

# Learwood Middle School

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Offerings

### Pre-Algebra

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-Algebra course is aligned with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Ohio Standards. Number sense and operations are reviewed. A strong emphasis is placed on measurement, geometry, data analysis and probability. Solving algebraic equations is applied throughout the course. A scientific calculator is required.

### Algebra 1

Algebra 1 is a high school level course. A strong knowledge of number theory and fractions is essential. Emphasis is given to solving 1 and 2 variable equations and inequalities, factoring, evaluating exponents, and graphing. Geometry, probability, and statistics are used for algebraic applications. A scientific calculator is required.

### Advanced Algebra 1

Advanced Algebra 1 is a high school level course. This course parallels the Algebra 1 course with a more rigorous approach, a quicker pace, a greater depth, and greater number of application problems. A scientific calculator is required. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Advanced Pre-Algebra or teacher recommendation.

### English/Language Arts

Engages students in a wide variety of experiences in literature, composition (which includes writing conventions), communication skills/drama. In literature, students read poems, short stories, and a variety of genres for independent reading. In writing, students express themselves through a multitude of descriptive, narrative, expository, and persuasive pieces which will also include the development of a research paper. In addition, communication skills will be developed and assessed through a range of oral presentations.

### Enriched Integrated Language Arts and Social Studies

This accelerated course is designed to prepare students for English Honors 9 and World History Honors 9. Students will be engaged in a wide variety of higher level literature and nonfiction with an emphasis on American history as highlighted in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies academic content standards. Students will be expected to use critical thinking skills to participate in class discussion as well as complete extensive writing exercises.

### Science

Along with the strands of Scientific Ways of Knowing, Earth & Space Sciences, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Science Technology, this content area focuses heavily on Scientific Inquiry. Exploration, discovery, and problem solving skills are utilized.

## **U.S. Studies**

This course is designed to develop an appreciation for the events that led to the formation of the United States of America. U.S. Studies is an in-depth look of the time period 1607-1877. U.S. Studies begins with the early colonization of North America by the English. The course examines the struggles of the colonies and the competition from other nations. U.S. Studies will analyze the reasons for declaring independence from the British Crown and the great effort to realize independence. We will discuss the events that lead to the Civil War and examine how the government reacted in the year following that war.

## **Special Education Supplement**

Students will use this class period to increase organization of self and materials, study skills, and problem solving strategies. Planners are checked for homework assignments, pre-teaching or re-teaching of content area objectives may occur, extended time given during this class for test/project completion from general ed. classes and individualized/small group assistance offered on IEP goals.

## **Special Education Pullout Reading Class**

Students will demonstrate an integrated understanding of reading. The following skills are taught to increase comprehension of literature: predict, visualize, connect, question, clarify, and evaluate. Class activities to be utilized include support of the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading/writing strategies from the general education program, OAT skills, Wilson Reading Program (phonics skills), Newspaper analysis and individualized/small group assistance on IEP reading goals.

## **Intervention Language Arts**

This class will focus on traditional and functional language arts activities in a small group setting. Individualized intervention strategies will be used to improve reading, writing and oral expression skills. Students will access the State Academic Content Standards through a modified curriculum.

## **Intervention Mathematics**

This class will focus on functional math skills, solving word problems, and the State Academic Content Standards. Students will participate in a modified curriculum in a small group setting.

## **Spanish 1**

Spanish 1 is an entry level course designated to introduce students to the Spanish Language and cultures of the Spanish-speaking World. This is an interactive course where students will learn the language by reading, writing, listening and speaking at the novice level in Spanish. The course will explore basic language structures in the present tense and include everyday vocabulary. Program includes video, audio, online, and take-home support to enhance learning. A workbook is required.

## **French 1**

In this introductory course, the focus will be on communication and the cultural diversity of the French-speaking world. Listening, writing, reading and speaking activities will expand the students' use of the language beyond the classroom. Program includes video, audio, online and take-home support to enhance learning. A workbook is required.

## **Health Education**

The Learwood Health Education Program encourages students to seek an optimum level of health by encouraging behaviors that are advantageous to our student's physical, social, and emotional health. Personal health topics such as, abstinence, consequences of being a young parent, "Baby Think It Over", first aid, dangers of drugs and alcohol abuse are a few of the main topics covered in 8<sup>th</sup> grade health.

## **Personal Finance**

Personal money management skills such as basic financial planning, budgeting, managing a checkbook, writing checks, analyzing credit card offers, price comparison shopping, and analyzing the cost of using credit are a few of the main topics addressed. Financial goal setting is discussed and achievement during the quarter is rewarded. The final project is to research the purchase of a car complete with an insurance quote and 3 financing options.

