



West Carrollton Middle School

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Dear West Carrollton Middle School Students and Parents,

Principal

Doug Mescher
Ext. 7701

Assistant Principal

Chris Price
Ext. 7702

6th Grade Counselor

Sharon Petrick
Ext. 7791

7th Grade Counselor

Doug Kirk
Ext. 7736

8th Grade Counselor

Meghan Wortalik
Ext. 7707

The West Carrollton Middle School Course of Studies is designed to help you plan your upcoming academic year. Course selections can have a strong impact on students' future success in their chosen career paths and/or higher education.

The counselors, administration and faculty of West Carrollton Middle School are available to answer questions and assist in decisions regarding student schedules. While it is crucial that West Carrollton Middle School students receive a solid foundation in the five core subjects of mathematics, science, reading, English, language arts, and social studies, a variety of related arts and elective course options are also offered at the middle school to help give students a firm educational foundation.

West Carrollton Middle School's grading policy is designed to accurately reflect a student's academic achievement and improve consistency in grading practices. Eighty percent (80%) of a student's grade will be based on what he or she knows and can demonstrate. Assignments given while a student is learning new material (such as pre-writing assignments, homework, in-class practice, etc.) will comprise twenty percent (20%) of a student's grade.

The following pages provide information for the student and his or her parents to use as they discuss and consider course choices for the sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

Please contact our guidance counselors with any questions. They are here to make sure your student is academically successful in middle school and is developing a plan that will offer multiple college and career opportunities in the future. As always, parent involvement in this process is encouraged and supported by our teachers, counselors, and administrators.

Regards,

Doug Mescher
Principal

Grade 6

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[Language Arts — Enriched](#)

[Math 6](#)

[Math 6 — Enriched](#)

[Science](#)

[Social Studies](#)

Related Arts

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Electives

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Grade 8

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[Spanish I](#) 



Denotes a Class for High School Credit

The student will receive High School Credit, but the grade will not count towards the High School GPA. The grade will be applied only to the Middle School GPA.

Schedule Change Policy

We do our best to create students' schedules from classes they select each spring. Based on these course requests, the master schedule is generated and teaching staff are assigned. Changing classes, therefore, is not generally an option unless a student has a course conflict or has been wrongly placed into a section. Students who wish to be considered for a schedule change, however, need to see their grade level counselor within the first two weeks of the start of the semester.

Grade 6

Course Offerings

Language Arts

This integrated course covers the full range of 6th, 7th and 8th grade reading, English, grammar and vocabulary skills. The focus includes critical and creative thinking, the application of writing processes, reading strategies, and oral and visual communication skills, utilizing technology and various modes of multimedia. Specific writing processes include narrative, informational/research, and argumentative pieces. The reading selections include non-fiction and fictional short stories, novels, plays, poems, and essays. Students will build on previous language arts knowledge to deepen their understanding of reading skills, oral and written expression.

Math 6

This course covers basic arithmetic skills in whole numbers, decimals, and fractions with emphasis on problem solving situations. Students will be given instruction as to the meaning and use of percentages, ratios, proportions, and measurements, with a brief introduction into operations with integers.

Science 6

Sixth grade integrated science covers the characteristics of living things and plant and animal cell structure. Students will also explore the structure and function of human cells, tissues, organs, and organ systems, as well as the structure and function of organisms. Also, students will be introduced to the fundamentals of matter, energy, and speed. Finally, the students will examine the properties of rocks, minerals, and soils.

Language Arts — Enriched

Prerequisite: Enriched placement is determined by previous academic performance, relevant test scores, and teacher referral

This rigorous and acceleration course covers the full range of 6th, 7th and 8th grade reading, English, grammar and vocabulary skills. The focus includes critical and creative thinking, the application of writing processes, reading strategies, and oral and visual communication skills, utilizing technology and various modes of multimedia. Specific writing processes include narrative, informational/research, and argumentative pieces. The reading selections include non-fiction and fictional short stories, novels, plays, poems, and essays. Students will build on previous language arts knowledge to deepen their understanding of reading skills, oral and written expression.

Math 6 — Enriched

Prerequisite: Placement Test, relevant test scores, Teacher Referral

This course covers rational numbers, ratios and proportions, basic geometry formulas, statistics and probability and an introduction to algebra with a focus on negative numbers, fractions, ratios, proportions and unit rate.

