Springport Middle School Course Descriptions

MATH COURSES:

- **Sixth Grade Math:** Sixth grade Math is the first year students will use the Big Ideas Math Modeling Real Life program. This program includes activities to initiate discovery of concepts before they are directly taught. Big Ideas Math is fully aligned with national Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and requires students to: Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others, model with mathematics, use appropriate tools, attend to precision, look for and make use of structure, look for and express repeated reasoning. Grade Level content expectations in The Number System, Algebra, Measurement, Geometry, Data and Probability are covered.

- **Seventh Grade Math:** Students will continue with the Big Ideas Math Modeling Real Life program. This core class covers Common Core standards in the Number System, Geometry, Algebra, and Data/Probability. Students must be able to compute with fractions, decimals, and negative numbers. Many concepts are extensions from topics taught in sixth grade. We will be relating curriculum concepts to real-life situations through projects when possible.

- **Advanced Math 7**: This is a one-year accelerated course for selected 7th graders who have shown strength in math skills in past years. Students will learn both 7th grade and 8th grade math concepts using a reorganized version of the Big Ideas Math Modeling Real Life program. Lessons have been reorganized to reduce “review” lessons for previously learned content and to extend 7th grade skills into 8th grade skills where possible. The end goal of this course is to prepare these students to successfully take Algebra in 8th grade.

- **Eighth Grade Math**: Four main units of study are covered. Numbers and Operations covers basic operations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of rational numbers, exponents and roots. Geometry covers area, volume, and the pythagorean theorem. Algebra requires students to solve multi-step linear equations as well as understand linear graphs. Data and Probability represents many types of graphs.

- **Algebra**: (in 8th grade) is an accelerated course. Students who show advanced knowledge in math are invited to participate. Students who achieve a C or better in each semester are awarded .5 high school credits for each semester. Students learn about

functions focusing on linear, quadratic, and absolute equations. Systems of equations and simplifying expressions are also covered.

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ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS COURSES

- **Sixth Grade English Language Arts**: This course covers the 6th grade English/Language Arts curriculum as set forth in the Common Core State Standards. The focus of the class is on reading: covering the genres of action/adventure, fantasy, folktale, and informational text.

- **Sixth Grade Writing**: Writing is an additional class period for only 6th grade in order to allow students more direct instruction and practice in the art of written language, as well as to build various technology skills needed to be successful in writing and other subjects. This course includes basic writing structures, narrative, informational, argument and expository writing, as well as poetry.

- **Seventh Grade English Language Arts**: This course covers the 7th grade English/Language Arts curriculum as set forth in the State of Michigan Content Standards. This class is focused on the integrated study of reading, writing, language, listening, and speaking. Units are based on the MAISA units of study and include the following content: Memoir, Narrative Reading, Legend, Literary Response, Poetry, Nonfiction Reading and Writing, Historical Fiction, Mystery, Auto/Biography, and Argument Reading and Writing. Language study is determined by the grade level content standards and/or student need and is embedded into units of study. Listening and speaking opportunities are threaded into each unit throughout the year. Independent reading and writer's notebook are established early and are a regular practice in the classroom throughout the school year.

- **Eighth Grade English Language Arts:** This course covers the 8th grade English/Language Arts curriculum as set forth in the State of Michigan Content Standards. Reading and writing units are based on the MAISA units of study. The focus of the class is on the reading genres of Realistic Fiction, Science Fiction, and Mythology. Writing units that cover narrative, informational, and argumentative writing will either be combined with the Reading Units or will focus on more close reading in informational text. Language study is determined by the grade level content standards and/or student need and is embedded into units of study. Listening and speaking opportunities are threaded into each unit throughout the year. Independent reading and writer's notebook are established early and are a regular practice in the classroom throughout the school year.

SCIENCE COURSES

- **Sixth Grade Science**: Students explore life science through NGSS practices. This course will study all living components of the world from the greatest biomes to the tiny singular cells that are the building blocks of it all. Students will also study how living things get their genes as well as how they can be adapted for the future through evolutionary processes.

- **Seventh Grade Science**: In seventh grade science this year, students will be exploring scientific phenomena through the use of experiments and investigations where the students will take the lead on discussions, modeling, and experiments in the classroom to come up with accurate explanations of the science behind the phenomena. The main topics the students will have a chance to be exploring this year are:

- **Creating an Energy Plan** How can we capture and transform energy from the world around us to help meet our needs? (Students will use handmade generators and models to learn about how we can power a house which is off the grid without using electricity.
- **Volcanoes** Students investigate the flow of energy and cycling of matter in the context of volcanoes and volcanic eruptions using models, experiments, and hands-on activities.
- **Moving Thermal Energy** In this unit, students conduct investigations and develop evidence-based models of molecular systems as part of contrasting "heat" with temperature and explaining how thermal energy moves spontaneously from areas of high to low temperature.
- **Life Cycle of Building Materials** Students use product life cycle models to explore the relationships between natural resources and manufacturing to select the best wall insulation material for a community building.
- **Inheritance of Traits** Students investigate genetics and inheritance to develop evidence-based models that explain why traits (e.g. colorblindness) are not found in all members of the same family.

