



GMS inspires excellence by building meaningful relationships, providing a safe environment and developing self-driven, collaborative young adults.

Greenville Middle School  
Course Descriptions  
2024 - 2025

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# **Welcome to Greenville Middle School**

## **The best is in the Middle!**

### **School Day Schedule**

7:30 a.m.            School begins  
2:25 p.m.            School ends

### **Encore Opportunities**

Our #1 priority at GMS is to develop the academic, social, physical and emotional potential of our students. Offering a variety of encore opportunities is one way in which we aim to achieve our mission. Our encore opportunities include:

- Band
- Choir
- Orchestra
- Art - Intro, 2D, 3D, Independent Study,
- Foreign Language - Spanish, Chinese
- Woodworking
- Technology and Design
- Intro to Engineering
- Life Skills for Adolescents
- Leadership Development
- Peer to Peer
- Strength and Conditioning

Students are assigned the four Core classes of ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies. One semester of PE is required along with three encore choices each year.

6th	7th	8th
ELA Math Social Studies Science PE <-> Encore Encore (2)	ELA Math Social Studies Science PE <-> Encore Encore (2)	ELA Math Social Studies Science PE <-> Encore Encore (2)
<b>Encore Offerings:</b> Band Choir Orchestra Technology & Design Intro. To Art Life Skills	<b>Encore Offerings:</b> Band Choir Orchestra Technology & Design Tech & Design 2 Life Skills Introduction To Art 2D Art 3D Art Leadership Development Intro to Woodworking Intro to Engineering Strength & Conditioning Explore Spanish Peer to Peer	<b>Encore Offerings:</b> Band Choir Orchestra Technology & Design Tech & Design 2 Life Skills Introduction To Art 2D Art 3D Art Leadership Development Intro to Woodworking Woodworking II Intro to Engineering Strength & Conditioning Explore Spanish Spanish 1 Peer to Peer

# GMS Core Academics

## 6th Grade:

### **English Language Arts 6** (Full Year = 1 Credit)

Sixth grade language arts provides students with experiences in reading and writing for personal entertainment, academic, and real-life purposes. Students will explore reading strategies, literature, and authors, as well as research information. Students will visit the media center weekly and have the opportunity to independently choose novels, as well as participate in book clubs engaged in academic, literary conversations with peers throughout the year.

### **Math 6** (Full Year = 1 Credit)

Instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking.

### **Science 6** (Full Year = 1 Credit)

A year long course based on the Michigan Next Generation Science Standards that include integrated science units- earth science, life science, & physical science. Topics covered include the nature of science/scientific inquiry, ecology, carbon cycle, climate change, human impacts, states of matter, phase changes, water cycle and water pollution, thermal energy, weather & climate, and potential & kinetic energy.

### **Social Studies 6** (Full Year = 1 Credit)

Sixth grade social studies is a foundational course in which students acquire the basic skills and concepts necessary to effectively study the fundamental concepts of history, geography, economics, government and civics. Students will acquire content area skills such as reading, writing, researching, and critical thinking.

### **Physical Education 6** (1 Semester = .50 Credit)

During the school year, students in physical education class will learn to establish and maintain a healthy lifestyle. The focus of our one semester curriculum is fitness for life and the five components of fitness, cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility and body composition. These focuses are intertwined with a variety of units such as: fitness testing, pickleball, soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball, tennis and a Wellness Center unit which includes aerobics, jump rope and hand weights. This curriculum also includes units on Reproductive Health and Nutrition.

## 7th Grade:

### **English Language Arts 7** (Full Year = 1 Credit)

Seventh grade language arts is designed to give students a well-rounded, real world experience in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing. Students will read and write a variety of texts including novels, short stories, persuasive essays, and internet articles. Units of study for 7th grade language arts include: Realistic fiction reading and writing, research reading and argumentative writing, dystopian book clubs, and writing about reading.

### **Math 7** (Full Year = 1 Credit)

In Grade 7, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

### **Science 7** (Full Year = 1 Credit)

A year long course based on the Michigan Next Generation Science Standards that include integrated science units- earth science, life science, & physical science. Topics covered include the nature of science/scientific inquiry, atomic structure, phase change, chemical reactions, synthetic materials, natural resources, characteristics of life, parts of the cell, body systems, influence in the growth of organisms, rock cycle, plate tectonics, history of Earth, rock layers, and continental drift.