Social Studies 6

In the sixth grade, emphasis is placed on the five themes of geography. This foundation will lead to mastering other learning targets in history, economics and government while studying early civilizations in the Eastern Hemisphere. Units of study will include Mesopotamia, China, Egypt, and India.

Grade 6

Related Arts

Computer 6

Computer 6 is designed to enhance students keyboarding skills and develop their knowledge of basic Google Apps for Education. This course will also focus on the utilization of MLA and EasyBib to enhance students' education. Students will be provided skills, techniques, and understanding of computer operations and applications that will be beneficial to the 21st century learner.

Grade 6

Electives

Study Skills

The focus of this class is to provide students with skills to help them be more successful in school and beyond. Topics covered will include (but not be limited to): *time management, organizational skills, goal setting; newspaper and research skills.* Students are expected to supply their own materials and use the period for constructive work. Limited access to the Mark Media Center and computer lab will be provided with written teacher request. Grade will be based on students' productive use of time and participation.

Band 6

In 6th grade band, all students are beginners on the band instrument of their choice. Students may choose from flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet/cornet, or trombone. **6th grade band performs two concerts; one in February and the other in May.**

At the end of the 6th grade academic year, students may audition for the percussion section (with parent permission). Students will be selected based on their audition and their participation grade throughout the year. These selected students are responsible for obtaining their own percussion kit (bell kit with pad OR bell kit with snare drum), prior to their 7th grade year.

Health 6

In 6th Grade Health students are encouraged to live a healthy lifestyle. Health topics consist of the following: *Tobacco Education, Communication, Peer Pressure, Hygiene, Medicine Label Reading and Nutrition.*

Physical Education 6

Physical Education 6 provides students an opportunity to be physically active through a variety of sport specific and fitness related activities. Students will practice and demonstrate specific sport skills and concepts through practice and game play. Activities in class will include, but are not limited to, basketball, floor hockey, bowling, ultimate football, and cooperative activities. Students will be assessed on the five standards adopted by the Ohio Department of Education.

Orchestra 6

6th grade orchestra is a beginner level class for string instruments. Students may choose to play violin, viola, cello, or double bass, with a maximum of three bass players. **Members of the 6th grade orchestra will perform in two to three evening concerts during the school year, which are required for all members.** A concert uniform is also required.

6th Grade Chorus

6th Grade Chorus is open to any student with a beginning interest in singing. Chorus class emphasizes the development of a healthy singing voice and music reading skills. Students will be exposed to, and learn, a variety of skills from music of different time periods, cultures, languages, genres and styles. **There are four required evening performances throughout the year (September/October, December, March and May.)** There is a required performance uniform.



Grade 7

Course Offerings

Language Arts

This integrated course covers the full range of 6th, 7th and 8th grade reading, English, grammar and vocabulary skills. The focus includes critical and creative thinking, the application of writing processes, reading strategies, and oral and visual communication skills, utilizing technology and various modes of multimedia. Specific writing processes include narrative, informational/research, and argumentative pieces. The reading selections include non-fiction and fictional short stories, novels, plays, poems, and essays. Students will build on previous language arts knowledge to deepen their understanding of reading skills, oral and written expression.

Math 7

This course covers rational numbers, ratios and proportions, basic geometry formulas, statistics and probability and an introduction to algebra with a focus on negative numbers, fractions, ratios, proportions and unit rate.

Math 7 — Enriched

Prerequisite: Placement Test, relevant test scores, Teacher Referral or completion of Math 6 Enriched

This course covers solving multi-step equations by combining like-terms and using the distributive property, systems of equations, introduction to the nature of functions and how to use functions in real-life, introduction to slope (rate of change) and slope-intercept form, properties of exponents, and geometric transformations including translations, reflections, rotations, and dilations.

Science 7

The 7th grade course of study will be a prerequisite for the 8th grade. Topics that are covered will be Earth and Space systems, Life sciences, and Physical science along with the methods of science and technology.

Language Arts — Enriched

Prerequisite: Enriched placement is determined by previous academic performance, relevant test scores, and teacher referral

This rigorous and acceleration course covers the full range of 6th, 7th and 8th grade reading, English, grammar and vocabulary skills. The focus includes critical and creative thinking, the application of writing processes, reading strategies, and oral and visual communication skills, utilizing technology and various modes of multimedia. Specific writing processes include narrative, informational/research, and argumentative pieces. The reading selections include non-fiction and fictional short stories, novels, plays, poems, and essays. Students will build on previous language arts knowledge to deepen their understanding of reading skills, oral and written expression.