## **General Music/Music Appreciation**

General Music is a music appreciation course designed for students not interested in a performing ensemble. The class will emphasize the skills of active listening and identification of music in the context of its historical time period. Special emphasis will be placed on the cultural and historical context in which specific music was written, as well as musical evaluation and critiquing through the use of free-writing. Participation is for one year.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band is an academic class that focuses on the continual development of each student's instrumental skill within the ensemble/small group setting. Emphasis is placed on the intermediate technical requirements of a student's specific instrument needed to continue participation in high school band. Students are required to perform in a Winter Concert, Spring Concert, and the OMEA District Large Group Contest. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band students will have the opportunity to participate at the OMEA Solo and Ensemble Contest. Solo and Ensemble participation will be at the discretion of the director. Students are assessed through formal and informal observation and tests. Participation is for one year.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra is an academic class that focuses on the continual development of each student's instrumental skill within the ensemble/small group setting. Emphasis is placed on the basic technical requirements of a student's specific instrument. Students are required to perform in a Winter Concert and Spring Concert. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra students will have the opportunity to participate at the OMEA Solo and Ensemble Contest. Solo and Ensemble participation will be at the

discretion of the director. Students are assessed through formal and informal observation and tests. Participation is for one year.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir continues the vocal and musical training begun in the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir. Since the voices are at their most volatile during this stage of development, a strong emphasis is placed on the extension of range, development of tone, and the basic techniques which will ensure that each student develops to his or her potential. Students will extend their understanding of music reading, score analysis, and the historical/cultural elements which influence the music they rehearse and perform. Students who register for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir make a 1-year commitment and agree to participate for the entire year.

### **Concert Choir**

The Concert Choir is comprised of students selected from the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir. Students selected by the director have shown an ability to manage the voice during the turbulent stage of vocal change and have demonstrated responsible, effective participation as a member of the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir during the previous year. The Concert Choir curriculum mirrors that of the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir with the addition of higher level literature for additional performances and contests. An emphasis will be placed on higher level music reading, performance, analysis skills.

### **Life Skills**

This class will focus on the various domains of independent living. Students will be engaged in learning about and developing skills needed for functioning in the home, at school, at work and in the community. Students will develop self-determination skills by making choices, setting goals and planning methods to achieve those goals. Students will also learn how to evaluate their achievement and adjust goals, as needed. Seventh and eighth graders are approaching the age when the IEP team will begin to discuss and map out transition plans. They will be more prepared to make decisions about their future and improve their ability to be independent across settings by participating in these authentic life skills activities.

### **Technology Education/Industrial Technology**

This course allows students to explore basic technological concepts and principals as well as related career fields. Topics include CNC machining, Robotics and Automation, Electronic Communications, Research and Design, Construction, Aerodynamics, CAD, Digital Photography, Graphics and Animation, Digital Sound, Basic Electricity, Web Page Design, Biomedical, and Alternative Energy. Activities are structured to integrate math, science, and language arts as well as teach cooperative learning and hands on problem solving.

### **Technology Education/Industrial Technology**

This course allows students to explore areas of technology that they were not able to in 7<sup>th</sup> grade as well as work through more advanced assignments in a specific areas of technology. Additionally, students will learn about Technology and how it related to Society.

### **Computer Technology**

**This course is designed for students to learn how to create organized spreadsheets, develop professional-looking desktop publications, work with computer animation, and generate an effective, functioning web page.**

### **Family and Consumer Science**

**This is a 9-week introductory course designed for all male and female eighth grade students, concentrating on food related skills. In this class, students will learn basic food preparation techniques. Topics covered include: safety and sanitation in the kitchen, reading and proper use of recipes, proper measuring techniques and use of equipment and tools. Foods prepared are: Rice Crispy Treats, Marshmallow Puffs, Brownies with Frosting, Banana Bread, Fruit Smoothie and Macaroni & Cheese. Nutrition and diet are also covered in this course. Topics discussed include: the 6 major nutrients, their functions and food sources, the digestive process, the new Food Guide Pyramid, reading and use of food labels including nutrition information and eating disorders.**

### **Visual Art**

**All eighth graders complete a nine week visual art course. Eighth grade students focus on art production (specifically ceramics and painting). Verbal criticism and evaluation of work in progress is encouraged. Students are responsible for more extended written assessments, evaluations and reflections of their art work and their experiences. Additionally, students are held accountable for a bit more advanced knowledge, techniques and vocabulary evidence in the production of their art work and in the quality of their written work.**

### **Physical Education**

**In eighth grade Physical Education class, students will be engaged in individual and team sports with the focus on advancing their skills and learning strategies of the games. Daily focus will involve fitness related activities to improve agility. Cardiovascular and muscular endurance, flexibility and overall strength.**