### **Social Studies 7** (Full Year = 1 Credit)

The goal of this class is to prepare students to be responsible, active citizens. In seventh grade social studies we study the development of human civilization from the beginning until 1500 CE. Students will study intensely the development of the following civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, Rome, and the Americas. Students will synthesize their understanding of civilizations to explore the world during the Middle Ages.

### **Physical Education 7** (1 Semester = .50 Credit)

During the school year, students in physical education class will learn to establish and maintain a healthy lifestyle. The focus of our one semester curriculum continues to be fitness for life and the five components of fitness, (cardiovascular endurance, muscle strength, muscular endurance, flexibility and body composition). These focuses will be intertwined with a variety of units such as: fitness testing, tennis, basketball, volleyball, badminton, floor hockey, soccer, speedball and a Wellness Center unit which includes aerobics and free weights. This curriculum also includes units on Reproductive Health and Nutrition.

## **8th Grade:**

### **English Language Arts 8** (Full Year = 1 Credit)

Eighth grade language arts class includes writing, speaking, and analyzing for real-life world applications as well as connecting themes and problems within literature to issues of today. Topics that will be covered this year are: grammar skills, historical fiction, narrative nonfiction, argumentative, persuasive, and research based writing. Students will be working in small groups, independent skills and presentations.

### **Math 8** (Full Year = 1 Credit)

In Grade 8, instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

### **Science 8** (Full Year = 1 Credit)

8th grade Science follows the Michigan Next Generation Science Standards that include one semester of physical science and one semester of life and Earth science. Topics include Newton's Laws, force and motion, the solar system, genetics, natural selection, evolutionary changes and human impacts on the environment.

### **Social Studies 8** (Full Year = 1 Credit)

Students in 8th grade Social Studies will understand the significance of America's history and its relation to the student's present lives. The eras of focus will be the Causes of the American Revolution through the Progressive Era. The students will learn about these historical events by analyzing primary and secondary sources, as well as identifying the relationship of cause and effect.

### **Physical Education 8** (1 Semester = .50 Credit)

During the school year, students in physical education class will learn to establish and maintain a healthy lifestyle. The focus of our one semester curriculum continues to be fitness for life and the five components of fitness, (cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility and body composition). These focuses will be intertwined with a variety of units such as: fitness testing, tennis, badminton, airforce football, ping pong, basketball, smashball, floor hockey, Wellness Center (aerobic and free weight workouts), etc. This curriculum also includes units on Reproductive Health and Nutrition.

## GMS Encore Course Offerings

### Students select 1.5 credits of encores -

#### **Life Skills for Adolescents** (1 Semester = .5 Credit) 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Students will learn many practical life skills that can be applied in their everyday lives. These skills include; financial literacy, analyzing needs vs wants, time management, typing skills, and so much more.

#### **Intro to Art** (1 Semester = .5 Credit) 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

This course must be taken before any other Art class. Students will spend a semester exploring and practicing the artistic process and the habits artists use when creating artwork. Students can expect to work independently and collaboratively to see projects through from start to finish while expressing ideas meaningful to them. Various materials will be used to expose students to skills needed when creating paintings, drawings, sculptures, and mixed media work.

#### **2D Art** (1 Semester = .5 Credit) 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

##### **Prerequisite - Completion of Intro to Art**

Art students will dive further into refining and exploring techniques and materials used by artists when creating two-dimensional work. They will continue to practice the artistic process and further expand on the habits artists use to create meaningful artwork. The following two-dimensional forms may be used during the semester: graphite drawing, charcoal, colored pencil, watercolor, acrylic painting, printmaking, etc.

#### **3D Art** (1 Semester = .5 Credit) 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

##### **Prerequisite - Completion of Intro to Art**

Art students will dive further into refining and exploring techniques and materials used by artists when creating three-dimensional work. They will continue to practice the artistic process and further expand on the habits artists use to create meaningful artwork. The following three-dimensional forms may be used during the semester: ceramic, paper mache, found object sculpture, mixed media claymation, etc.

#### **Art Independent Study** (1 Semester = .5 Credit) 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

##### **Prerequisite - 3 previous semesters of Middle School Art (Intro to Art, 2D Art, 3D Art)**

Students will be guided to develop goals around the "Studio Habits of Mind". A wide range of 2 and 3 dimensional and multi-media materials will be available for use in creating a portfolio of work.

### **Intro to Engineering** (1 Semester = .5 Credit) 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Students will explore concepts including: technical drawing, drafting, CAD, engineering, and the design process. Students will learn how to interpret technical drawings and design projects such as CO2 race cars and trusses.

