QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Phone 503-534-2343 • Attendance 503-534-2343 (option1)

Administration
Kurt Schultz, Principal
Jennie Knapp, Assistant Principal

Counseling
Monica Binder
Callie Charon
Marcy Watts

Support Staff
Administrative Secretary: Jessica Easterly
Attendance and Bookkeeper: Susan Steger
Secretary: Laura Gustaff
Data Processor: Marian Kahler
Athletic Coordinator: Stephen Elske

Lake Oswego School District Office:
503-534-2000

Lake Oswego School District Special Services: Patrick Tomblin, Director
503-534-2359

LOSD Food Services: Christi Hogan, Director 503-534-2104

First Student Bus Transportation:
503-534-2332
Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Welcome to Lakeridge Middle School where our mission is to be a nurturing and safe learning community that embraces the uniqueness of middle school and challenges everyone to become thoughtful and respectful learners and citizens. In support of that mission, we are proud to offer a rigorous core academic program aligned to the Common Core State Standards enriched by numerous elective course choices. Electives include full-year music and world language programs and trimester-long courses in drama, world languages, science, technology, engineering, art, math, communication, writing, reading, and social studies. The courses in this catalog represent LMS’s continuing commitment to a strong middle level program for all students. We ask that parents and children review the catalog together and make selections that best fit current and future interests, talents, and goals.

Please note that in the initial stages of the forecasting process, there is no way of predicting which classes will fill to capacity and which classes may have to be cancelled due to insufficient interest. It is, therefore, extremely important that you and your child fill in all of the spaces provided on forecasting forms for class choices including all alternate selections as these may be the classes to which a student is assigned. Additionally, while we strive to place all students in their requested courses, the constraints of staffing and master schedule building sometimes limit the ability to offer sections of all courses listed at times that work in every student’s schedule. We are fortunate to have alternatives that are rigorous and engaging for students and are committed to crafting the best possible schedule for each student.

If you have any questions about our forecasting process or these offerings, please call our counseling department at 503-534-2343.

We look forward to an exciting school year together!

Sincerely,

Kurt Schultz
Principal
LAKERIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

To All Students: Welcome to Lakeridge Middle School! We are excited that you are going to be a student here. We offer an instructional program that stresses academic achievement and growth through a variety of interesting classes. This curriculum guide has been prepared to assist you and your parents in planning your academic program. It should be helpful for you as you make your scheduling decisions.

To All Parents: Lakeridge Middle School has developed a program that takes into consideration the transition from childhood to adolescence. In looking at the characteristics of middle-level students, we realize they are undergoing many intellectual, physical, social, and emotional changes at this time. Our program of instruction includes a specified program of required courses with elective options. We hope this curriculum guide will help you assist your child in making decisions about classes for the year.

Lakeridge Middle School’s instructional program is primarily focused around the core subjects of Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and Math. All students are expected to take a required curriculum at each grade level. Students also choose elective courses to complete their individual schedules.

Eighth Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>Full Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>Full Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Full Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Full Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wellness (Physical Education &amp; Health)</td>
<td>Full Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Electives</td>
<td>6 Trimesters/ 2 Full Year</td>
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*Two full-year electives, or one full-year elective + three trimester electives, or six trimester electives

Seventh Grade

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tr>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>Full Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>Full Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Full Year</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>*Electives</td>
<td>6 Trimesters/ 2 Full Year</td>
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</tbody>
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*Two full-year electives, or one full-year elective + three trimester electives, or six trimester electives

Sixth Grade

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Course</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>Full Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>Full Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Full Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Full Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wellness (Physical Education &amp; Health)</td>
<td>Full Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Communication</td>
<td>1 Trimester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Electives</td>
<td>5 Trimesters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Five trimester electives, or Band, Orchestra, 6th Grade Choir + two trimester electives
Required and Elected Courses

**Required Courses**
- Language Arts: 3 years
- Social Studies: 3 years
- Math: 3 years
- Science: 3 years
- Wellness: 3 years
- Modern Communication: 1 trimester, 6th grade only

