, Fundamentals of Ag |  |
|--|--|

## Foreign Language Electives for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> .....13

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Spanish Exploratory 7 & 8 |  |
| Spanish I 8               |  |

# REQUIRED COURSES FOR 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADES

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/READING

**Course Name:** English 7

**Length:** One year

**Description:** Students will engage in activities that build on their prior knowledge and skills in order to strengthen and integrate their reading, writing, research, listening, speaking, and oral and written language skills at the 7th-grade level.

**Course Name:** English 8

**Length:** One year

**Description:** Students will engage in activities that build on their prior knowledge and skills in order to strengthen and integrate their reading, writing, research, listening, speaking, and oral and written language skills at the 8th-grade level.

**Course Names:** Reading 7 & Reading 8

**Length:** One semester each year

**Description:** The objective of this course is to help the student enjoy and employ reading more through increased competency. Special emphasis is put on comprehension and critical thinking skills as well as effective speaking and writing techniques. To aid comprehension, various skills are stressed: using context clues, finding the main idea and its supporting details, understanding figurative language, making inferences, perceiving various kinds of organization, vocabulary expansion, metacognition (student thinking about and explaining how they conceived an idea or a solution--the thought processes the students used), and the reinforcement of the reading-writing connection. Various types of literature are used. Self-choice in book selection is a key component to the class. Study skills, which are learned abilities that one uses for the purpose of acquiring knowledge and competence are also emphasized. Speaking skills are practiced in small and large group work.

## MATH

**Course Name:** **Math 7**  
**Length:** One year  
**Description:** Math (grade 7) emphasizes proficiency in skills that fall under these 5 areas of the Wisconsin State Math Standards: Ratios and Proportional Relationships, the Number System, Expressions and Equations, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Students that meet certain criteria during seventh grade math will be eligible to take Algebra in eighth grade.

**Course Name:** **Math 8**  
**Length:** One year  
**Description:** Math 8 (grade 8) emphasizes proficiency in skills that fall under these 5 areas of the Wisconsin State Math Standards: the Number System, Expressions and Equations, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Math 8 is required of all students unless the student qualified for algebra as an 8th grader.

**Course Name:** **Algebra 8**  
**Prerequisite:** The student must meet the eligibility criteria during the math 7 school year.  
**Length:** One year: must have a semester grade of B or higher to move on to Geometry in 9th grade.  
**Description:** Algebra I courses include the study of properties and operations of the real number system; evaluating rational algebraic expressions; solving and graphing first-degree equations and inequalities; translating word problems into equations; operations with and factoring of polynomials; and solving simple quadratic equations.

## SCIENCE

**Course Name:** **Life Science 7**  
**Length:** One year  
**Description:** Life Science is the study of the nature of living organisms. We will begin with a study of ecology during first quarter, with two outdoor education field trips. We will study several units on cells and cell processes. Then during second semester, we will be studying genetics, and end with classification and the kingdoms. We will do several dissections of representative organisms from the animal kingdom.

**Course Name: Earth Science 8**

**Length:** One year

**Description:** This course of Earth Science covers a wide range of sciences. This includes geology, (the study of the earth and its life as recorded in rocks) astronomy, (the study of the universe and celestial bodies) chemistry, (the study of the composition, structure, and properties of substances and of transformations that they undergo) paleontology, (the study of fossils) and many branches of each. The approach includes discussion of assigned reading incorporated with laboratory exercises.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

**Course Name: World Geography 7**

**Length:** One year

**Description:** World Geography provides an overview of the physical characteristics of planet Earth, but varies widely in the topics covered. Topics typically are aligned towards the Five Themes of Geography; movement, regions, human-environment interaction, location and place. Political landscapes of countries will also be examined along with the relationship between people and the land they inhabit. Economic production and development will be studied as well as the movement of people, goods, and ideas. Students will have the opportunity to participate in the National Geographic Bee. Technology and GIS systems such as Google Earth will be introduced and utilized to expand learning opportunities for the student.