### **Intro to Woodworking** (1 Semester = .5 Credit) 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

This is an introductory class in which students learn the fundamentals of woodworking. Students will learn about machine safety and complete hands-on projects using machines such as band saws, planer, routers, miter saws, and other woodworking equipment. Hand tool operations and safety will also be covered.

### **Woodworking II** (1 Semester = .5 Credit) 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### **Prerequisite - Completion of Intro to Woodworking**

After reviewing general shop safety and machine safety guidelines, students will complete wood projects based on skills learned in Introduction to Woodworking. They will learn how to operate additional machines such as the table saw and the lathe.

### **Technology and Design Exploration 1** (1 Semester = .5 Credit) 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

This course is primarily a 6th grade course. However, 7th and 8th graders can request. This is a general introductory and exploratory course which covers topics of computer coding, robotics, 3D design and production, computer applications, and other CTE related skills.

### **Technology and Design Exploration 2** (1 Semester = .5 Credit) 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### **Prerequisite - Successful completion of Technology and Design Exploration 1 with a C or higher.**

This course extends the topics introduced in Technology and Design Exploration 1. Coding includes HTML, CSS, and Javascript text level vs. block coding. Robotics include control structures and line control, randomness, array, variables, and timers. Students learn how to prepare files for printing, and operate 3D printers effectively and efficiently.

### **Explore Spanish** (1 Semester = .5 Credit) 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

This class is offered as a semester experience to build a foundation in the Spanish language. Students will be exposed to Spanish language, culture, and other basic skills. Students will receive an academic grade for this class. This course does not receive High School foreign language credit.



## **Spanish 1** (Full Year = 1 Credit) 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Prerequisite - It is recommended students take 7 Explore Spanish before taking this course.**

This course is offered as a year long experience that introduces students to World Language (listening, speaking, reading, writing, and culture). This class will receive an academic grade. Students will take the same assessments as the High School World Language 1 students. If students meet the High School standards on the assessments, they will receive High School credit.

## **Strength and Conditioning** (1 Semester = .5 Credit) 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Prerequisite - Successful completion of 7th or 8th grade PE with a grade of a B- or higher. Students must be willing to work hard everyday to become bigger, faster, and stronger.**

Strength and Conditioning is a participation based course. This course will improve an individual's strength, speed, and endurance. This course is designed to use weightlifting to develop a positive mental and physical self. The focus of this will be on building muscle, injury prevention, speed development, safety, and proper technique. We will use a fitness program to record our growth and will have various performance assessments throughout the year to ensure continuous and measurable progression.

## **Peer to Peer 1** (1 Semester = .5 Credit) 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Prerequisite - Teacher Approval**

Peer to Peer 1 will focus on developing relationships with students with disabilities, understanding the role of a peer model and learning about different disabilities and strategies for working with individuals with disabilities.

## **6th Grade Band** (Full Year = 1 Credit) 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Sixth grade band is an introductory course where students start with instrument assembly and tone production and finish the year with a musical range of one and a half octaves! There will be twelve playing tests over the year as well as twelve written assignments to assess your musical knowledge/skills. You will perform in two concerts and march in the Danish Festival Parade!

## **7th Grade Band** (Full Year = 1 Credit) 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Prerequisite - Completion of 6th grade Woodwind or Brass Band**

Seventh grade band is an immersion in rhythm, including sixteenth notes, cut time, and 6/8. You will also become fluent in five key signatures. You will take four playing tests and learn music history from its beginning up to 1750. You may choose to become part of the MS Jazz Band (a club that meets on Wednesday mornings before school begins). Another choice is to perform in

the Solo and Ensemble Festival. You will perform in two concerts and march in the Danish Festival Parade!

### **7th Grade Beginning Band** (Full Year = 1 Credit) 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Prerequisite - Seventh grade Beginning Band is for 7th grade students that did not take band as a sixth grader.**

The 7th Grade Beginning Band is an opportunity for students to learn how to perform music on an instrument from a beginning level. By the completion of the course the students will be able to perform at a basic to intermediate level on an instrument of their choice and will be prepared to continue on into the 8th grade ensemble the following year. The seventh grade band will perform 2-3 concerts during the school year. Students joining the band will need to sign up through the teacher to ensure that the instrument they chose is a good fit for them. They will also need to rent or acquire an instrument. Specific information on getting an instrument can be obtained from the teacher.

