Surline Middle School
2020-2021

8th Grade
Educational Development Plan (EDP)
& Course Description

OPTIONS FOR RETURNING FORM by Monday, May 4:

- Place the last page in an envelope and postal mail this to school at 147 State St., West Branch, MI 48661
- Fax a copy of the completed last sheet/2 pages to 989-343-2239.
- Use your phone to take a picture of the information on the last sheet/2 pages and email to: frankk@wbrc.k12.mi.us
- Email the top 4 enrichment class choices (**if** you are selecting the semester classes; please use #1 as the class you would like the most) **OR** if you wish to be in band or choir or LINKS (as a full year) to: frankk@wbrc.k12.mi.us

If you are not able to use any of the above, please call Mrs. Frank (school counselor) at 989-343-2145 and we can brainstorm a solution.

8th Grade Classes

I. All 8th graders will have one class period all year long of the following **required classes**:

- ELA (English/Language Arts)
  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---either 8th grade Pre-algebra **or** 8th grade Algebra (which students qualify for based on factors such as: standardized tests scores, report card grades and teacher input)
  - 8th grade Pre-algebra
    The focus is 8th grade Common Core Standards: exponents, scientific notation, real number system, transformations, similarity, dilations, linear functions and geometry formulas.
  - 8th grade Algebra
    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.
- Special Education---If students require special education support, they will receive support from special education teacher and parapros within the regular education classrooms as indicated on the IEP's.

II. All 8th graders will have a required "**rotation class**" (which rotates every 12 weeks).

In some order, 8th graders will have 12 weeks each of:

- PE
  This class includes both games and goals. Letter grades (A,B,C,D,E) are given for the jump rope unit and the half mile run. Other activities include: President's Council of Physical Fitness testing, circuit training, basketball, indoor soccer, lacrosse, flag & sideline football, broomball, field hockey, floor hockey, volleyball and dodgeball.
- IT-8 (Instructional Technology/Computers, which if successfully completed fulfills the MI Merit Curriculum online learning experience requirement for high school graduation)
  IT 8 will focus on reviewing some of the mid-level Word features and be introduced to some more advanced features that will help them particularly in typing research papers. We will spend time in Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint and continue the careers unit. Students will continue working on improving their typing skills.
- Spanish (which if successfully completed between 7th & 8th grades fulfills the foreign language requirement of the MI Merit Curriculum for high school graduation)
  This course will reinforce skills learned in 7th Grade Spanish: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. They will also continue to understand grammar concepts, vocabulary, and Hispanic culture. Students who pass 8th Grade Spanish and demonstrate proficiency on World Language Standards in their 7th grade Social Studies class will receive credit for completing the Michigan State Board of Education's World Language Requirement of proficiency fulfilling the world language requirement for graduation at Surline Middle School.

III. All 8th graders will have one hour each school day all year long of an **enrichment class**.

On the attached page is a list of the enrichment classes available to 8th grade students at this time for the next school year. These classes are called enrichments because we believe that any class you are assigned will "enrich" your education. We try to offer a wide variety of enrichment classes.

_____ _____

(LAST NAME) **(FIRST NAME)**

2020-21

8th

PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS MAY CHANGE FROM YEAR TO YEAR; A TEACHER INSTRUCTING A CLASS THIS YEAR MIGHT NOT TEACH THE SAME CLASS NEXT YEAR. Do not base course preferences on the teacher.

FULL YEAR CHOICES:

I. _____**I am currently a band student and I would like to continue with band**. I understand that it is a FULL YEAR class and that I will be in band class all year long. There are outside of school performances and uniforms required for performances.

7th grade band students perform two concerts each year, one being in December and the other in the Spring. Also, in addition we have added a Middle School Jazz Band which rehearses once a week during the winter and is open to 7th and 8th grade students.

----------OR----------

II. _____**I would like to participate in choir class**. I understand that it is a FULL YEAR class and that I will be in choir class all year long. There are outside-of-school-day performances and uniforms required for performances.

Choir class offers students a chance to develop their singing voices, to learn about how music is put together and to perform with a fantastic group of students. We sing a variety of music in concerts, in school and community events and have a great time making music together.

If you have checked band <u>OR</u> choir, please do not check any more. Just add your signature and ask parent to sign (on the back).

Students who have not yet selected from the full year class choices will have 2 semester Exploration classes (half-year in length). Students will **rank** those following classes from **#1** (most wanted) to **#7** (least wanted) for themselves. (PLEASE NOTE that 2 selections are on the back side.)

SEMESTER CHOICES:

_____EXPLORE: Art

Students will be exploring many types of media with focus on different artists styles. Elements and Principles of design will be discussed with projects with design related problems to solve. Various media for these projects include ink washing, pen and ink sketches, pen work with a haiku poem, colored pencils, watercolors, cardboard for a relief, pastels, painting, continuing work on throwing clay on the wheel and a 3-D sculpting project.

_____EXPLORE: Multi-Cultural Drumming

Students will identify the parts of the drum, the history and usage of African drums, master 6 basic drumming patterns, read and notate drumming patterns, perform his part in an ensemble and participate in a drumming performance.

_____EXPLORE: Wood Shop

Students will learn safety and pass a basic safety test to use the tools and equipment. They will learn the basics of building: measuring properly, cutting, sanding and finishing. This will be hands-on learning. For some larger projects, students might have additional fees.

_____EXPLORE: Theatre

Students will participate in dramatic story-telling through song-writing and theatre production. (This can be selected even if this student has taken it in 7th grade.)

_____EXPLORE: Coding and Programming

This course will develop problem solving skills, teamwork, and learning specific skills utilized in the field of computer science. Students will have the opportunity to build their own websites, apps, games, and work on design through coding and/or physical computing devices. In the computer science area, time will be spent on programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS, and data skills. The course will be divided into 6 units: Unit 1 – Problem Solving, Unit 2 – Web Development, Animations and Games, Unit 4 – The Design Process, Unit 5 – Data and Society, and Unit 6 – Physical Computing. For more details check out: https://code.org/educate/csd (This can be selected even if this student has taken it in 7th grade.)

_____EXPLORE: STEM (**S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, & **M**ath)

This course combines the use of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math concepts. Many hands-on lab experiences will be offered for students who love math & science to investigate and problem solve situations.

_____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 who mark this choice will need to get a form to participate from the counselor. Teacher recommendation is required.
I understand that I may be a LINK for a semester (half year) or for the entire school year. If this is your 1st or 2nd choice, please indicate your preference on how long you would like to be a LINK:

_____I would like to be a LINK for just one semester (or half the school year).
_____I would like to be a LINK for the entire school year.

If you have ranked the semester classes, just add your signature and ask parent to sign (below).

As of now these are our planned classes for next year, unforeseen factors could result in changes in the class offerings for the 2020-21 school year.

Signing indicates that we have read, discussed and understand the 8th grade classes at S.M.S. We agreed with the preferences that have been marked on this paper.

STUDENT NAME: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

Date: _____

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