



# Surline Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Educational Development Plan (EDP) & Course Description

## All 8<sup>th</sup> graders will have the following courses:

- **English**--Throughout the year, students will explore characters, plots, and settings through reading a variety of novels and short stories. Perspective and author's purpose will be examined in works of fiction and nonfiction. Writing will focus on developing strong arguments, research skills, creative narratives, and citing textual evidence.
- **Social Studies**--In 8th grade social studies, we study the history of our nation. We start with a short review of 5th-grade studies about the original 13 colonies and look at ideas and experiences that influenced the colonists to declare independence from Great Britain. We then study the challenges during the birth of our country, which led to the adoption of our current U.S. Constitution. We learn about regional and economic growth, as well as reforms that led to the Civil War. We end our year with the Reconstruction Period of America in the last half of the 19th Century. Throughout the school year, we use our own set of chrome books to enhance our exploration and analysis of America's past, present, and possible future
- **Science**---The focus in 8th grade is earth science which would include the topics of rock cycles, waves & energy, constellations & planets as well as properties of matter.
- **Math: Pre-Algebra 8 or Algebra 8**
  - Pre-Algebra 8**--The focus is 8th grade Common Core Standards: exponents, scientific notation, real number system, transformations, similarity, dilations, linear functions and geometry formulas.
  - Algebra 8**-- This is a high school level class that focuses on solving equations, linear functions, quadratic functions and trig functions. This class counts as a high school course and will count towards high school GPA. Selection for Algebra 8 is based on teacher recommendation, 7th grade grades, and 7th grade NWEA.
- **Spanish 8**--This course will provide the students with a general introduction to the Spanish language through the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will also gain a basic understanding of grammar concepts, vocabulary, and Hispanic culture. Successful completion of Spanish 6-8 fulfills the foreign language requirement of the MI Merit Curriculum for high school graduation. 1 quarter in 8th grade.
- **PE 7/8**---Students develop leadership and personal responsibility within a team while embodying good sportsmanship within a gradual release model in a variety of physical activities that promote lifelong health. Students are required to take PE 7/8 in either grade 7 or grade 8.
- **Computer Science and STEM**---Students are required to take one of the CS/STEM classes that are offered. They may choose between 1. Personal Computing: Today's Technology 2. Robotics, Programming, and Coding - PLTW- Automation and Robotics 3. Storytelling: Podcasting 4. Engineering: Flight and Space. 5. Engineering: Fuse Challenge. See class descriptions on the following pages.
- **Falcon Focus**
  - Academic Strategies: Students learn focus, study, and testing tips, as well as get individualized help in how to be successful.
  - Social Emotional Learning: All students participate in weekly social emotional learning lessons.
- **Special Education**--If students require special education support, they will receive support from the special education teacher/paraprofessionals within the regular education classrooms as indicated on the IEP's. Many students with IEPs will take a year long Strategies class as their enrichment class. This will allow them time for small group help on assignments and skills, as well as strategies for success.

**All 8th graders take two hours of electives classes:** On the following page is a list of the classes available to 8th grade students. Students may choose which classes they would like to enrich their education with. Students will have two hours of electives. There are four quarters in our academic year, so students may take up to 8 elective classes, depending on the length of the courses they select. Although all of these classes are being offered we will base which classes are scheduled on student selections, and not all of the classes will end up on the schedule. Do not base course preferences on current teacher assignments, as these may change.