- **Eighth Grade Science**: Students will develop understanding of four core ideas in the physical sciences: Matter, Forces, Energy, and Waves. The middle school performance expectations in the Physical Sciences allow learners to explain phenomena central to physical sciences. The performance expectations in physical science blend the core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing usable knowledge to explain real world phenomena in physical sciences. Students will be expected to develop and use models, plan and conduct investigations, analyze and interpret data, use mathematical and computational thinking, and construct explanations. Students are also expected to demonstrate understanding of several engineering practices including design and evaluation.

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES:

- **Sixth Grade Social Studie**s: Students will study the geography, economies, governments, people, and cultures of major world regions including South America,

Africa, Europe, and Asia. An emphasis will be placed on understanding current global issues, using inquiry and research to analyze an issue and propose solutions.

- **Seventh Grade Social Studies**: Students will study world history from the beginnings of human societies and earliest civilizations to the classical empires of Greece and Rome (Eras 1-4 of world history). Geography, civics/government, and economic content is integrated throughout.

- **Eighth Grade United States History:** This course covers the 8th grade Social Studies curriculum, which covers Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs). The focus of this class is on early American history from the Revolutionary War through the Reconstruction Era. There is a strong focus on foundational government as it relates to the structure and growth of our nation. Geography, civics/government, and economic content is integrated within the historical context under study.

PRIDE TIME:

This course is for all middle school students and teaches students skills and tools to enhance their social, emotional and mental health. During this time students will learn goal-setting, optimistic thinking, problem-solving, resilience, character strengths, emotional regulation, social skills and self-confidence. By building these skills, students will be empowered to demonstrate Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Dependability and Excellence.

ELECTIVE COURSES: (Not all courses are offered every year)

- **Art:**
    - Middle school art begins a new skill set different from the TAB in the elementary in preparation for the high school art curriculum. The core elements of art and principles of design are learned and implemented in each grade level, building on skills and ideas from the previous year. MS art is designed to strengthen students' knowledge of art and art vocabulary, Visual Thinking Strategies, basic concepts behind drawing and painting and usage of all tools.

      Emphasis is placed on creativity and concept, ***not artistic ability***. Students are required by the state of Michigan to have some electives in the fine arts to graduate from high school. The middle school courses are designed to get them ready for HS working to their fullest potential. Students do not need to be in art every year to gain the knowledge needed to be successful in HS art. Every year we review, create, design and discuss art to get each student working to their full potential.

- **Band**:

    - **Sixth Grade Beginning Band**: This course is designed to give students basic technical knowledge of their instrument and music as a whole. Students will read music, read about music, write music, write about music, and PERFORM music (both prepared and improvised) on given instruments.

    - **Seventh Grade Symphonic Band**: This course is designed to give students performance intensive musical training using a varied repertoire through the vehicle of written music for the wind band. Students will read music, read about music, write music, write about music, and PERFORM music (both prepared and improvised) on given instruments.

    - **Eighth Grade Wind Ensemble**: This course is designed to give students performance intensive musical training using a varied repertoire through the vehicle of written music for the wind band. Students will read music, read about music, write music, write about music, and PERFORM music (both prepared and improvised) on given instruments.

- **Choir/Performing Arts:** Class will be available to 7th and 8th Grade students who are eligible to take enrichment classes. Enrollment will be per semester, allowing students who wish to change classes. Students will study vocal and sight-reading techniques, learn varied choral and vocal repertoire, and (when possible) participate in various concerts and festival events, along with other musical opportunities. Students will also study elements of performing and acting, and participate in theatre and improvisation activities. Some time outside of regular school hours may be required. Attendance at concerts required.

- **Collaboration Station:** Students will learn skills needed for successful collaboration while doing various activities and solving problems using technology. Some activities involve designing and building, creating Stop Motion Videos, coding Sphero robots, and collaborating through Google Suite applications.

- **Computer Science Discovers:** CS Discoveries is an introductory computer science course for 7/8th grade students. Mapped to CTSA standards, the course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as problem solving, programming, physical computing, user centered design, and data, while inspiring students as they build their own websites, apps, animations, games, and physical computing systems. CS Discoveries can be flexibly taught as a single semester, two semesters over multiple years, or as a full-year course.

- **CSI:** This elective will enable students to see science through the eyes of a crime scene investigator. Investigators are trained individuals who collect various types of physical

evidence at a crime scene. By walking in the footsteps of a crime scene investigator, students can learn a number of scientific strategies and skills.

- **Current Events:** Students discuss local, state, national and world news from sources that include USA today, Detroit News, Detroit Free Press, Jackson Citizen Patriot and Google News. We also participate in a stock market game. Students receive $1 million pretend money to invest as they learn about the stock market and investment strategies. They compete against over 650,000 groups.