**Full Year Electives**
- French 1: 7th/8th Grade Only
- French 2: 8th Grade Only
- Spanish 1: 7th/8th Grade Only
- Spanish 2: 8th Grade Only
- Beginning Band
- Intermediate Band
- Advanced Band
- Orchestra
- Choir
- Theatre Production: 7th/8th Grade Only

**6th Grade Elective Options**

**Trimester-long**
- Art Exploration
- Drama Exploration
- Music Exploration
- STEM Exploration
- World Language Exploration

**Year-long**
- Beginning Band
- Intermediate Band
- Orchestra
- 6th Grade Choir

The Exploration electives are broken into five separate, high-interest courses. The five disciplines available for students to explore as they move through the course of the school year are Art, Drama, World Language, STEM and Music. Each of these separate courses is designed to provide introductory insight and begin to hone future interest. Students taking band or orchestra will select their year-long music class, then be assigned two trimester courses to complete the schedule.
Trimester Elective Courses

Art Electives
- 2 D Art
- 3 D Art
- Studio Art

Language Arts Electives
- Advanced Writing
- Publications

Performing Arts/Music Electives
- Advanced Theater
- Drama
- Guitar
- Drumming
- Stagecraft

World Language Electives
- World Language Exploration

STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) Electives
- Architectural Design
- Extreme Engineering
- Robotics
- Advanced Robotics
- Science Myth Busters
- Web Site Design
- STEM 2
- Environmental Research and Experimental Design (ERED)
- Science of Health Careers

Social Studies Electives
- Civics
- Contemporary Issues
- Leadership
- Psychology in Your Life
- Speech and Debate
Required Courses

LANGUAGE ARTS - Full Year Required Course

The English Language Arts curriculum is planned to reflect the specific needs and ability levels of all students, with each successive year building upon the program of the previous year. In meeting the personal challenges of growing up, students form insights from exploring the universal aspects of human experience through literature and self-discovery and refinement through writing. The following basic skills are developed and improved:

- Reading
- Critical thinking and comprehension
- Literary analysis
- Vocabulary and spelling
- Grammar
- Speaking
- Writing - argumentative, narrative, explanatory/informative, creative, and reflective

The study of English Language Arts includes both content (literature and language) and performance skills (reading, listening, thinking, writing, and speaking). Based upon the premise that performance skills are most effectively learned through an integrated instructional approach, our primary goals are to provide expert instruction in language and literature and to create a positive learning environment. All students are given the opportunity to achieve to their fullest potential in all areas of English Language Arts:

- to read critically and perceptively
- to listen with understanding and openness
- to think critically and creatively
- to write with clarity and confidence, and
- to speak precisely and effectively

As students practice and apply language skills, they read a variety of literary pieces, including short stories, poems, novels, and plays, from which the writing work is derived. Writing lessons at all three levels include integrated grammatical study and use of techniques appropriate to mode, purpose, and audience.

Grade 6 -- Full Year Required Course

Language Arts Curricular Concepts

The thematic focus of the 6th grade curriculum focuses on discovering culture and separation from childhood. Building writing through process is also a focus of the curriculum, including planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing.
Grade 7 - Full Year Required Course

Language Arts Curricular Concepts
At grade seven, the central concepts are understanding oneself in adolescence, including the separation from childhood, with its loss of innocence and certainty and commensurate gain of understanding, perspective, and autonomy; the need to find personal acceptance from one’s peers; and the necessity of meeting the challenges presented by conflict and fear. In addition, students identify others’ perspectives and begin to recognize empathy, compassion, and tolerance through characters in literature and individuals in nonfiction texts. In addition to academic writing, students at grade seven also learn to craft figurative language through the writing of poetry.