**Course Name: United States History 8**

**Length:** One year

**Description:** US History provides students necessary skills as they cover material from the discovery and exploration of the New World up to the end of the Civil War and the Reconstruction Period. These modules typically include a historical overview of political, military, scientific and social Developments within the United States. Course content also includes a history of the indigenous North American peoples before European settlement. The actual course presentation will follow the text provided for the course, plus related activities. The course will also include weekly discussions of local, national and world current events. Students will learn to analyze primary and secondary source documents to help understand the history of the United States of America.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

**Course Name:** **Physical Education 7 & Physical Education 8**

**Length:** One year, meets every other day

**Description:** Physical education provides activities focusing upon fitness and individual skill development. Students will be exposed to health-related fitness concepts as well as the many benefits of exercise to help inspire them to choose a physically active lifestyle. Students will also be involved in developing individual physical skills. Units will include but not limited to soccer, hockey, volleyball, badminton, ping pong, pickleball, tennis, yard games, ultimate frisbee and more. A strong emphasis will be placed on the importance of sportsmanship and positive teamwork.

**Course Name:** **Health 7 & Health 8**

**Length:** One year, meets every other day

**Description:** Health provides information to help students make healthy lifestyle decisions. Factual information to maintain both mental and physical health will be presented. Units will include body systems, nutrition, weight control, disease control, substance use and abuse, human growth and development, parenting, consumer health, first aid, personal hygiene, personal appearance, safety, accident prevention, handling emergencies, emotional health, environmental/community health, and current issues. A Social Emotional Learning curriculum, Character Strong, will be implemented which includes lessons on emotional understanding and regulation, empathy and compassion, values and purpose, goals and habits, and leadership and teamwork.

# REQUIRED EXPLORATORY COURSES FOR 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE

**Course Name:** **Exploratory Agriculture 7**

**Length:** One quarter

**Description:** This exploratory course focuses on units in multiple areas related to agriculture, food and natural resource systems. Students will explore various topics including wildlife, endangered species, energy conservation, safety and careers in natural resources. Students will also participate in a farming simulation exercise. Course also highlights an entrepreneurship project using advertising & marketing skills to develop a food product in agribusiness.

**Course Name:** **Library Skills/Careers 7**

**Length:** One quarter

**Description:** In the Library Skills course, we explore what a Digital Footprint is and how students can safely and responsibly navigate their online presence to leave a positive mark on the world. We examine authors from diverse perspectives and learn about their stories. We learn how a library is organized in order to find materials that we are searching for when we need them. An extremely important piece of Library Skills is determining if a source is credible once we do find information. Along with closely examining our sources, we learn how to correctly cite a source that we use. Although this exploratory is held in the library, the skills that it offers are vital to all areas of the core curriculum. In a Careers unit, students will explore careers, engage in goal setting, learn about employability skills, practice communication skills, and prepare for job applications and interviews.

**Course Name:** **PLTW – Computer Science for Innovators and Makers 7**

**Length:** One quarter

**Description:** Computer Science for Innovators and Makers (IM) teaches students that programming goes beyond the virtual world into the physical world. Students are challenged to creatively use sensors and actuators to develop systems that interact with their environment. While designing algorithms and using computational thinking practices, students code and upload programs to microcontrollers that perform a variety of authentic tasks. The unit broadens students' understanding of computer science concepts through meaningful applications. Teams select and solve a personally relevant problem related to wearable technology, interactive art, or mechanical devices.

**Course Name:** **Technology 7**

**Length:** One quarter

**Description:** Students will apply the design process and understand the influences of creativity and innovation in their lives. Students will learn shop safety along with tool safety. They will be tested on the different tools that they will use

during exploratory class. These tests will be required to pass 100%. Students will use the shop and the tools to make creative projects that will be displayed around the classroom.