Social Studies 7

Students will continue their mastery of geography as it relates to the five themes. Student learning targets will be met in history, geography, economics and government while studying world civilizations between 1600 CE to 750 BCE. This will include ancient civilizations such as Greece, Rome, Arabia and Africa. Units will also include the Middle Ages, Renaissance and Exploration.



Grade 7

Related Arts

Art 7

Length: Semester

Seventh Grade Visual Arts focus on beginning development of drawing, painting, and sculpture skills. Over the course period, students are to use the basic techniques of drawing, painting, and sculpture. The course encourages effort and artistic integrity.

Skill target(s): *Basic drawing; textures/shading, one point perspective, shapes, still life, and proper drawing/painting with an emphasis on the color wheel.*

Financial Literacy / Career Education

Length: Semester

This course is designed to enlighten students on how their personal decisions influence career choices and future earning potential.

The Financial Literacy component is designed to give students practical, hands-on experience using math in daily life. Some topics covered will include: *income, banking, interest, loans, credit, purchase/maintenance of cars, renting/buying a home, taxes, utility bills, travel, discounts and gratuities.* Skills will be acquired through simulation and real life activities.

The Career education portion of this class is designed to give students a hands-on opportunity to discover, identify and learn about themselves and about the various career paths they might take upon graduation. Some topics covered will be personal interests, work values, personal strengths and skills, why people work, how the world of work is changing, benefits of a fulfilling work life, resources for exploring jobs and careers, goal setting and planning for the future. The mission of Careers is to raise student aspirations and to provide career options to students through self-assessment and education.



Grade 7

Electives

Study Skills

Length: Semester

The focus of this class is to provide students with skills to help them be more successful in school and beyond. Topics covered will include (but not be limited to): *time management, organizational skills, goal setting; newspaper and research skills.* Students are expected to supply their own materials and use the period for constructive work. Limited access to the Mark Media Center and computer lab will be provided with written teacher request. Grade will be based on students' productive use of time and participation.

Band 7

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 6th grade band

Special circumstances may be considered at the discretion of the band directors. The music demands in 7th grade band increase from those in 6th grade band. Members' work ethic and behavior need to reflect these higher demands. **7th grade band performs two concerts; one in December (combined concert with 8th grade and high school bands) and the other in May.**

Orchestra 7

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 6th grade orchestra

Students will move past the basics of playing and work on necessary skills to be part of an orchestral ensemble. **Members of the 7th grade orchestra will perform in three to four evening concerts during the school year, which are required for all members.** A concert uniform is also required.

7th and 8th Grade Treble Chorus

Treble Chorus is open to any female student with an interest in singing. Previous Chorus experience is preferred, but not required. Chorus class emphasizes the development of a healthy singing voice and music reading skills at an intermediate level and expectations of performance and musicianship are at a higher level than 6th grade. Students will be exposed to a variety of skills from music of differing time periods, cultures, languages, genres and styles. **There are five required evening/weekend performances throughout the year (September/October, December, March and two in May.)** There is a required performance uniform. Additional opportunities such as show choir, pop a cappella ensemble and musical theatre are open to chorus students.

7th and 8th Grade Tenor Bass Chorus

Grade: 7th or 8th Grade Male Students

The mixed Choral Ensemble is open to any 7th or 8th grade male student interested in singing. Previous Choral experience is preferred, but not required. Chorus class emphasizes the development of a healthy singing voice and music reading skills at an intermediate level and expectations of performance and musicianship are at a higher level than 6th grade. Students will be exposed to, and learn, a variety of music of differing time periods, cultures, languages, genres and styles. **There are five required evening/weekend performances (September/October, December, March, and two in May.)** There is a required performance uniform. Additional opportunities such as show choir, pop a cappella ensemble and musical theatre are open to chorus students.

Grade 7

Electives

Crafts, Fibers and Design

Length: Semester

Students will be focusing on 3-D sculpture such as clay, paper mache, or soft sculpture; fiber arts such as weaving and sewing; and designing using techniques such as stamping and print making. Students will participate in weekly or bi-weekly art history assignments. Some drawing will be done in class.