Grade 8 - Full Year Required Course

Language Arts Curricular Concepts
Eighth grade students form insights from exploring the universal aspects of human experience through literature and develop a self-understanding through writing. At 8th grade, the thematic concepts are derived from the egocentric self: meeting challenges; seeing others’ perspectives; developing empathy, compassion, and respect; and acknowledging and dealing with ambiguity.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

Grade 6 – Full Year Required Course

World History and Civilizations
Sixth grade social studies examines the origin and formation of early world civilizations. Studying these cultures provides an understanding of the lasting influence and impact these civilizations had on world development. As students learn about those who have come before them, they understand more about themselves in this modern age and their connections with past human activity. Throughout this course, students will recognize patterns and themes that connect our modern world to the past. This course will integrate geography, economics and financial literacy, civics and government, and perspectives on current events. It includes the following instructional units:

• Geography and Historical Thinking
• Agricultural Revolution and Mesopotamia
• Ancient Egypt
• Financial Literacy and Economics
• Ancient Greece
• Age of Exploration
• Canada
• Latin America

Grade 7 – Full Year Required Course

World Civilizations: Eastern Hemisphere
Students will examine the historical impact of civilizations from ancient times through the Reformation in the Eastern Hemisphere. Throughout this course, students will recognize patterns and themes that connect our modern world to the past. This course will integrate geography, economics, civics and government, and perspectives on current events. Major areas of study will include:
the Roman Empire
Middle Ages in Europe and the Byzantine Empire
Islamic Civilizations and the Culture and Kingdoms of Africa
Asian Civilizations,
European Renaissance and the Reformation.

Grade 8 – Full Year Required Course

United States History: The 8th grade U. S. History course examines the development of our nation from the Revolutionary War to the industrialization of the American economy in the 1800’s. Major areas of study include:

- The American Revolution
- Formation of the Federal Government
- The US Constitution
- The Early American Republic
- Westward Expansion
- Development of North-South Divisions and Differences
- Civil War and Reconstruction
- Industrialization of the American Economy

Economic, political, and cultural perspectives will provide different views of each period in American history. A focus is also placed on current events as students are encouraged to use their understanding of history and government to help them deliberate on contemporary issues.
MATH: Full Year Required Course

Math Course Placement:
Students are placed in math classes commensurate with their ability and performance. Math placement decisions are based on a multi-faceted District process. Teachers compile information on study and work habits, grades, state test scores, and placement test scores, and then a placement recommendation is made. Every effort is made to assure that each student will learn as much as possible and find the most success with the math course in which he/she is placed.

Math 6 – Full Year Course
The Math 6 course addresses the mathematical needs of the middle grade student with a variety of learning styles through concrete and visual models. Topics to be covered include various models for all of the content strands (fractions & decimals, ratios, rates, statistics and introductory algebra). Students will experience real-life applications. Calculators will be integrated throughout the various strands when appropriate. This course is aligned with the 6th grade common core state standards for math.

Math 7 – Full Year Course
The Math 7 course addresses the mathematical needs of the middle grade student with a variety of learning styles through concrete and visual models. Topics to be covered include various models for all of the content strands (rational numbers & equations, proportions and probability, and middle school Geometry). Students will experience real-life applications. Basic calculators will be integrated throughout the various strands when appropriate. This course is aligned with 7th grade common core state standards for math.

Compacted Math 7 – Full Year Course
Prerequisite: Placement based on District screening process.

This course is a fast-paced combination of Math 7 and the Geometry portion of 8th grade common core state standards.

Pre-Algebra – Full Year Course
In this course, students will develop powerful skills for visualizing and interpreting the mathematical world. With their introduction to algebra, students will learn to better recognize and generalize patterns. This will improve their problem-solving skills and efficiency. Essential “foundation skills” will be strengthened in order to prepare students for Algebra 1. Students will better appreciate how mathematics explains and allows for greater understanding of his or her world. Topics to be covered include linear equations, geometry, and functions and data. Scientific calculators will be integrated throughout the various strands when appropriate.

Algebra 1 – Full Year Course
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Compacted Math 7, or Middle School Geometry course, or Pre-Algebra, as well as the District screening process.