## **FULL YEAR (4 quarters) & SEMESTER (2 quarters) CHOICES:**

### **I. BAND**

*Band is a fun, exciting class that gives you the opportunity to play an instrument and continue learning about music. It is a full year commitment. Students will have two concerts during the year to perform for their friends and family. Please contact Mr. Andersen for rental information or to talk to him about available school instruments to use if needed. Come and play in the Band!! **Prerequisite: Band 6 or instructor approval. Full Year class.***

### **II. CHOIR**

*This class is offered to students interested in developing their singing voice. In this class, you will learn how to sing correctly, how to read music, and how to be a musician both as a soloist and as part of a group. Music from all genres will be covered including classical and popular. This year-long class incorporates three performances including the Christmas concert, choir festival, and the spring concert. **Full Year class.***

### **III. THEATRE**

*Students will participate in dramatic story-telling through song-writing and theatre production. **Semester class.***

### **IV. LINKS**

*The purpose of the LINKS/Peer to Peer support class is to provide opportunities for general education students to learn to relate to students with different needs and develop an increased understanding of individual differences. Students will work with a student at SES or SMS. **Students who mark this choice will need to get an application from the counselor. Teacher recommendation is required. Quarter or Semester class.***

### **V. Yearbook**

*Students work as a team to capture life at Surline Middle School by producing and publishing the yearbook. Students gain experience with writing, editing, photography, and layout design. Students will meet deadlines and photograph events outside of the class period, collaborate with many people in the school population. Students will focus on being organized, responsible, and self-motivated. **Semester Class.***

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## **QUARTER CHOICES:**

### **COMPUTER SCIENCE and STEM OPTIONS**

**(Each student must take at least one CS/STEM Class in their 8th grade year)**

#### **I. Personal Computing: Today's Technology**

*Students explore emerging technologies and their applications to today's life and the societal challenges they pose.*

#### **II. Robotics, Programming, and Coding - PLTW- Automation and Robotics**

*Students explore robotics and automation as they take on the role of interns, and work in teams to create prototypes to meet the needs of clients. They build and analyze mechanical systems and automate them with programmed input and output devices*

#### **III. Storytelling: Broadcasting & Podcasting**

*Students begin by learning some strategies to create a podcast. They will write scripts and produce a variety of podcasting styles. They will learn sound editing techniques through Soundtrap and produce a short series in a chosen style. Students will then produce a video broadcast of a public service announcement or news feature. They will explore the roles needed and vocabulary around production of podcasts and video production.*

#### IV. Engineering: Flight and Space

*The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through the Flight and Space (FS) unit. 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.*

#### V. Engineering: Fuse Challenge

*Students in FUSE have access to a diverse suite of Challenges. They choose who they work with and whether they work alone or collaboratively. This choice and interest-centered environment helps all students find Challenges to inspire learning and engagement.*

### **ART OPTIONS**

#### I. 3D and Abstract Art

*Students will develop and build upon their artistic skills in three-dimensional media such as clay, wire, plaster, paper mache, drawing, and found materials. Students will learn the foundations of 3D art.*

#### II. Oil/Mixed Mediums

*Students will create both paintings and mixed media collages. Students will explore a variety of mixed media collages and artists and use the learning to create their own mixed media collage. A variety of painting techniques will also be studied as students learn how to create different effects through paint.*

#### III. Art and World Culture

*Students will examine art from a different continent including North America, South America, Africa, Australia, and Europe. Students will learn more about the culture, what makes the art unique, and what the art represents for various cultures and regions. Students will replicate and create art that is representative of different aspects of art from various cultures and world regions.*

#### IV. Digital Art (Photography) & Graphic Design

*In this class students with an interest in digital art will have the opportunity to work in a collaborative environment as they examine photography as a form of art. Students will combine the power of text and pictures to create persuasive images that communicate a specific message as they explore career options in graphic design.*

#### V. Art Expression

*Students will explore art and experiment with various forms of art as a way to identify, express and manage emotions.*

#### VI. Ceramics 1

*Hands on introduction to pottery. Students will develop skills in the use of clay as a medium in creating a variety of forms such as Pinch Pot, Coil Pot, Slab Vessel, Subtractive Tile, Mask, and Wall Vase.*

#### VII. Ceramics 2

*Continuation of Ceramics I with expansion into wheel and sculpture. Students will develop skills in the use of clay as a medium in creating a variety of forms such as Slab Box, Stylized Ceramic Animal, Distorted Ceramic House, 10" Sculptural piece portrait. **Prerequisite: Successful completion of Ceramics 1***