Drawing, Painting and Sketchbook I

Length: Semester

Students will be participating daily in short drawing exercises, weekly or bi-weekly in painting projects, and sketchbook assignments. Students will learn and practice: proper drawing and shading, applying color theory to their painting projects, art history, as well as how to take quick sketches and turn them in to masterpieces.

Students must provide their own spiral bounded, unlined sketchbook starting on the first day of class.

Wellness

Length: Semester

Wellness is a semester course designed to enhance a student's physical fitness. The students will be involved in cardio based activities, lifting weights, understanding the principles of weight lifting and how nutrition affects your overall health. Cardio activities will also be a part of this course. Each student's fitness level is assessed through Fitness Gram.

Exploratory Foreign Language

Length: Semester

This class is specifically designed for 7th graders who would like to learn either German or Spanish, but can't decide which language is more their style. The semester is broken into one quarter of Spanish and one quarter of German. Students will learn beginning vocabulary, culture and geography of each language through songs, games, traditional vocabulary lists and review activities. Students interested in taking either German or Spanish class for High School credit in 8th grade are encouraged to take this class, but it is not a prerequisite.



Grade 8

Course Offerings

Language Arts

This integrated course covers the full range of 6th, 7th and 8th grade reading, English, grammar and vocabulary skills. The focus includes critical and creative thinking, the application of writing processes, reading strategies, and oral and visual communication skills, utilizing technology and various modes of multimedia. Specific writing processes include narrative, informational/research, and argumentative pieces. The reading selections include non-fiction and fictional short stories, novels, plays, poems, and essays. Students will build on previous language arts knowledge to deepen their understanding of reading skills, oral and written expression.

Math 8

This course covers solving multi-step equations by combining like-terms and using the distributive property, systems of equations, introduction to the nature of functions and how to use functions in real-life, introduction to slope (rate of change) and slope-intercept form, properties of exponents, and geometric transformations including translations, reflections, rotations, and dilations.

English I



Credit: 1 High School Credit
Length: Year
Prerequisite: Grades, relevant test scores, placement exam performance and teacher referral

This course is a survey of literature, composition and speech. The literary selections include short stories, poetry, plays, essays and nonfiction. Composition and grammar are integrated with the literary selections. Vocabulary development will be stressed. Some of the works to be studied include: *Night* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

Algebra



Credit: 1 High School Credit
Length: Year
Prerequisite: Completion of Math 7 Enriched with a B or higher, relevant test scores and Teacher Referral

Algebra I is the foundation for all math courses in the college prep and career programs. The Ohio CORE Curriculum will be followed. This includes: relationships between quantities and reasoning with equations, linear and exponential relationships, descriptive statistics, polynomial expressions and operations on polynomials, systems of linear equations and linear inequalities, quadratic functions and modeling.



Grade 8

Course Offerings

Science 8

The eighth grade course of study will build upon some topics covered at the sixth grade level. Processes that shape the earth's surface, asexual and sexual reproduction, and heredity will be given more attention. Topics including geologic record, relative and absolute dating, forces, energy and others will also be introduced.

Social Studies 8

US studies from 1492 to 1877 is taught in the 8th grade. The emphasis will continue to be meeting learning targets in history, geography, economics and government while studying units on Colonization, the American Revolution, the US Constitution, Westward Expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Advanced Science 9

Length: Year
Prerequisite: Entry into this course is by invitation only. Student admission will be based on relevant test scores, math and science grades, attendance record, and teacher recommendation.

Physical Science is an introductory high school science course and provides critical background information related to the study of chemistry and physics. Some of the state standards that will be discussed during the year include the following: formation of the universe, composition of matter, the periodic table, chemical reactions, energy, waves, forces, and motion. This course moves at a faster pace, digs deeper into the required content, and is intended for the student with superior ability in math and science. Strong math skills are mandatory to be successful in this course. In addition, writing assignments will be more frequent and demanding with an emphasis on developing hypotheses, experimental design, and quantitative analysis.