This course covers the remaining common core state standards for 8th grade, as well as high school level Algebra 1. The course covers the study of patterns and functions from pre-algebra while introducing the language and basic properties of algebra. Students will experience real-life applications of linear, quadratic, polynomial, and exponential functions and will be expected to solve equations and systems of linear equations. Connections between graphic, numerical, and symbolic representations of functions will be emphasized to build a conceptual understanding of algebra. Students will be introduced to graphing calculators, and data analysis will be used to study the various functions. Successful completion counts as one high school elective credit and is a prerequisite for high school Geometry.
Geometry – Full Year Course
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra and recommendation of math teacher

In this course, students will begin to truly appreciate the geometry that surrounds them each and every day, and in places they have yet to discover. Students will develop powerful skills for visualizing and interpreting the mathematics around them in a whole new light. Geometry will develop their reasoning skills in ways other math classes have yet to touch. Students will become stronger problem solvers because of their added knowledge and enhanced perception of the geometric world’s properties and principles. This course is aligned with high school Geometry common core state standards for math.

Math Course Progression LJHS & LHS

Note: Math placements are based on ability not grade level. Students taking courses beyond Geometry while enrolled at LJHS may take some classes at the high school. Classes shaded dark are high school level and will appear on the high school transcript.
SCIENCE: Full Year Required Course

Middle level Science plays an important role in the K-12 experience. Elementary school instruction deals with the process of science, such as observation and measurement. The high school setting emphasizes academic content and the product of science while to some extent encouraging specialization. The transition years at the middle level are vital to students as people and as science students.

Students learn that scientists are problem solvers. In seeking solutions to problems, scientists employ scientific methods, which insure reliability and repeatability. This approach to science instruction dictates inquiry, a lab, and demonstration-oriented curriculum since science is doing. The middle level program includes a survey of the major science disciplines while promoting student awareness and an appreciation of the product of science.

Grade 6 Science
In 6th Grade Science, students are introduced to the process of scientific inquiry and apply the process as they engage in lab, modeling, and engineering experiences. The topics covered include: energy, weather, climate change, genetics, reproduction, cells, human body systems, and human impacts on the environment. The science curriculum features an outdoor school experience.

Grade 7 Science
In 7th Grade Science, students continue to strengthen their scientific inquiry skills while also applying those skills to problem solve. Engineering is a major focus as students explore the topics of geology and introduction to chemistry. Students also study ecology and the processes that change our biosphere.

Grade 8 Science
In 8th Grade Science, students build on the skills and information established in 7th grade. Topics covered in the class include: genetics, fossil record, natural selection, energy, forces and motion, electricity and magnetism relationship, waves, and astronomy. Students will also complete a comprehensive state science assessment in the spring.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED COURSES:

Wellness
Wellness integrated Physical Education and Health into a year-long course focused on the physical, mental, and social aspects of healthy living. The physical component emphasizes participation in a variety of activities that include both individual and team sports, as well as lifetime activities. Fitness concepts and activities are incorporated during all units of instruction. Attention is given to developing and polishing the fundamental skill sets within each activity prior to implementing their use in game situations. The development of positive social behaviors within small and large group settings is also an integral component of the program. Health units of study will include positive mental health, healthy interpersonal relationships, and communication skills, problem-solving and decision-making skills. The course includes benefits of physical activity, harmful effects of environmental factors, unintentional injury prevention, tobacco prevention / awareness, and sexual health focusing on puberty, abstinence and HIV/AIDS issues.
Modern Communication Grade 6
In this course students will develop vocabulary, knowledge, and skills in technology and communication. Essential learning and application activities from this course will form the foundation for future student work through high school and college.

- Students will understand and use technologies to access and process information.
- Students will understand technology systems, their influence, and their development.
- Students will learn and practice positive digital citizenship.
- Students will speak effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences.
- Students will plan, design, and complete presentations with multiple components.

Year-Long Electives

French 1 (7th/8th Grade Only) / Spanish 1 (7th/8th Grades)
The four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) are introduced in this class. These language skills are taught in the context of basic French/Spanish grammar and syntax using a wide range of vocabulary. Daily activities include speaking and understanding the spoken language; writing simple sentences; reading and analyzing short, authentic texts; and practicing grammar through drills and imbedded activities. Lessons on culture are taught in conjunction with each unit. Students earn high school credit for successful completion of a full-year language course.