- **Digital Design:** Students will learn basic journalism and design skills, learn how to create an annual publication, websites, and newsletters. Some activities include Stop Motion Videos, coding Sphero robots, and collaborating through Google Suite applications.

- **Esports:** It's not ALL fun and games, but there will be plenty of that! We will learn about one of the fastest growing sports industries in the world! This class will involve research of good gaming habits that help keep you healthy. We will also find out about the huge variety of career opportunities you could have in the field of Esports, from game design to advertising to live streaming your own gaming content!

- **ELA Enrichment**: Students with identified gaps in ELA (either Reading or Writing) will review basic skills in Reading or Writing and will be given the opportunity to deepen their own understanding of skills and concepts including Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency, and Extended vocabulary. Some portions of this course will include an on-line component.

- **Game of Life:** Students will learn basic skills of living (ironing, basic safety in food preparation, changing a tire, etc.), keeping a budget, exploration focused on the fields of Education and student choice (both through researching and job shadowing). When possible, students may take field trips to different job sites to see the practical side of employment.

- **Goals Achievement Program (GAP):** GAP is a class designed for students with IEPs. Individual students' IEP goals are worked on and monitored. Students also work on study skills and keeping themselves organized during the school day. Classroom content from the rest of the school day is re-taught in a more relaxed setting with more one-on-one or small group assistance. Students are also given time to work on daily homework, missing assignments, and AR reading.

- **Health**: This course is designed to assist students in obtaining accurate information, developing lifelong positive attitudes and behaviors, and making wise decisions related to their personal health. Study will include personal and community health; mental, emotional, and social health; injury prevention and safety; nutrition and physical activity;

alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; growth, development, and sexual health. Central themes are the acceptance of personal responsibility for lifelong health, respect for and promotion of the health of others, an understanding of the process of growth and development, and informed use of health-related information, products, and services.

- **Inside Out:** In this in depth life science course, get to know different organisms from the inside out. Students will be exploring how and why living things work through hands-on investigations. Students will also practice lab safety with the use of microscopes, dissection kits and other lab materials.

- **Journalism:** Students will learn basic journalism skills to design and build a middle school yearbook, produce middle school announcement newscasts, websites and newsletters, spend time researching and presenting about a concept of their choice, and explore career options in this area.

- **Math Enrichment:** This class is offered for those students who have identified gaps in math. Concepts from math class as well as basic skills are reviewed. Students will be given the opportunity to explore math concepts further by use of manipulatives, technology, and relevant games.

- **Physical Education:** Throughout our middle school physical education classes we stress safety, respectfulness, and responsibility. Some of the core units taught include soccer, football, golf, basketball, volleyball, badminton, ultimate Frisbee, baseball, kickball, and an introduction to strength training which includes a 40 foot horizontal rock wall. In addition to these units we also incorporate tag games, throwing games, and fitness stations. Our students also participate in a brain/body program named Bal-A-Vis-X. Many of our activities include upbeat, positive music to inspire and motivate our students. At the end of the semester all students participate in the Presidential Physical Fitness program which tests and recognizes achievement in the three main physical fitness areas: Strength, endurance, and flexibility.

- **Science Enrichment**: Students will engage with hands on projects in order to gain a better understanding of engineering design principles. Along with engineering principles students will also be challenged with science concepts and team building strategies.

- **Study Skills:** This course focuses on building skills in all areas of a student's education: math concepts, reading, writing, organization, study skills, test taking skills, and time management. Students are placed in this class to increase both content knowledge as well as to prepare for the rigors and demands of high school course work.

- **Spanish I:** Students who achieve a C or better in each semester are awarded .5 high school credits for each semester. Spanish I develops a vocabulary adequate for everyday situations, a fundamental knowledge of Spanish grammar and accurate

pronunciation. Students practice reading, writing, listening and speaking Spanish within the context of basic situations. An understanding and appreciation of Spanish speaking people, cultures and lands is promoted. Intro to Spanish Intro to Spanish is offered to give students a foundation before they enter Spanish I. It uses speaking, listening, reading and writing skills to gain an appreciation of Spanish speaking people and culture.

- **STEM Engineering:** TechEd is part of the Ten80 National STEM League (NSL). Students will learn the skills necessary for team-oriented engineering and advanced math skills. Students will collect, organize and use data to make design decisions in a ready to run RC car, and, ultimately, rebuild the car with improved parts.

- **STEM Outdoors:** Students will engage in explorations around outdoor species of animals and their habitats. The main focus will be animals and habitats in Michigan so students gain a better understanding of the ecosystem in Michigan along with the impact they may have on it.

- **Wellness:** This class will focus on ways to take care of your body both physically and mentally, manage stress and anxiety, and prepare you for a healthier life later in adulthood. This class will be mostly outside and will have exercise and games involved. With everything going on in our world, mental and physical health are super important to maintain. We will work hard but also have a lot of fun.