### **8th Grade Band** (Full year = 1 Credit) 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Prerequisite - 7th grade Band or 7th grade Beginning Band**

Eighth Grade Band takes your musical skills to the next level by learning about enharmonics, key signatures, intervals, and musical terms/circle of fifths. We take four tests and continue the timeline of music history from 1812 to present. You may choose to become part of the MS Jazz Band (a club that meets on Wednesday mornings before school begins). Another choice is to perform in the Solo and Ensemble Festival. We also participate in Winterfest and the Michigan Schools Band and Orchestra Association Band Festival. You will also perform in two concerts and march in the Danish Festival Parade!

### **6th Grade Orchestra** (Full Year = 1 Credit) 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Prerequisite - Completion of 5th grade Orchestra**

6th grade orchestra is for those students that participated in orchestra as a 5th grader. You will continue to learn new key signatures and techniques that build upon knowledge from 5th grade orchestra. If a student wishes to join orchestra as a 6th grader and has not participated in orchestra as a 5th grader, you must receive permission from Mrs. Allen.

### **7th Grade Orchestra** (Full Year = 1 Credit) 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Prerequisite - Completion of 6th Grade Orchestra**

7th Grade Orchestra is for those students that participated in orchestra as a 6th grader. You will continue to learn new key signatures and techniques that build upon knowledge from 6th grade orchestra. 7th graders will participate in at least 2 required concerts during the school year. Students also have the opportunity to participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival during 7th grade. If a student wishes to join orchestra as a 7th grader and has not participated in orchestra as a 6th grader, you must receive permission from Mrs. Allen.

## **8th Grade Orchestra** (Full Year = 1 Credit) 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **Prerequisite - Completion of 7th Grade Orchestra**

8th Grade Orchestra is for those students that participated in orchestra as a 7th grader. You will continue to learn new key signatures, expand your music theory, and learn new techniques that build upon knowledge from 7th grade orchestra. Students in 8th grade orchestra participate in more required performances such as Winterfest and Orchestra Festival. Students also have the opportunity to participate in the Solo and Ensemble Festival in 8th grade. If a student wishes to join orchestra as an 8th grader and has not participated in orchestra as a 7th grader, you must receive permission from Mrs. Allen.

## **6th Grade Choir** (Full Year = 1 Credit) 6<sup>th</sup> Grade **OR** (1 Semester = .5 Credit) 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

All students are welcome to come join choir to meet new friends and have fun. We work on developing our singing technique, range, voice health, and musicianship skills. We learn new music with lots of different styles and perform in several different concerts each year. We play games that help us to develop our musicianship and strengthen our choir family. Mostly, though, we just have lots of fun!

## **7th Grade Choir** (Full Year = 1 Credit) 7<sup>th</sup> Grade **OR** (1 Semester = .5 Credit) 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

All students are welcome to come join choir to meet new friends and have fun, even if you haven't been in choir before. We continue to work on developing our singing technique, expanding our range, voice health, and musicianship skills. We learn new 2 part music with lots of different styles and perform in several different concerts each semester. We play games that help us to develop our musicianship and strengthen our choir family. Mostly, though, we just have lots of fun!

## **8th Grade Choir** (Full year = 1 Credit) 8<sup>th</sup> Grade **OR** (1 Semester = .5 Credit) 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

All students are welcome to come join choir to meet new friends and have fun, even if you haven't been in choir before. We continue to work on developing our singing technique, expanding our range, voice health, and musicianship skills. We learn new 3 part music (Soprano, Alto, and Baritone) with lots of different styles and perform in several different concerts each semester. We play games that help us to develop our musicianship and strengthen our choir family. Mostly, though, we just have lots of fun!

## **Leadership Development** (1 Semester = .5 Credit) 7th & 8th Grade

**Prerequisite: Selected as WEB leader. Class will be open to WEB leaders first with possibility for others who may be interested in developing their leadership skills.**

Leadership Development class will give students an exciting opportunity to work with classmates and adults to help our 6th graders and new students feel welcomed at GMS. Overall, you can expect to help make changes you wish to see in the greater GMS community! You can plan to grow and build your confidence as a leader by collaborating in small groups on projects that will impact your school such as reward activities or school wide assemblies, exploring who

you want to be and how you want others to see you, taking on leadership responsibilities related to planning school sponsored initiatives/events/activities such as a 6th grade ice breaker, and speaking in front of groups and teaching strategies for success in middle school to 6th graders and new students.