French 2/Spanish 2 (8th Grade Only)
Students continue to increase their language skills by using the target language more in class. Students expand their vocabulary and ability to use different tenses. They improve their comprehension and speaking proficiency. Students continue to expand their understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity. (Prerequisite: French 1 or Spanish 1)

Beginning Band
Beginning Band is comprised of mostly 6th graders but is available to any student who would like to learn a band instrument. This class is designed to teach the fundamentals of performing music including individual instrument methods, music-reading, basic music theory, culture and history. Students will perform several concerts throughout the year. Students will also have the opportunity to perform solos and in small ensembles.

Intermediate Band
Intermediate Band is open to 7th and 8th grade students with at least one year of playing experience. This class emphasizes the continued development of each student on his or her instrument. Students will broaden their understanding of music theory, culture and history, as well as practice performing more difficult music. Intermediate Band also includes a solo and/or small ensemble component, and performs several concerts throughout the year.

Advanced Band
Advanced Band is open to 7th and 8th grade students who demonstrate a high level of musicianship and responsibility. This class is designed to challenge students with an advanced repertoire in both large and small ensemble settings. Advanced Band performs several concerts throughout the year, including a possible concert band festival in the Portland area. They will advance in music theory and continue to learn about music of different styles, historical periods and cultural contexts.
Orchestra
This course is open to students who have had experience playing the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. This orchestra rehearses and performs different styles of music while improving their technical skills. There are also opportunities for solo, small ensemble, and full orchestra experiences. Performances include an elementary school tour and school concerts. The students will attend at least one Oregon Symphony concert and study music theory and history. Home practice is expected of all members.

Choir
Choir is designed for students who want to learn to sing. Students will develop confidence in their singing, while improving their individual voices and ability to sing well in a group. In addition, students will learn fundamentals of reading music. The choir will give one concert during the trimester. Choral experience and an audition are not required for this class; it is open to all interested students.

Theatre Production
Students in Theatre Production will learn the process of mounting a theatrical production from start to finish. In this course the students will act in and produce a one-act play each trimester. Production responsibilities will include scenery, costumes, props and stage management. Administrative aspects will consist of securing royalties, marketing and publicity, playbill design, and house management.

Trimester-Long Electives

Art Electives

2-D Art
Create, collaborate, and investigate! 2D Art is an introductory class where collage, drawing, graphic design, painting, and printmaking are explored. This class allows you to have a hands-on experience creating and exploring many different materials and art methods. Expand your creativity in this fun and engaging class.

3-D Art
Get your hands dirty! 3D Art is an introductory class into all things sculptural. In this class you will explore many methods of construction with clay, found materials, paper, wire and weaving. This sometimes messy, hands-on class is fun, exciting and will help you explore your creative side.

Studio Art
Take your art skills even further with this advanced level art class! This class combines two-dimensional, three-dimensional, and computer-based art making processes. Engage in and explore ceramics, drawing, graphic design, painting, sculpture and more. Take your creativity to a whole new level in this inspiring class. (Prerequisite: 2D or 3D Art, preferably both)

STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) Electives

Architecture Design
Architecture Design students will develop an idea for a new structure and turn their ideas into a design using Computer Aided Design (CAD) software. After refining their designs, students will build a 3-D model complete with textures and landscapes to bring their ideas to life. Students also gain an understanding of the history of architecture and study some outstanding local examples of quality design.

Extreme Engineering
Engineering is an elective class for students who are fascinated by how things work, are built, tested, and improved. Students will learn the engineering design process as well as how to apply mechanical engineering strategies. Just as scientists and engineers often work in teams, students will work together to evaluate real world problems and design and build prototypes to create solutions.

**Robotics**
Students in this class will design and program LEGO EV3 robots. This hands-on, self-paced class will provide students with an opportunity to learn about mechanical engineering principles and to build a robot using Mindstorm Lego Engineering Kits. They will identify tasks to be completed, build a robot to complete the task, learn about remote sensing technology and rovers, program its software to get the desired behavior, and apply what they learn to a real-world problem.

