

Lancaster Middle School



Seventh & Eighth Grade Course Selection Guide

2025-2026 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, 231 North Sheridan Street, Lancaster, WI 53813 (608) 723-2175.

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REQUIRED COURSES FOR 7TH AND 8TH 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 students 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 the first quarter, with two outdoor education field trips. We will study several units on cells and cell processes. Then during the 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 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 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 with 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 on 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 7th 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. The 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 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 this 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.

7th & 8th GRADE ELECTIVES (NOT REQUIRED)

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: 7th & 8th grade
Length: One 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.

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, potter's wheel, paper mâché, and more. This hands-on class is fun and challenging!

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 Year
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.

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.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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.

Students completing Spanish I in the middle school may be eligible to advance to Spanish II as 9th grade students in the high school. No high school credit is awarded for Spanish I in 8th grade.

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: Choir
Open To: 7th & 8th Grade
Length: One year; meets every other day during homeroom period
Description: We have three choral groups at LMS: Leggiero Choir is a group for 7th grade girls. Presto Choir is a group for 8th grade girls. Da Capo Choir is a group for 7th & 8th grade Boys. These choirs take part in four public concerts and the SWC

Concert Festival. Choir members also have the option of taking part in solo/ensemble festivals during the second semester. Other festivals and honors groups are offered as opportunities arise. Singers in each of these groups learn the basics of group and solo singing, including proper posture, rehearsal techniques, good tone production, vocal health 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.

SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES

Course Name: **Introduction to Psychology 8**
Open to: 8th grade students only and requires prior instructor approval
Length: One Semester
Description: In Introduction to Psychology students will explore the science of how our minds work and why we behave the way we do. We'll dive into the basics of psychology, including how we think, feel, and act, both individually and in groups. Topics include emotions, memory, learning, personality, how our environment can affect our thoughts and behavior as well as abnormal psychology. Students will also learn about famous psychologists and how their discoveries have shaped the way we understand ourselves and others. Through activities, discussions, and experiments, this course will help students develop a greater understanding of the mind and how to better interact with people in everyday life.

Course Name: **Wisconsin History 7 & 8**
Open to: 7th and 8th grade

Length: One Semester
Description: In Wisconsin History 7 & 8, students will journey through the rich history of Wisconsin, from its earliest Native American cultures to its role in shaping the United States today. We'll explore key events, important people, and cultural changes that have influenced the state, including the fur trade, the impact of European settlers, the Civil War, and Wisconsin's unique contributions to the Industrial Revolution. Students will also learn about the state's natural resources, its diverse communities, and the challenges faced by its people. Through interactive projects, field trips, and historical stories, this course will give students a deeper appreciation of Wisconsin's past and its ongoing influence in the present.

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.