### **INDUSTRIAL TECH OPTIONS**

#### I. Intermediate Woodshop

*Students will use 3 principles of design to read drawings, lay out materials, determine a materials bill, and complete a project while safely and properly using electric sanders, band saw, scroll saw, drill and a variety of hand tools.*

## II. Drafting

*Students will plan, draft and read blueprints to complete hands-on activities as they understand the importance of plan reading/interpreting drawings in the manufacturing and trade sectors.*

## III. Electrical & Plumbing

*Students learn physical principles and fundamental skills across mechanical systems in construction. Students will select materials, assemble, and test basic electrical circuits. Students will select materials and assemble simple copper and plastic plumbing applications for both supply and drains. They will perform simple maintenance of electric motors, electric fixtures and plumbing fixtures.*

## PERSONAL GROWTH OPTIONS

### I. Personal Finance

*An introduction to age-appropriate personal finance concepts. Students will explore their money values, learn the basics of banking, saving, and budgeting. Students will act as a mayor of their own town, helping citizens solve the financial problems life throws their way.*

### II. Pop Culture - Music History

*Students will cooperatively research music from the past 5 or 10 decades and compare and contrast the lyrics with historical events/culture of the decade, answering the question: How does/did history affect music and lyrics?*

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION OPTIONS

### I. PE 7/8

*Students develop leadership and personal responsibility within a team while embodying good sportsmanship within a gradual release model in a variety of physical activities that promote lifelong health. **Students are required to take PE 7/8 in either grade 7 or grade 8.***

### II. Officiating, Rules and Regulations

*Students will learn how to competently officiate several sports within a gradual release model in a variety of physical activities that promote lifelong health.*

### III. Advanced Strength Training

*Students will learn how to competently navigate a weight room and develop exercise programming within a gradual release model in a variety of physical activities that promote lifelong health. **Prerequisite: Successful completion of PE 7/8***

### IV. Advanced Cardio Bootcamp

*Students will participate in a variety of popular workout classes that promote active lifestyles and lifelong health within a gradual release model.*

### V. Advanced Winter Sports

*Students develop leadership and personal responsibility within a team while embodying good sportsmanship within a gradual release model in a variety of physical activities that promote lifelong health. Sports include pickleball and volleyball.*

### VI. Advanced Spring Sports

*Students develop leadership and personal responsibility within a team while embodying good sportsmanship within a gradual release model in a variety of physical activities that promote lifelong health. Sports include soccer, flag football, lacrosse and field hockey.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
(STUDENT LAST NAME)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(STUDENT FIRST NAME)

24-25

8

**REQUIRED ELECTIVES:**

Spanish 8

*All students will be enrolled in Spanish 8*

PE 7/8

*I took PE in 7th Grade \_\_\_\_\_ ---or--- I am going to take PE in 8th Grade \_\_\_\_\_*

Computer Science/STEM Requirement

*I want to take the following course to meet this requirement (circle one):*

1. Personal Computing: Today's Technology
2. Robotics, Programming, and Coding - PLTW- Automation and Robotics
3. Storytelling: Podcasting & Broadcasting
4. Engineering: PLTW: Flight and Space
5. Engineering: FUSE Challenge

**ELECTIVE CHOICES:**

*List your top 6 elective choices in order of most desired to least desired.*

1: \_\_\_\_\_

2: \_\_\_\_\_

3: \_\_\_\_\_

4: \_\_\_\_\_

5: \_\_\_\_\_

6: \_\_\_\_\_

**Alternates:**

1: \_\_\_\_\_

3: \_\_\_\_\_

2: \_\_\_\_\_

4: \_\_\_\_\_

*Signing indicates that we have read, discussed and understand the 8th grade classes at SMS. We agreed with the preferences that have been marked on this paper. We understand that, although our elective choices will be prioritized, they can not be guaranteed.*

STUDENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN THIS FORM BY: FRIDAY, APRIL 19**

Questions:

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