Schmucker Middle School Curriculum Information

Grades 6-8
2015-2016

The school day is comprised of an advisory period to start the day, six class periods, a 30-minute lunch, and five 5-minute passing periods. Students are enrolled in four content classes (math, science, language arts and social studies) during their three years at Schmucker. A wellness (physical education) class that alternates every 22 days with an exploration rotation class (PLTW: design and modeling, art, computers, and health) and a music or art class that meets every day completes the six-period day for 6th graders. In addition to the four content classes, 7th and 8th grade students are enrolled in wellness (physical education and health) every day and they choose a music class <u>or</u> the exploration rotation classes (PLTW, art, computers I, and personal finance). **Students will receive a syllabus for each class.**

Math—Students are assigned a math course when they move into the middle school. This assignment is based upon the student's math progress and Acuity results. Student progress is monitored carefully and adjustments are made to the assigned course as needed. The middle school math course progression follows a yearly sequence as follows: Math 6 (Number Sense), Math 6 Accelerated (Integers), Math 6 Honors (Integers and beginning of Linear Equations), Math 7 (Integers), Math 7 Accelerated (Linear Equations), Math 7 Honors (Polynomials), Math 8 (Integers), Math 8 Accelerated (Polynomials), and Math 8 Geometry Honors.

Science—The science curriculum through the three-year study contains seven standards. These standards include The Nature of Science and Technology, Scientific Thinking, The Physical Setting, The Living Environment, The Mathematical World, Historical Perspectives, and Common Themes. The grade level syllabus more specifically details a year's course work.

Social Studies—The social studies curriculum is designed to develop the skills necessary for students to be productive members of the 21st century. By implementing guided inquiry in social studies through the use of Teachers' Curriculum Institute materials and Google Chrome books, teachers will have resources to develop independent learners who will, through questions and investigations, recognize the importance of the past, contribute to the present, and learn how to be valuable contributors to society in the future**. Sixth graders study the <u>Ancient</u> <u>World</u>, 7th graders study <u>The</u> <u>Medieval</u> <u>World</u> <u>and</u> <u>Beyond</u>, and the 8th graders study <u>The</u> <u>United</u> <u>States</u> <u>Through</u> <u>Industrialism</u>. In 8th grade, we encourage all of our students to participate in the Washington, D. C. trip. Students may bank their Believe Kids fundraiser profits beginning in 6th grade to help them pay for this trip. PTO offers two fundraisers to help 8th grade students bank profits as well. 8th graders may bank <u>all</u> of their profits from the school's fall fundraiser of Mrs. Field's Cookies.**

Language Arts—Upon completion of the study of Language Arts/English at a PHM Middle School, each student is expected to proficiently read grade-appropriate complex literature and informational text while further developing the ability to cite textual evidence to support analyses. Students also share findings in class discussions and expand vocabularies. The Writing Standards expect students to learn how writers influence readers while learning to do this themselves. Students answer questions through writing and use rewriting to refine their understanding of a text or topic. Students will learn to take a critical stance toward sources and apply criteria to identify reliable information. Each year, students will complete a unit of study in argument, information and narrative writing. Top performing students in all grades may be assigned to Language Arts Accelerated or Honors.

World Languages—7th grade students **explore** four languages and cultures (Spanish, German, Japanese, and French) in a nine-week long course.

Band, Orchestra and Choir—Students learn to read music and work within a group in band, orchestra, and choir.

Exploration Classes include: PLTW (Design and Modeling or Automation and Robotics) – 6th grade students learn to apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. 7th and 8th graders apply their knowledge of mechanical systems and design, build and program real-world objects. **Art**—Students complete both two- and three-dimensional projects often related to units of study within the curriculum. Projects include drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, color pencil, stained glass, and collage. Students are asked to furnish some materials for this class. **Computers** —6th grade students practice basic word processing/typing skills and apply those skills. 7th and 8th graders explore a variety of programs and skills including graphic design, databases and spreadsheets, the web, and more multimedia. **Personal Finance—**This nine week course for 7th and 8th graders gives students the opportunity to navigate the financial decisions they must face to make informed decisions related to career exploration, budgeting, banking, credit, insurance, taxes, investing and saving.

An advanced TV Studio class, **WSMS**, is designed for 7th and/or 8th graders where students produce our daily morning TV news broadcast.

Wellness—Students in all grades, through physical education and health units, will be educated towards making choices that promote healthy lifestyle skills. Students will be exercising more and specific fitness data will be taken and shared with students and their parents.