Grade 8

Related Arts

Health 8

Length: Semester

Students are encouraged to live a healthy lifestyle. 8th grade health topics align with the National Health Education standards and consist of the following: *Violence Prevention, Alcohol Education, Drug Education, Tobacco, Growth and Development, Communicable Diseases, Safety and Emergencies, Environmental Health, Mental and Emotional Health, and Promoting Social Health.*

Physical Education 8

Length: Semester

Physical Education 8 provides students an opportunity to be physically active through a variety of sport specific and fitness related activities. Students will practice and demonstrate specific sport skills and concepts through practice and game play. Activities in class will include, but are not limited to, basketball, soccer, ultimate frisbee, ultimate football, cooperative activities, and volleyball. Students will have the opportunity to participate regularly in weight training in the wellness center. Each 8th grade student's fitness level will be assessed using the Fitness Gram. Each student will create their own physical activity plan and personal fitness plan during this class. Students will be assessed on the five standards adopted by the Ohio Department of Education.

Grade 8

Electives

Study Skills

Length: Semester

The focus of this class is to provide students with skills to help them be more successful in school and beyond. Topics covered will include (but not be limited to): *time management, organizational skills, goal setting; newspaper and research skills.* Students are expected to supply their own materials and use the period for constructive work. Limited access to the Mark Media Center and computer lab will be provided with written teacher request. Grade will be based on students' productive use of time and participation.

Orchestra 8

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7th grade orchestra

Students will learn higher level technical skills to prepare them for more advanced playing. **Members of the 8th grade orchestra will perform in three to four evening concerts during the school year, which are required for all members.** A concert uniform is also required. Additional performance opportunities may include performing with the high school orchestra for some events.

Band 8

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7th grade band

Special circumstances may be considered at the discretion of the band directors. The music demands in 8th grade band increase from those in 7th grade band, hence 8th grade band members are held to a higher standard of musicianship and behavior. **The 8th grade band participates in the same concerts as the 7th grade band, but also performs at one high school football game** with the high school marching band (NO marching is required). They are also encouraged to perform with the high school pep band at high school basketball games.

7th and 8th Grade Treble Chorus

Treble Chorus is open to any female student with an interest in singing. Previous Chorus experience is preferred, but not required. Chorus class emphasizes the development of a healthy singing voice and music reading skills at an intermediate level and expectations of performance and musicianship are at a higher level than 6th grade. Students will be exposed to a variety of skills from music of differing time periods, cultures, languages, genres and styles. **There are five required evening/weekend performances throughout the year (September/October, December, March and two in May.)** There is a required performance uniform. Additional opportunities such as show choir, pop a cappella ensemble and musical theatre are open to chorus students.

7th and 8th Grade Tenor Bass Chorus

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Grade 8

Electives

Drawing, Painting and Sketchbook II

Length: Semester

Prerequisites: Previous drawing and painting experience

This class will be an extension of Drawing, Painting and Sketchbook I, with assignments extended to encourage mastery in these art forms. This class will explore more in depth drawing and painting, as well as the art history behind it.

Students must provide their own spiral bounded, unlined sketchbook starting on the first day of class.

Murals and Collaborative Art

Length: Semester

Prerequisites: Art 7 or previous drawing/painting experience

Students will work both independently and in groups to create art in a range of sizes, converting small designs into large-scale works of art. Emphasis on drawing and painting, as well as a focus on the history of public art ranging from cave paintings to graffiti.

Students must provide their own spiral bounded, unlined sketchbook starting on the first day of class.

Wellness

Length: Semester

Wellness is a semester course designed to enhance a student's physical fitness. The students will be involved in cardio based activities, lifting weights, understanding the principles of weight lifting and how nutrition affects your overall health. Cardio activities will also be a part of this course. Each student's fitness level is assessed through Fitness Gram.

German I



Credit: 1 High School Credit
Length: Year
Prerequisite: Relevant test scores

Students will acquire a basic vocabulary and learn to express themselves using simple sentence structure and grammar. Geography and culture are presented throughout the course. Students will be able to converse about activities, school, clothing, and food. Evaluation is based on class participation, dialogue, presentations and written work.

Spanish I



Credit: 1 High School Credit
Length: Year
Prerequisite: Relevant test scores

*This class is **NOT** recommended for native Spanish speakers.*

This course introduces the students to the Spanish language and culture. The goal of the course is that the students acquire a conversational vocabulary relating to family, sports, body parts, weather, hobbies, and school. Students will learn to communicate using present tense regular and irregular verbs. The students will demonstrate their acquired knowledge through written and verbal presentations, daily assignments and class participation.