**Advanced Robotics**
Students need to have successfully completed Robotics before entering this course. This course uses Lego Robotics and all of the programs learned in beginning robotics to teach more principles of programming and advanced problem solving. Students will build LEGO EV3 robots and program them using LEGO Mindstorms to perform specific tasks. Students in this class must already be familiar with the software and be able to demonstrate completion of programming from beginning robotics. They will continue to improve their robot programming skills by choosing from a variety of challenges. (Prerequisite: Robotics)

**Science Myth Busters**
Science Myth Busters is a rigorous academic class for students interested in gaining an in-depth understanding of the scientific inquiry process. Students will choose areas of scientific interest around which to form hypotheses, design investigations, collect and present data, and analyze and interpret their results. This class consists of hands-on lab-based activities and Myth Busters clips and will culminate with an independent Final Lab busting or confirming a myth of their choice.

**Web Site Design**
Students in the Web Site Design class will learn to code, design, develop and publish their own web site. They will add text, graphics, photographs and special effects to pages to make them interesting and informative. Students will learn how to link pages together and to use navigation tools.

**STEM 2**
This course expands on what students experienced as sixth graders in STEM Exploration. This class is a project-based, problem-solving, student-centered learning environment which incorporates personal relevance and intrinsic motivation; essential for higher-order thinking. This class provides a hands-on STEM project-based curriculum which is challenging and engaging with access to technology applying real-world skills in an academic context. This course may be taken more than once.

**Environmental Research and Experimental Design (ERED)**
In this course you will explore the environment around us while you will get hands-on, real-world experience and design and conduct your own environmental research. Students will earn about indicator species, evaluate ecosystems and help see the impact on their neighborhood.

**Science of Health Careers**
Students will be given the opportunity to investigate sciences within the context of a variety of health careers through hands-on activities. Students will experience an introduction to anatomy and physiology as well as learn from practicing medical professionals.
Performing Arts/Music Electives

Drama
Through the deliberate study of Voice, Movement, Imagination, Pantomime, Improvisation, and terminology students will be introduced to the world of Theatre. As a result, students will build teamwork, rehearse, perform, and develop critique skills.

Advanced Theater
Students will learn through an interactive, hands-on, performance approach, explore methods of acting in the classical and realistic methods, and explore the variety of audition techniques and resume construction. Students will read, discuss, and perform a variety of theatre from many eras of theatre. Emphasis will be on creating believable characters and honoring the script and playwright, while exploring character development using many schools of thought in the craft of theatre. Students will be developing ensembles, duos and monologues throughout this course. In addition, participants will be studying musical theatre and may be working with local professional actors, in a master class structure, at least once during this course. (Prerequisite: Drama and/or Drama Exploration)

Stagecraft
This course is heavy in hands on learning as well as practical application of skills and set construction knowledge. In this class students will learn to work with lumber, power tools and hand tools. Students will learn to paint, build, and design a variety of set pieces. The main targets of this class are to learn construction safety, tool working, design techniques, basic rigging, basic lighting and scenic painting and basic execution of design, all while working to complete a large-scale project. Students in this class will work as a team on the final product of constructing the three dimensional, working structure or structures for the main stage theatre productions for each term.

Guitar
Learn to play guitar! In this class we will learn many familiar songs, including melodies and chord accompaniment, using pick and finger style guitar techniques. We will also learn to read standard music notation with rhythms and chord symbols, along with some basic music theory. Students will perform beginner level guitar duets and quartets, and more advanced players will have the opportunity to continue to improve their skills and advance their musical knowledge and experience. *Each student needs to have his/her own guitar for this class.

World Drumming
In this course, students will learn techniques for and practice playing various drums and percussion instruments from diverse cultures. World Drumming is designed to help students create drum ensembles in the styles of different drumming traditions, improvise new drumming patterns, and create songs with percussion and other instruments. This class is for students who have fun creating and performing music, or who want to explore a new musical experience. No previous experience is necessary. Please note: This class does NOT teach drum set techniques for band.

Language Arts Electives

Publications
Students will plan, organize, and produce the school yearbook as well as the school newspaper. Students will be responsible for designing pages, writing captions, and taking pictures. To be successful in this course, a student must have excellent writing skills. Word processing skills and desktop publishing knowledge are essential. Knowledge of digital photography is a plus. Students must be able to work independently.
Advanced Writing
Advanced writing is an elective class designed to meet the needs and interests of students who love to write and have demonstrated above-average writing skills. Students have the opportunity to try new modes of writing, seek publication (if desired), and learn workshop skills.