## **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES (NOT REQUIRED)**

### **ART**

- Course Name:** **Creative Arts**  
**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade  
**Length:** One semester  
**Description:** Creativity is the heart of this course. The students will enjoy meeting the challenges of projects done in several different media. Students will build on their experience to create projects from: clay, paint, linear perspective, oil pastel, printmaking, and computer art. Students will learn to incorporate the elements of art effectively into creative designs.
- Course Name:** **Ceramics and Sculpture**  
**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade  
**Length:** One semester  
**Description:** Ceramics and Sculpture is much more than just clay. This class is focused on creating art in 3D. We explore many media including: clay, foam, collage, potters wheel, paper mache, and more. This hands-on class is fun and challenging!
- Course Name:** **Mixed Media Art**  
**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade  
**Length:** One semester  
**Description:** Mixed Media is all about variety. This very diverse class covers all the bases. Artists will use: clay, paper mache, paint, computers, and much more. Some of the projects include clay houses, tape painting, Photoshop projects, oversized candy, etc. There is something for every artist in this class.
- Course Name:** **Two-Dimensional Art**  
**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade  
**Length:** One semester  
**Description:** 2-D Art class focuses on the flat surface work of the art world. This class has an emphasis on practical modes of art, including graphic design. We will use media such as: drawing, painting, printmaking, and computer art. Some of the projects include: computer art for an advertising campaign, gesture/figure drawing, detail painting, and much more.



## MUSIC

**Course Name:** **Band**  
**Open To :** 7th and 8th grade  
**Length:** One year, meetings per week vary, plus required lessons  
**Description:** In our school, "Band" covers a wide range of experiences including Marching Band, Cadet Band, and Arrow Band. Students may also participate in jazz band which meets once a week during homeroom or outside class hours. A student begins with lessons on a chosen instrument then progresses from Cadet Band to Arrow Band as their skills progress and advance. *Students have one lesson every six days.* As with anything worthwhile, successful participation requires dedication and practice and earns the rewards of applause and festival awards. Arrow Band goes to the Kalahari every spring for festival. Band will be as fun and rewarding as what you put into it! Be sure to check out the website for information and pictures of fun activities at LMS !  
<http://www.lancastersd.k12.wi.us/faculty/millera/index.cfm>

**Course Name:** **Chorus**  
**Open To:** 7th & 8th Grade  
**Length:** One year, meeting approximately 3-4 days per week during homeroom period  
**Description:** There are three separate groups: 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Boys, 7<sup>th</sup> grade Girls, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Girls. The choruses take part in four public concerts and the large group festival. The students also have the option of taking part in a solo/ensemble festival during second semester. Other festivals and honor groups are offered as opportunities arise. The course teaches the basics of group and solo singing, including proper posture, rehearsal techniques, good tone production, and sight reading. Various styles of music are explored throughout the year.

**Course Name:** **General Music I**  
**Open To:** 7th & 8th grade  
**Length:** One semester  
**Description:** A non-performing class, General Music is designed to expose the student to a wide variety of music experiences. Areas to be explored include: Music From Around the World – Students will be engaged in listening, creating, playing instruments, and designing and demonstrating an original instrument. World Music Drumming – In a specially designed program for middle level students, this section will have the students actively participating in drumming while learning such life skills as communication, listening, teamwork, discipline and respect for others. Keyboards – Students

will learn the basic rules for writing music, creating new synthesized sounds and producing their own music. Music on the Computer – Various web sites will be explored, and students will select a music topic to research and share. Ukuleles – Students will learn the basics of playing a fretted, string instrument. This is a good introduction if students are interested in pursuing the guitar on their own. Music in Broadway Shows and Films – The class will study a Broadway musical and explore the importance of music in movies.

**Course Name:** General Music II  
**Open To:** 7th & 8th grade  
**Length:** One semester  
**Description:** This class will continue to explore the above topics.

## TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

**Course Name:** PLTW – Automation & Robotics  
**Open to:** 7th & 8th grade  
**Length:** one semester  
**Description:** Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build and program real world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms. In this course students will have the freedom to work on shop building activities. We will design and build CO@ cars along with other class activities. Students will do both individual and group projects.

**Course Name:** PLTW – Flight and Space  
**Open To:** 7th & 8th grade  
**Length:** One semester  
**Descriptions:** The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through this course! Students become engineers as they design, prototype, and test models to learn about the science of flight and what it takes to travel and live in space. They solve real-world aviation and space challenges and plan a mission to Mars. Students will also through hands-on projects, explore electricity, the behavior and parts of atoms, and sensing devices. They learn knowledge and skills in basic circuitry design, and examine the impact of electricity on the world around them.