Social Studies Electives

Civics
Throughout this course, students participate in mock trials providing them with a better understanding of the legal system - from the rules of evidence to proper court decorum. They gain hands-on experience to think about how society resolves its disputes and to measure the fairness of those decisions as they take on the various legal roles in a mock trial. In addition to studying the law and mock trials, the course also focuses on debate of past and present public policy issues.

Contemporary Issues
In this course, students build an understanding of the issues, events, and people that shape our global society. Topics include examining mass media, environmental concerns, recent major world events, and key contemporary debates and cultural trends. The goals of this class are to raise awareness of contemporary issues in the wider world, instill tolerance of others (including other countries and cultures) and tie together themes from multiple disciplines.

Leadership
This class is designed for the student interested in developing leadership skills in a variety of practical school situations – with an emphasis on community involvement and service. Students will be required to complete community service outside of the classroom and prepare a written reflection about this experience. This class has academic and activity components, giving students the opportunity to develop skills in organization, communication, problem solving, and group process. Students should be dependable, industrious, responsible, and have an established record of good citizenship. Note: Leadership is NOT student government; it is a graded class.

Psychology in Your Life
Psychology in Your Life introduces students to the inner workings of the human mind. The course is designed to teach fundamental psychological theories primarily through a combination of reflection, discussion, and hands on participation in fun and engaging experiments, surveys, and projects. The topics studied include: Personality, the Brain, Adolescent Development, Sensation & Perception, Learning & Memory, Social Behavior, and Media. Each unit will focus on helping students understand how knowledge of themselves can facilitate positive change and personal growth.

Speech and Debate
Do you like to speak your mind? Win an argument? Research and discuss current events? Or do you simply want to improve your confidence in public speaking? This speech and debate course will offer a number of speech and debate activities that will get you researching engaging topics, thinking critically, working in groups, and speaking with eloquence and persuasion. You will never fear a class presentation again!

World Language Electives

World Language Exploration (WLE) – French and Spanish
Students get an introduction to studying a second language. They will acquire basic vocabulary for talking about themselves and their families, food, travel, sports, and activities. The four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) will be included.
World Language Progression LJHS

Note: World Language Exploration is **not** a pre-requisite to Spanish 1 or French 1.
Student Support Services

Student support begins in the classroom and through partnerships between teachers and families. Sometimes students need more intervention than can be provided during regular class time. We use our advisory time on Thursday’s each week flexibly to address many of these needs along with contact time, and before and after school times.

When these initial interventions are unsuccessful we have additional supports as well. The classes listed below are designed to provide students support in specific areas of academic concern as the need arises during their middle school career. A team made up of counselors, teachers, parents and administrators determine placement in these classes and students can move in and out of these classes based on mastery of skills or changes in an identified need for support. These classes are not open for forecasting. *Students, parents, teachers or counselors can initiate the discussion about placement in these classes as specific needs become apparent at any time throughout a school year.*

Academic Support Center

Students are assigned to an Academic Support Class for an identified academic need. This is a class designed to teach students the strategies necessary to become successful and independent learners. Through direct instruction, guided practice within the class and the application of strategies in one or more core classes, students in this class will develop a set of skills which will enhance academic progress. Topics such as organization for success, test-preparation and test-taking skills, note-taking, and goal-setting will be taught and applied. The class designed to aid students in developing and improving their executive functioning, organization, study skills, and content-specific skills with the ultimate goal of supporting their success across all core academic classes.

Math 180

Math 180 is designed to address the needs of students who need extra help in mathematics or who have gaps in their math knowledge and skills by providing the additional instruction, time, and attention they need in order to successfully complete their regular grade-level math class. This course is taught concurrently with a student’s regular math class. This course is highly recommended for students who do not meet state standards.

Read 180

Read 180 is designed to address the needs of students who need extra help in reading or who have gaps in their reading knowledge and skills by providing the additional instruction, time, and attention they need in order to successfully complete their regular grade-level language arts class. This course is taught concurrently with a student’s regular math class. This course is highly recommended for students who do not meet state standards.