**Course Name:** PLTW – Green Architecture and Photo Technology  
**Open To:** 7th & 8th grade  
**Length:** One semester

Description: Quarter 1: In this unit, students learn how to apply green concepts to the fields of architecture and construction. They explore dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability and apply what they have learned to design affordable housing units using Autodesk's® 3D architectural design software.

Quarter 2: In this unit, students will be introduced to the field of photography. In this class students will use the environment to take different landscape pictures. We will walk to the park, fairgrounds, library and courthouse taking photos. Students will use digital photography and create slide shows using google slides. Students will learn how to use Photoshop to help enhance their images.

## COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

**Course Name:** PLTW – App Creators  
**Open To:** 7th & 8th grade  
**Length:** One Semester  
**Description:** This unit will expose students to computer science by computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development, and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society. Students will customize their experience by choosing a problem that interest them from the areas of health, environment, emergency preparedness, education, community service, and school culture. Because problems in the real world involve more than one discipline, the unit will introduce students to biomedical science concepts as they work on solutions for the specific problems they choose to tackle.

## BUSINESS

**Course Name:** Exploring Business and Entrepreneurship  
**Open To:** 8th grade  
**Length:** One Semester  
**Description:** In this course students will explore careers, personal finance, business soft skills and entrepreneurship. Students will have the opportunity to research career areas of their choice, test out their soft skills using real world examples, learn how to manage a family budget, and how to buy a car, as well as develop their own product and pitch their ideas in this "Shark Tank" type class.

**Course Name:** Yearbook  
**Open To:** 8th grade (Max of 10 students)  
**Prerequisite:** *Application, two teacher recommendation forms & instructor approval.*

Length: One Semester  
Description: This course produces the yearbook, an online MS Arrow Flyer, and a social media presence highlighting middle school activities. Students will learn to navigate Jostens online yearbook software to create yearbook pages. The students will use weebly.com to produce and maintain the MS Arrow Flyer. Students will also use social media platforms to help promote middle school events. Some of the activities involved include designing pages, writing and proofreading, taking pictures, obtaining data from students, communicating with school personnel and meeting deadlines.

## AGRICULTURE

**Course Name:** **Agriculture All Around You**  
**Open To:** 7th & 8th grade  
**Length:** One Semester  
**Description:** This course is designed to introduce students to the diverse industry of agriculture. Topics presented will promote an appreciation for the sources of food, fiber and fuel. From farm to table, prepare to acquaint yourself with the dynamic world of agri-science. Students will participate in “learning by doing” activities to provide exposure to the various areas of agri-science. Topics of instruction may include: agri-business, food production/processing, careers, soils, plant systems, FFA, SAE, leadership development, animal systems, environmental service systems, power/technical systems and natural resources.

**Course Name:** **Fundamentals of Ag**  
**Open to:** 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
**Length:** Semester  
**Description:** This class will provide you with the opportunity to gain a wealth of information about the dynamic world of agriculture! Hands-on learning, lab experiences, inquiry lessons and more await you in this class. Take advantage of the opportunity to learn about agriculture in a fun and educational setting. Areas of focus are landscaping, FFA, SAE, leadership development, production agriculture, safety, dairy science, careers, and agricultural commodities.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The foreign language offered is Spanish. Students completing Spanish I in the middle school may be eligible to advance to Level II as 9th grade students in the high school.

**Course Name:** **Spanish Exploratory**

Open to: 7th and 8th grade  
Length: One semester  
Description: This course is designed to provide an introduction to Spanish language and culture. Spanish Exploratory will emphasize introductory language basics in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It will also cover the geography, art, music, and history of Latin America and Spain.

**Course Name: Spanish I**

Open to: 8th grade  
Length: One year  
Description: This course is designed to provide an introduction to Spanish language and culture. Spanish I will emphasize language basics and developing skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It will also cover geography, art, music, and history of Latin America and Spain. It is designed in collaboration with the high school Spanish 1 course. Successful completion of this course will allow a student to continue at the Spanish II level in high school.